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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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## Ukraine marks anniversary of Maidan massacre

RFE/RL

KYIV – Commemorations were held in Kyiv on February 20 to honor the victims of deadly clashes between protesters of the Euro-Maidan movement and the security forces of the Yanukovich administration one year ago. The violence killed more than 100 people, including 17 security officers, between February 18 and 21, 2014.

The revolt led to the ouster of President Viktor Yanukovich, who ultimately fled to Russia. His elected successor, President Petro Poroshenko, designated February 20, the day most of the victims lost their lives, as an official day of remembrance.

Church bells rang across the country and a minute of silence was held.

Hundreds of people marched in Kyiv to honor their memory, and mourners laid flowers and candles at sites where protesters were shot dead.

A religious service was held in Independence Square, where the protests took place. Another religious service took place at a church situated on a nearby street that saw some of the worst bloodshed.

President Poroshenko addressed the nation later in the day from Independence Square, promising to “do the maximum I can, so those huge losses our people suf-



Dalia Grybauskaitė/Facebook

Foreign leaders join with Ukraine's president on February 22 in the city center of Kyiv to remember the fallen on the first anniversary of the Revolution of Dignity.

ferred during the past year won't be wasted. We will stop the war and within the few years everyone will notice how Ukraine is changing.”

“As the president, I feel a tremendous responsibility to the heroes of the Heavenly Hundred, to your children and parents, brothers and sisters. They died for Ukraine

to become a truly independent, powerful and successful European state. This great dream, this national idea is already coming true,” Mr. Poroshenko assured his listeners.

A concert on the Kyiv's central square wrapped up the commemorations, with poetry readings and a choir singing the national anthem. Beams of light placed at

the spots where Euro-Maidan activists were killed pointed up into the night sky in an illuminated memorial.

On Sunday, February 22, thousands participated in a peace march in Kyiv to commemorate the Euro-Maidan.

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### FOR THE RECORD

#### John Kerry on anniversary of Maidan protests

The following press statement, titled “One Year Anniversary of the Maidan Protests in Ukraine,” by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was released on February 21.

For three months ending last year, Ukrainians braved long nights, bitter cold and violent crackdowns by a government that refused to hear its own people. Snipers shot at them from rooftops, cutting down more than 100 people – protesters and police alike. We will never forget those who lost their lives and raised their voices for freedom and dignity.

Ukrainians celebrate this weekend the first anniversary of the Revolution of Dignity, when the Euro-Maidan protesters stood up against injustice and sparked the birth of a new Ukraine.

I visited Kyiv in the aftermath of these protests, and I was inspired by the remarkable strength of the Ukrainian people.

I saw barricades made of mattresses and discarded chairs, burned tires

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## Durbin calls on Kerry to send increased military aid to Ukraine

### Senator speaks in Chicago at Ukraine solidarity rally

WASHINGTON – U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) on February 24 urged Secretary of State John Kerry to send increased military aid to Ukraine at a State and Foreign Operations Appropriations hearing on the Fiscal Year 2016 Department of State budget. Sen. Durbin argued that increasing military aid is necessary for Ukraine to defend itself against Russian aggression and protect territorial sovereignty.

During his remarks, he spoke of attending a rally in Chicago over the weekend to demonstrate solidarity with the government and people of Ukraine.

“One can't be effective in your job without a sense of history,” Sen. Durbin said to Secretary Kerry. “It was Sunday in Chicago and I attended a rally outside the Catholic church in the Ukrainian village. I spoke to the people there who were holding many Ukrainian flags and posters. But, they were also holding Lithuanian flags and Polish flags; they have a sense of history too. They have endured – personally and through their families – the aggression of the Soviets and the Russians.”

“I'm worried about where we are and I've joined my colleagues here – Democrats and Republicans – urging you to call on the



Vasyl Stetsiuk

Sen. Dick Durbin with Ukrainian community activists at a rally in Chicago on February 22 that marked the first anniversary of the deaths of the Heavenly Brigade in Kyiv.

President to provide defensive arms to Ukraine and to do it quickly,” the Illinois senator said.

On Sunday, February 22, Sen. Durbin – who co-chairs the recently created Senate Ukraine Caucus – spoke at a rally in Chicago to demonstrate solidarity with the government and people of Ukraine in opposing Russia's military invasion and supporting U.S. military assistance for Ukraine. The event was held on the anniversary of the Maidan violence that claimed more than 100 lives in Kyiv. The event brought together the Ukrainian

Congress Committee of America's Illinois Division, major organizations within Chicago's Ukrainian community and representatives of other ethnic communities in Chicagoland.

Last week, Sen. Durbin and a bipartisan group of senators sent a letter to Secretary Kerry requesting that he immediately tighten international sanctions against Russia and provide defensive weapons to Ukraine. The senators also called on Secretary Kerry to redouble efforts to ensure Ukraine's long-term political and economic future in the face of Russian destabilization.

## ANALYSIS

# The debacle in Debaltseve

by Pavel Felgenhauer  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

The ceasefire agreement signed in Minsk last week (February 12) did not stop the fighting in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine (the Donbas encompasses the Donetsk and Luhansk provinces). The Moscow-backed Donbas rebels concentrated their efforts on an offensive northeast of Donetsk in the so-called Debaltseve bulge – an important rail and road junction semi-surrounded by the rebels since last September. The rebels claimed they had the Ukrainian forces fully surrounded in Debaltseve, and this area was not covered by the Minsk 2 ceasefire agreement. The rebels demanded that thousands of Ukrainian military personnel in Debaltseve must surrender or be slaughtered. The separatist forces refused to allow observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) into Debaltseve in apparent violation of the Minsk 2 accords (Interfax, February 17).

Russian President Vladimir Putin, speaking in Budapest during a visit to Hungary, supported the rebels and mocked the Ukrainians, who “tried to relieve their troops, but failed.” Mr. Putin called on the Ukrainian troops “to lay down their arms to save their lives,” and he hoped “the rebels will allow the Ukrainians free passage out after surrendering.” According to Mr. Putin, the United States is already supplying the Ukrainian military with weapons, “but this will not help, because most Ukrainian sol-

diers do not want to fight their brothers.” Mr. Putin ridiculed the Ukrainian military: “It is always bad to be defeated, especially by former farmers and miners.” Still, Mr. Putin declared himself an “optimist,” noting: After the Debaltseve problem is resolved, the ceasefire may hold and, “most importantly, the Kyiv authorities agreed on a profound constitutional reform to federalize Ukraine” together with the Donbas rebels (Kremlin.ru, February 17).

As Mr. Putin was gloating in Budapest, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko ordered his troops to retreat from the Debaltseve bulge. According to Mr. Poroshenko, some 2,500 servicemen retreated from Debaltseve, taking with them military vehicles, tanks, guns and other equipment: “This successful redeployment proves our troops were not surrounded” (Interfax, February 18).

The Ukrainian General Staff announced: During the withdrawal from Debaltseve, 13 servicemen were killed, 157 wounded, 90 taken prisoner by the rebels and 82 unaccounted for (Interfax, February 19).

According to the Donetsk rebel leader Alexander Zakharchenko, who was reportedly shot in the leg in Debaltseve on February 17, and spoke to reporters from a hospital in Donetsk, “some 3,000 to 3,500 Ukrainian soldiers were killed in Debaltseve,” hundreds have been captured and are continuing to surrender, large amounts of munitions and armaments have

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## After Debaltseve: Is there a chance for the ceasefire?

by Pavel K. Baev  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

It is entirely correct to say that the Minsk 2 agreement, reached on February 12 after painstakingly long talks between the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, France and Germany, was broken inside the first week of implementation. Yet, as the battle for Debaltseve drew to its predictable end, the opposing parties may find it opportune to take a break from the trenches (RBC.ru, February 18).

Ukraine has suffered another humiliating defeat, and President Petro Poroshenko needs time to deal with its consequences, though he would perhaps do better by not denying the scale of this tactical disaster (Kommersant, February 21). The rebels also need a few weeks to replenish supplies, and they depend entirely upon the arrival of new echelons of heavy arms and truckloads of “volunteers” from Russia (Kommersant, February 19). Most importantly, President Vladimir Putin needs to prove that his signature on the peace-of-sorts document is worth something and that he is in control of the oscillating crisis.

Debaltseve, in and of itself, may be of little interest for Mr. Putin, but he has to make sure that this “victory” puts him in a more advantageous position for maneuvering in the European political arena (Ezhednevny Zhurnal, February 20). German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande may be fed up with Mr. Putin’s crude lies and self-righteousness, but he wants to ensure that they, nevertheless, keep coming back to him pleading for a new ceasefire. He scored an important point in this game of broken agreements by making a visit to Hungary on February 17

and was ready to grant Prime Minister Viktor Orban generous concessions in the gas business in exchange for the opportunity to demonstrate that European unity in opposing Russia has deep cracks (Polit.ru, February 18). Moscow is also attentively watching the development of the financial calamity around Greece, expecting that an earthquake in the euro-zone will further weaken the resolve of European politicians to protect Ukraine against Russia’s pressure (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, February 18).

Pretending that the Minsk format can still deliver a de-escalation of hostilities, Mr. Putin also seeks to keep the United States out of the Ukraine conflict management process. Therefore, Russia presented to the United Nations Security Council a perfectly agreeable draft resolution in support of the Minsk deal, which Moscow had no intention of implementing (Forbes.ru, February 18). The Kremlin is keenly following the debates in Washington on the issue of supplying Ukraine with arms but tends to see in them a sign of discord in the U.S. establishment rather than a feature of democratic decision-making on a question of potentially serious commitment (Rossiiskaya Gazeta, February 15).

Quite probably, Mr. Putin’s courtiers will be instructed to respond to the sharp criticism from U.S. officials regarding the Debaltseve “episode” not with counter-punches but with pledges of peace in order to make sure the arms issue remains unresolved in Washington and the talk about new sanctions remains just talk (Newsru.com, February 21). However, what the masters of the Russian state cannot grasp – but

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### Court refuses to release Savchenko

MOSCOW – The Moscow City Court on February 25 rejected hunger-striking Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko’s challenge against an extension of her pre-trial detention period, upholding a ruling that she should remain in custody until May 13. Lt. Savchenko was captured by pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine in June 2014 and taken to Russia in July. Russia has charged her with involvement in a mortar attack that killed two Russian journalists in the conflict between government forces and Russian-backed rebels in eastern Ukraine. In January, she was additionally charged with illegal border crossing. Lt. Savchenko denies the charges, saying that she was kidnapped on Ukrainian territory and illegally transferred to Russia; she has been on a hunger strike to protest her illegal imprisonment since December 13, 2014. Lawyers, relatives, and human rights activists have expressed increasing concern over her health. At the initial custody-extension hearing on February 10, a lawyer voiced concern that Lt. Savchenko may not survive until May 13 if she remains behind bars. On February 24, German Foreign Affairs Ministry officials expressed concerns over her health, saying that German doctors had visited Lt. Savchenko in detention on February 14. On February 9, 14 European Union foreign ministers launched a plea for Russia to free Lt. Savchenko. On February 4, the U.S. State Department said Savchenko’s life “hangs in the balance” and called her “a hostage to Russian authorities.” (RFE/RL, with reporting by rapsinews.ru and Interfax)

### Savchenko’s health worsens

KHARKIV – The Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group (KHPG) reported on February 24 that, “After 73 days on a hunger strike, Nadiya Savchenko is experiencing kidney and gall bladder problems. That, at least, is the report from a human rights activist who visited her on Monday. In the absence of a medical examination, as she has requested, by an international team of doctors, Valery Borshchov’s assessment cannot be verified, but should clearly be taken seriously. ...According to her sister Vera Savchenko... [Nadiya] has lost over 26

percent of her weight... According to [human rights activist Zoya] Svetova, it is now 13 days since Savchenko accepted glucose-enriched water making the risk to her health, and her life, grave.” Lt. Savchenko, a Ukrainian air force pilot was elected to Ukraine’s Parliament in October 2014. (Ukrainian Canadian Congress)

### Dzhemilev urges Savchenko to stop

KYIV – Veteran Crimean Tatar leader Mustafa Dzhemilev has called on Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko to end her hunger strike in a Russian jail. Addressing Lt. Savchenko in an interview with the Gordon news site on February 24, Mr. Dzhemilev predicted her hunger strike would not prompt Russian authorities to release her. “Nadiya, daughter, there is no sense in continuing the hunger strike. Russia is not a country where humane principles exist,” he said. Mr. Dzhemilev, 71, is a former Soviet dissident who served six sentences in prison camps from 1966 to 1986. He was forced during a 303-day hunger strike, the longest in the history of the Soviet human rights movement. Mr. Dzhemilev, now a Ukrainian lawmaker, said Nobel Peace Prize-winning rights defender Andrei Sakharov had persuaded him to end his hunger strike. (RFE/RL Ukrainian Service)

### Fighting eases, ceasefire not in effect

KYIV – Ukraine’s military says violations by Russian-backed separatists of a newly signed ceasefire deal are continuing, but have been decreasing in recent days. A Ukrainian military spokesman said on February 25 that separatists shelled the village of Popasna overnight and continued trying to overrun Ukrainian positions at the village of Shyrokyne, near the strategic Azov Sea coastal city of Mariupol. A February 12 deal brokered by the leaders of France and Germany required both sides to cease fire and subsequently pull heavy weapons back from a separation line, but Ukraine has said it will not begin the pull-back until the rebels stop launching attacks. Military spokesman Andriy Lysenko said: “For now there is still no order on the withdrawal of weapons, as the fighters have not

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

## Minsk 2 armistice rewards Russia's aggression, mortgages Ukraine's future

by Vladimir Socor  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

**Part II**  
February 19

The capture of Debaltseve in Ukraine on February 18 (Interfax, February 18) by Russian and proxy troops, following prolonged bombardment by their heavy missile systems, is not simply a prima facie breach of the February 12 Minsk 2 armistice, which mandated a ceasefire as of midnight, February 15. This assault also breaches the September 2014 Minsk 1 agreements, which had left the Debaltseve area to the Ukrainian side of the demarcation line. Now, Russia's proxies have seized the biggest railroad and highway junction in all Ukraine. They can henceforth impose their terms on the transportation of goods between this coal-mining and industrial basin and the rest of Ukraine.

The Minsk 2 armistice (Kremlin.ru, Osce.org, February 12) purports to aim at implementing Minsk 1, which Russia had torn apart since then. The capture of Debaltseve, however, confirms the conclusion that Moscow framed (with Berlin's acceptance) Minsk 2 merely to ratify the breaches of Minsk 1 as faits accomplis. Ukraine becomes even more vulnerable, and the Russian side gains heavier military and political leverage, under the terms of Minsk 2. This becomes clearly apparent from the analysis of Articles 1 through 4, as well as Article 12, from the agreement signed on February 12 in Minsk (see Part I in Eurasia Daily Monitor, February 13).

Article 5 in the Minsk 2 agreement obligates Ukraine to promulgate a law guaranteeing amnesty and/or immunity from prosecution "in connection with the events that took place in certain areas of Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk regions." This is a protective blanket for the armed secessionist authorities and their rogue troops. Unexpectedly, German Chancellor Angela Merkel was questioned by Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte on this point during the debate on the Minsk 2 agreement at the European Union's post-Minsk summit. The government and public of the Netherlands feel strongly about prosecuting those responsible for shooting down the Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 on July 17, 2014 (with a Russian missile system, from Russian and/or proxy-controlled territory), killing 298, including 193 Netherlands citizens.

The Dutch government insists that the amnesty or pardon must not cover the perpetrators of that crime. The Ukrainian government shares this position; and the non-promulgated Ukrainian law specifically excludes the MH17's downing from the amnesty or pardon of crimes. But Article 5 of the new Minsk agreement does not provide for any exceptions. Ms. Merkel responded in Brussels that this article might be interpretable; and her spokesman Steffen Seibert followed up in Berlin, hoping that exceptions may be possible in individual cases such as MH17 (EurActiv, February 13; Bundeskanzlerin.de, February 13). However, Russia is in a commanding position to impose its own interpretations of the terms of Minsk 2, as it had done on Minsk 1, and proved again in Debaltseve, even before the ink had dried on the latest agreement.

Article 6 covers exchanges of prisoners and hostages. Article 7 mandates delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid, clearly implying Russian convoys across the Russian-controlled border into Ukraine's secessionist territories. This has been going on until now de facto. Now, Ukraine is officially required to accept these violations of its sovereignty. To regularize this, some "international mechanism" of an unspeci-

fied kind shall be arranged in an unspecified timeframe. In any such mechanism, Russia would undoubtedly press to include the Donetsk and Luhansk "people's republics" (DPR, LPR), so as to advance their international acceptance de facto.

Under Article 8, the Ukrainian government shall re-start the payment of pensions and other social benefits to the population of the "conflict-affected areas" (i.e., DPR-LPR), as a first step toward restoring socio-economic ties with those areas. The "modalities" and "mechanisms" are yet to be established "within Ukraine's legal framework." Any transfers from Ukraine's budget, however, might ironically work out as indirect transfers from the Western assistance package to Ukraine.

Moscow's recipe for Ukraine differs on this point from the Moldova-Transnistria paradigm, which the conflict in Ukraine's east fits in many other ways. Moldova is not required to finance Transnistria's social expenditures; Russia has long taken charge of that. The DPR-LPR is 10 times more populous than Transnistria, however. Ukraine is now supposed to subsidize DPR-LPR's social budget.

On this issue, Moscow suddenly metamorphoses into a supporter of Ukraine's "territorial integrity" and "legal field." Russian officials from President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov on down are even turning this issue into a test of Ukraine's adherence to its own territorial integrity. If Ukraine is serious about this, they routinely argue, Ukraine should then re-start social payments to residents of that territory – they are Ukraine's citizens after all. Russia has not initiated, as yet, the distribution of Russian passports in that territory seized from Ukraine.

**Part III**  
February 20

Unlike the Minsk 1 ceasefire agreements of September 2014, the Minsk 2 agreement of February 12, goes far beyond a military armistice. It is overloaded with political provisions which, if implemented, would mortgage Ukraine's future as a viable and secure state (Articles 1 through 8 – see Parts I and II in EDM, February 13, 19).

In the same vein (Kremlin.ru, Osce.org, February 12), Article 9 imposes heavy political conditions for allowing Ukraine to restore control on the Ukrainian side of the Ukraine-Russia border in the conflict zone. Russia and the Donetsk-Luhansk authorities control a 400-kilometer stretch of that border on both sides, facilitating the cross-border flow of Russian arms and military personnel. Under Article 9, Ukraine could be allowed to restore border control by the end of 2015, or later, subject to the agreement of Donetsk-Luhansk, and "conditional on the fulfillment" ("pri uslovii vypolnenia") of Article 11 in the same document. That article mandates a constitutional reform to establish a "special status" for Donetsk-Luhansk and "decentralize" Ukraine's entire administrative-territorial system.

This turns Ukraine into a country with limited and conditional prerogatives of sovereignty. The military winner, Russia, requires Ukraine to change its Constitution and political system, in line with Russia's own objectives. Ukraine, furthermore, loses sovereign control over a long stretch of its border. Article 9 obligates Kyiv to negotiate any border arrangements with the Donetsk and Luhansk authorities, giving them blocking powers de facto. And even this limited sovereignty is further conditioned on Ukraine enacting a Constitution satisfactory to Moscow and Donetsk-Luhansk, a pre-condition unlikely to be fulfilled any time soon, if at all.

Article 10 stipulates the "withdrawal of all

foreign armed formations, military hardware and mercenaries [sic] from Ukrainian territory," and the "disarmament of all illegal groups." This wording is almost identical with the unimplemented Article 10 of the September 5, 2014, Minsk ceasefire agreement.

It looks even more unimplementable now. First, it stops short of identifying Russia as the source of those anonymous "foreign" armed formations and their military hardware. Second, its vague wording has already enabled Moscow to eschew the issue, claiming that Western armed formations and "mercenaries" are involved on the Ukrainian side. Russia totally denies its military presence in this part of Ukraine, while Western leaders are unwilling to release the intelligence material that would convincingly expose Russia's military presence there. Finally, Moscow is now building up the Donetsk and Luhansk "people's republics" complete with "legitimate," rather than "illegal," military forces. Every further step to legitimize the DPR-LPR politically (a process already under way) will lead to acceptance de facto of their existing military forces.

Article 11 requires Ukraine to enact a new Constitution and bring it into effect by the end of 2015. Its two "key elements" shall be a "decentralization" of Ukraine over all, and a "special status" for the Donetsk-Luhansk territory. That special status, and the geographic extent of that territory, are to be negotiated between Kyiv and Donetsk-Luhansk leaders (the latter have, in the meantime, seized additional territory, and claim more).

Interpreting the meaning of "decentralization," President Putin declared on February 17 that this term could potentially involve Ukraine's "federalization" as well as the "samostoyatelnost" of certain parts of Ukraine such as Donetsk and Luhansk (Interfax, February 18). "Samostoyatelnost" implies substantially more than federal status or autonomy, though slightly short of full independence.

Under an addendum note (primechanie), the "special status" shall empower Donetsk-Luhansk authorities to create their own "people's police." No mention is made of Ukrainian police or other law enforcement bodies, nor of any role by the central government of Ukraine. In this regard, the agreement allows an outright secession of Donetsk-Luhansk from the rest of Ukraine. The "special status" shall also authorize Donetsk-Luhansk in their own right to conduct "cross-border cooperation with regions of the Russian Federation." The Ukrainian government shall even "assist" ("sodeystvovat" – aid and abet) that activity. Such assistance can hardly be expected; this point is symbolic, merely aiming to elicit the victim's consent.

Article 12 requires Kyiv to negotiate with the Donetsk-Luhansk authorities about creating conditions for holding municipal-level and district-level elections there, in conjunction with the same document's Article 4 (see EDM, February 13). Those "elections shall be held in compliance with OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] standards and monitored by the OSCE [the organization is a co-signatory to this document]." This can open the door to recognizing those elections as legitimate. The OSCE had refused to monitor and legitimize the November 2, 2014, "republic"-level elections in Donetsk-Luhansk, but is now apparently considering doing so for the next set of elections there.

Under Article 13, the Contact Group (Ukraine, Russia, OSCE, Donetsk, Luhansk) shall "establish working groups to fulfil the various aspects of the Minsk agreements." The operational intent of this article is to shift the discussion of specific issues from international formats (e.g., "Normandy," made up of the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France) into the Contact Group, where the notional West is not represented. This, in turn, reflects the stated intentions of Germany and France to begin downgrading their participation in the "Normandy" format, from the state level to the level of ministerial representatives.

That intention is stated in the political declaration accompanying the Minsk 2 agreement. Signed by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Presidents Francois Hollande of France, Vladimir Putin of Russia and Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine (Interfax, Bundeskanzlerin.de, February 13), that declaration indicates a policy reappraisal in Berlin (there is no reappraisal in Paris, and the French signature matters far less). This declaration proposes to invite Russia into negotiations about implementing the European Union's free trade agreement with Ukraine (hitherto a bilateral EU-Ukraine matter).

It also refloats the idea of creating a common economic space of Europe with Russia ("from the Atlantic to the [Russian] Pacific"), an idea that Germany had temporarily shelved in response to Russia's aggression in Ukraine. Apparently, Berlin has tired of the Ukraine "problem." In this respect, the quadripartite declaration accompanying Minsk 2 (and, to some extent, the Minsk 2 accord itself) can be seen as products of the beginning of a German rapprochement with Russia. This requires freezing the Russia-Ukraine conflict on terms in Russia's favor.

*The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.*

## Quotable notes

"...Russia has engaged in an absolutely brazen and cynical process over these last days. There is no secret to any of us, not in this age of all kinds of visibility and technical means and satellites and the ability to watch what people are doing – we know to a certainty what Russia has been providing to the separatists, how Russia is involved with the separatists, and the ways in which Russia has cynically been willing to go to – even lead an effort at the UN, even simultaneously as it is continuing to do land grabbing in Ukraine. And what is happening with respect to Mariupol even now is just simply unacceptable.

"So we are talking about additional sanctions, additional efforts. I'm confident that over the course of the next days, people are determined to make it clear we're not going to play this game. We're not going to sit there and be part of this kind of extraordinarily craven behavior at the expense of the sovereignty and integrity of a nation. This is behavior that is completely counter to everything that the global community has worked to achieve and to put in place ever since World War II. And I'm confident that the United Kingdom, the United States and others are prepared to stand up to it ..."

– U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, in a statement made on February 21 in London, where he met with Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond of the United Kingdom.

# U.K. announces package of non-lethal support to Ukraine

## Training teams to help Ukraine's armed forces

LONDON – Prime Minister David Cameron announced on February 24 that the United Kingdom will provide further non-lethal support to Ukraine by sending advisory and short-term training teams to build the capacity and resilience of its armed forces.

According to a news release posted by the Minister of Defense, as part of wider efforts to support Ukraine and ensure a robust international response to Russia's aggression, the teams will provide medical, logistics, infantry and intelligence capacity building training from mid March.

The U.K. service personnel will be based in Ukraine delivering support and training to their counterparts. The majority of this advisory and training support will take place in Ukraine, well away from the areas affected by the conflict in the East of the country, the release noted.

Defense Secretary Michael Fallon said:

"In light of continued Russian-backed aggression, the U.K. is committed to providing additional non-lethal support to Ukraine to help them deal with the pressures they are facing.

"Today's announcement builds upon the work that we have already undertaken through NATO and bilaterally. This will help the Ukrainian armed forces develop and maintain the capacity and resilience that they need."

The Defense Ministry outlined the support as follows.

- **Medical Short-Term Training Team:** We will be providing combat life support training. It is envisaged that this will include a "train the trainer" package so that Ukrainian personnel can develop the capability to train their own personnel in due course. We will be using individual first aid kits to support this training and, in due

course, will seek to gift further kits to help support the ongoing Ukrainian capacity building effort.

- **Logistics Short-Term Training Team:** The team will help the Ukrainian armed forces understand the deficiencies within their logistics distribution system and then help to provide training and support to improve their practices and processes.

- **Infantry Short-Term Training Team:** A small team will travel out to identify what training requirements the Ukrainian armed forces need.

- **Intelligence Capacity-Building Short-Term Training Team:** The aim is to provide tactical level analysis training, which would help individuals to analyze information and from this disseminate intelligence to allow them better to understand their environment.

The Ministry of Defense explained that this support is in addition to ongoing defense engagement activities with Ukraine, which include support on crisis management, anti-corruption, defense reform and strategic communications, as well as procurement training that will be implemented in the coming weeks. Over the last year the U.K. has also provided personal protective equipment, winter fuel, medical kits, winter clothing and sleeping bags to the Ukrainian armed forces: this support totals over £1.2 million (about \$1.85 million U.S.).

The U.K. policy since the start of the crisis has been to provide non-lethal assistance to Ukrainian armed forces, in line with its assessment that there must be a political solution to this crisis.

The Defense Ministry release said: "We will continue to focus on support and assistance that will reduce fatalities and casualties amongst members of the Ukrainian armed forces and build their capacity and resilience. We are also working closely with key allies through the Ukraine-U.S. Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation and Defense Reform."

## OSCE and U.N. highlight joint efforts on Ukraine

NEW YORK – Cooperation between the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations, the situation in and around Ukraine, and the OSCE role in dealing with the crisis were discussed during a February 24 meeting between OSCE chairperson-in-office, Serbia's Foreign Affairs Minister Ivica Dačić, and U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

The meeting, also attended by OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, was held on the eve of Mr. Dačić's briefing to the U.N. Security Council on U.N.-OSCE cooperation.

Secretary General Ban and Chairperson Dačić underlined the need for a peaceful solution to the crisis in Ukraine, emphasizing the opportunity created by the agreement reached in Minsk on February 12. They also stressed that the OSCE and U.N. presences in Ukraine should explore ways to strengthen cooperation, especially on humanitarian and human rights issues.

Chairperson Dačić commended diplomatic efforts by the Trilateral Contact Group, adding that concrete steps for implementing the package of measures adopted on February 12 have been designed, but should only be implemented once a verifiable ceasefire has been established. He stressed that the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission, which continues to provide objective reporting and data from the conflict area despite many challenges, is unique and invaluable.

In the year that marks the 70th anniversary of the U.N. Charter and the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, the two organizations should keep on working hand-in-hand, Secretary General Ban said. He commended the OSCE – "a broad, consensus-based regional organization" – for its contribution to international cooperation, conflict prevention and resolution.

# Russia writes, U.S. approves U.N. Security Council resolution

by Vladimir Socor  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

On February 18-19, Ukraine decided to request that the United Nations Security Council authorize a peacekeeping contingent or police mission that would discourage further advances of Russian and proxy forces in Ukraine's east (Ukrinform, February 18, 19). Debatseve fell to Russian and proxy forces on February 18. Ukraine's appeal, however, shattered on several obstacles, including the U.N. Security Council's freshly adopted February 17 resolution. The resolution enshrines and legitimizes Russia's gains at Ukraine's expense in the Minsk agreements (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, February 13, 19, 20).

Devalued as they generally are (politically, functionally and in other respects), U.N. Security Council resolutions can sometimes provide interesting case studies of great-power understandings over issues affecting certain lesser third parties.

Such seems to be the case with the U.N. Security Council's Resolution on Ukraine of February 17, (UNSC 2202). Russia, exceptionally in this case, initiated the resolution adoption process and submitted its own draft. According to Ukrainian government sources, the Obama administration in Washington accepted Russia's draft the next day, unchanged. Ukraine fell into line. That set the stage for the resolution to be adopted by the U.N. Security Council unanimously (Un.org, February 17).

The only change to the Russian draft came from Malaysia – namely, a reference within the preamble to the Security

Council's Resolution 2166 (2014) about criminal responsibilities for shooting down the Malaysia Airlines Flight 17.

The Western consensus around this resolution reflects the Obama administration's and the German government's decisions (each on its own account) to set clear limits to their political and other forms of engagement in the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

Lithuania and Ukraine found themselves alone in challenging the basic assumptions behind the proposed resolution during the U. N. Security Council (UNSC) debate. Lithuania upheld the right of any country to defend its territory militarily. Lithuania's ambassador, Raimonda Murmokaite, termed Russia a direct participant in the conflict and condemned Russia's arming of proxy forces against Ukraine. She pointed out that the secessionist forces are much better armed than the armies of many NATO member countries. Inevitably, however, Ukraine and Lithuania followed the U.S. lead to vote in favor of the proposed resolution.

The resolution's preamble "reaffirms full respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine." In the wake of Russia's annexation of Crimea and seizure of territories in Ukraine's east, that introductory profession is not simply a ritualistic one. Rather, it obscures the facts of the massive breach of that territorial integrity. The preamble further expresses "grave concern at the tragic events and violence in the eastern regions of Ukraine." This implies that there is no aggression there, satisfying Russia's insistence that those "events" are an internal Ukrainian conflict.

Further in the preamble, a solution "can only be achieved through a peaceful settlement," code-word for the refusal to provide Ukraine with defensive weapons that could stop further Russian advances. Russia will henceforth be able to cite this U.S.-endorsed resolution against proposals to arm Ukraine defensively. The "peaceful settlement" formula overlooks the actual military solution that Russia is imposing unilaterally.

The resolution's Point 1 endorses the February 12, Minsk 2 agreement, titled "Package of Measures for the Implementation of the [September 2014] Minsk Agreements" (Minsk 1). The UNSC resolution incorporates the Minsk 2 document as an annex, thus conferring on it further weight. This signifies an indirect endorsement of Minsk 2 by the United States via the UNSC, although the U.S. had declined to become tainted as a party to the February 12 agreement.

Contrary to the pretense of implementing the September 2014 Minsk 1 agreements, however, Minsk 2 actually ratifies Russia's multiple breaches of Minsk 1 on the military level; while on the political level it opens Russia's entry into Ukraine's constitutional processes (see EDM, February 13, 19, 20). The next day after the UNSC vote, Russia breached even the Minsk 2 agreement by capturing Debatseve with the use of overwhelming force.

The UNSC resolution's Point 2 welcomes the declaration signed on February 12 by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Presidents Francois Hollande of France, Vladimir Putin of Russia and Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine (see EDM, February 20). That declaration supports the Minsk 2 agreement, weighted though it is against Ukraine's interests. Beyond that, the February 12 declaration suggests re-negotiating the European Union-Ukraine free trade agreement by inviting Russia into this

process, with a voice and a potential veto. Moldova and Georgia might be next in line for such treatment, if Russia succeeds in trilateralizing EU-Ukraine relations.

Ukraine's leadership apparently had to bow to the Russo-German consensus underlying that declaration. Some EU member countries – namely, U.S.-friendly ones – may yet block the insertion of Russia into the bilateral EU-Ukraine relationship. Why did the Obama administration indirectly endorse that Russo-German idea via this UNSC resolution, potentially undermining U.S.-friendly countries within the EU, is another unanswered question.

In the UNSC's debate, U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power markedly toned down her previous critical remarks about Russia. Unexpectedly, China endorsed Russia's attempts at ethnicizing Ukraine's constitutional process: "A solution must accommodate the legitimate interests and concerns of all the ethnic groups throughout Ukraine" (Xinhua, February 18).

Russian President Putin seemed uncertain until the last moment about the U.S. position in the UNSC. On February 17, Mr. Putin declared that the Minsk 2 agreement "could be cemented by a resolution of the U.N. Security Council. Russia has already proposed it. If that happens, the Minsk agreement would gain standing in international law. But [even] if not, it is already a good document. I am more optimistic than pessimistic" (Interfax, February 18). Following the UNSC vote, Mr. Putin can feel even more optimistic on both accounts: the Minsk agreement on his terms, and the U.N. Security Council resolution enshrining those terms by unanimous consent.

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# Samopomich causing a stir in Ukraine's Parliament

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – Fistfights aren't anything unique for Ukraine's Parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, but National Deputy Yegor Sobolyev of the Samopomich party and Vadym Ivchenko of the Batkivshchyna party put on a special show in its halls on February 12.

Their bloody exchange of fists – dramatic enough to make them possible candidates for the professional ranks – lifted Mr. Sobolyev to celebrity status as a leader in the fight against corruption, rendering moot his party's apology for his violent conduct afterwards.

It's such passion and willingness to fight, literally in Mr. Sobolyev's case, that 1.7 million voters were hoping for when casting their ballots for Samopomich in the October 2014 elections – 11 percent of the total – giving it the third-largest result (and fourth-largest parliamentary faction when including single-mandate districts).

"Sobolyev became a hero for me that day. He was fighting for me and all of us who have been fighting for years, pro bono, for the interests of citizens," said Iryna Fedoriv, a Kyiv Oblast activist against illegal construction and a member of the Kotsiubynske Village Council.

"Without what happened in the halls, journalists would have hardly paid attention to bill No. 1159 and those lobbying for it. We have given him the voters' power of attorney that is mandatory to fulfill: to not pass this or similar bills, but to reform the country in the interests of its people."

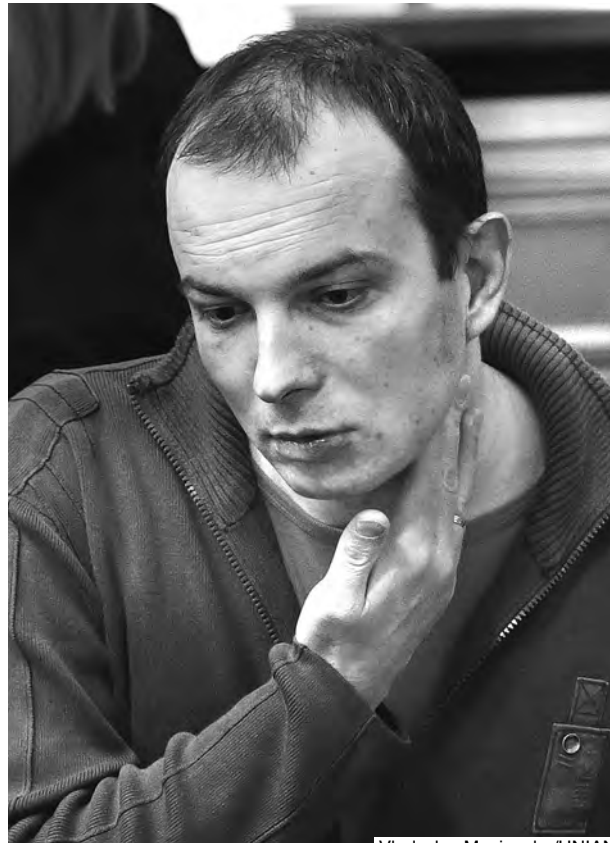
The bill to which Ms. Fedoriv referred would have given local deputies in village and city councils the authority to change the zoning of land plots situated beyond their designated limits and privatize them.

The parliamentary Anti-Corruption Committee, led by Mr. Sobolyev, determined the legislation to be "corruption-genic" and rejected it. Local councils need greater authority, Mr. Sobolyev has argued, but not until land cadasters (registers) are launched throughout the country to monitor the trade of real estate.

"After the decision of our committee that this idea was corruption-genic, paid-for news items began to hound us, alleging we sold out to the State Land Resources Committee and won't allow 'good deputies' to distribute 'good land' to 'good people,'" Mr. Sobolyev told reporters through a swollen bottom lip.

"Today, Ivchenko had the gall to come and try to convince Samopomich to vote for this 'deryban,'" he said, using the Ukrainian term for a corrupt, reckless distribution of property. "That's how the battle against corruption occurred in the literal sense of the word."

Of the six parliamentary factions, the pro-Western Samopomich has been the most willing to buck the estab-



Vladyslav Musiyenko/UNIAN

**National Deputy Yegor Sobolyev and the Samopomich party became recognized as leading fighters against corruption after his February 12 fistfight in the Verkhovna Rada's halls with National Deputy Vadym Ivchenko of Batkivshchyna, who is sponsoring a bill expanding the authority of local councils to privatize land.**

lishment since the eighth convocation of the Verkhovna Rada convened in late November, despite the fact that it is part of the parliamentary majority that consists of five pro-Western factions.

Only 10 of its 32 deputies supported the controversial December 29, 2014, vote approving the 2015 budget.

When it came time to approve Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's nomination of Viktor Shokin as the new procurator general, only one Samopomich deputy, Iryna Suslova, voted in favor, earning her an eviction from the faction.

Afterwards, faction head Oleh Bereziuk and Mr. Sobolyev became the most vocal critics of Mr. Shokin, who had served as a deputy procurator general in the main Kyiv office since 2004, making him a first-hand witness to corruption in the highest ranks of government.

Mr. Bereziuk referred to the vote as "a mockery of Ukrainian democracy," pointing out that the Putin-aligned Opposition Bloc offered all its votes in favor. Mr. Sobolyev dubbed it "a shame and a big mistake."

"A disciple of the system won't change the system, all the more one so sold out and decayed as the procurator general of Ukraine," Mr. Sobolyev stated. "We should bring a person who hates corruption to this post with an open competition."

With a vote for the amended 2015 budget on the agenda for March 3, Samopomich's leaders have already warned they won't vote in favor if certain conditions aren't met. In particular, they complained about not receiving details of how prices will be set for natural gas and heat, nor have they gotten calculations regarding the main expenses tied to gas prices.

The amended 2015 budget also contains incomplete estimates, such as 4 billion hrv (\$133 million U.S.) in revenue missing from the sale of 3G licenses, and doesn't take into account debt owed to the state, such as for consumed energy owed by oligarchs, estimated by Samopomich at 2 billion hrv (\$67 million).

(Continued on page 14)

## Congressional Ukrainian Caucus leaders' resolution urges more U.S. support for Ukraine

WASHINGTON – Congressional Ukrainian Caucus co-chairs Reps. Mike Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.), Sander Levin (D-Mich.) and Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) marked the first anniversary of Ukraine's Euro-Maidan demonstrations on February 24 by introducing a resolution calling for increased American economic and governmental involvement on the behalf of Ukraine.

The resolution calls for the United States to assist Ukraine with economic, social and governmental reform efforts; urges President Barack Obama to immediately act on approved financial and defensive military aid; and encourages Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to continue anti-corruption efforts.

"A year ago, the people of Ukraine rallied behind the ideas of economic and governmental reform during the Euro-Maidan demonstrations; today, the United States must take action to see their goals achieved," said Rep. Fitzpatrick. "This bipartisan resolution calls on Congress and the White House to work in the best interest of our friend and ally, Ukraine, and support a safe and sovereign nation through common sense measures: Supporting serious reform efforts, calling on President Obama to follow through with the provision of financial and defensive military aid, and encouraging the continuation of anti-corruption efforts in Kyiv."

"On the anniversary of Maidan, this resolution underscores our solidarity with the Ukrainian people and their efforts to chart their own history. We must fully implement the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014, including providing defensive weapons. In spite of the fragile Minsk Agreement, Ukraine still needs our help to find a solution to a durable cease-fire that can lead to a longer-term solution," said Rep. Levin. "We all know that while there is no pure military solution to what is a political problem, additional U.S. military assistance can help promote a political solution. The Ukrainian people have shown their resolve to build a free and democratic country, and we should support them in achieving that goal."

"Ukraine is a sovereign nation at a crossroads, fighting for its life and the freedom of its people. Actions we take now will shape the future not only for the people of Ukraine but for all of Europe. This legislation makes a clear and resounding statement that the United States supports the right of free and sovereign people to defend themselves against illegal and violent aggression from beyond their borders," said Rep. Kaptur. "The Euro-Maidan demonstrations one year ago today showed the world that a spirit of liberty burns brightly among the Ukrainian people. It is that same spirit that I saw reflected in the eyes of the Ukrainian Members of Parliament who came to Congress to ask for our help. I urge my colleagues in the House and Senate to adopt this legislation without delay."

## UCC condemns violations of Minsk agreements by Russia and Kremlin-backed terrorists

OTTAWA – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) has strongly condemned the flagrant violations of the Minsk agreements by the Russian Federation and Russian-led, -staffed, -funded and -controlled terrorist organizations in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

In a statement released on February 21, the UCC said:

"Despite agreement on a ceasefire that was to begin on 15 February, Kremlin-backed terrorists and Russian soldiers continued a brutal offensive against Ukrainian positions near Debaltseve. While withdrawing from Debaltseve, Ukrainian forces were shelled by Russian artillery, resulting in the death of more than 10 Ukrainian soldiers and over 100 wounded. Over 80 Ukrainian soldiers are missing in action. The Russian Federation and its proxies in Ukraine have consistently disregarded and violated all agreements they have pledged to uphold.

"The list of crimes committed by the Russian Federation and the terrorists it supports in Ukraine is long and growing daily. The illegal invasion and occupation of Crimea; the invasion of Donetsk and Luhansk; the downing of Flight MH 17; the indiscriminate shelling of civilians in Mariupol, Kramatorsk and many other cities in eastern Ukraine; the torture and mistreatment of Ukrainian soldiers taken prisoner; the continuing illegal detention of Lt. Nadiya Savchenko and other Ukrainian citizens clearly demonstrate the Putin regime's blatant disregard for international law, binding obligations and principles of the inviolability of state borders. The ongoing violations of the Minsk agreements of September 5 and 19, 2014, and February 12, 2015, are simply the latest iteration of the Kremlin's

brutality and aggression."

UCC President Paul Grod added: "The brutal Russian offensive against Debaltseve has once again demonstrated Putin's duplicity and strategy to subjugate Ukraine. In dealing with Putin, Western leaders would do well to remember the disastrous results of the appeasement of Adolf Hitler."

"If peace is to be restored, Ukraine's army must be given the means with which to defend their country, and the costs to Russia of continuing its aggression must be significantly increased," Mr. Grod said. "Thousands of lives would have been saved and the world would not be contending with a new European war, if the guarantors of Ukraine's security and territorial integrity would have provided the defensive military equipment that Ukraine requested many months ago."

The UCC called on Canada, the United States and their NATO allies to:

1. Provide Ukraine with the defensive weapons, equipment and training it needs to defend its territorial integrity and the lives of the civilian population that is subjected to continuous terrorist shelling.
2. Significantly increase the provision of communications and intelligence capabilities to Ukraine's armed forces, including counter-artillery radar systems.
3. Dramatically increase sectoral sanctions against the Russian Federation's defense, energy and financial services – in particular banning Russia from the SWIFT banking system.

The UCC underlined its complete solidarity with the people of Ukraine as they bravely battle Russia's aggression against their country.

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

### Release Nadiya now

This week, a court in Moscow rejected Nadiya Savchenko's appeal of her pre-trial detention, ruling that she should remain in custody until May 13, presumably when her trial on trumped-up charges is supposed to begin. That's despite the fact that the young woman's health has seriously deteriorated. As these words are being written on our deadline day (Thursday, February 26), the courageous pilot is in the 76th day of her hunger strike, which she began back in mid-December to protest her illegal imprisonment in Russia after she was captured on June 18, 2014, by pro-Russian forces in Ukraine. 1st Lt. Savchenko, 33, has been charged with complicity in the deaths of two Russian journalists – though there isn't a scrap of evidence to support those allegations. In January, Russian authorities cynically added another charge: illegally crossing the border, never mind that on June 20 she was abducted by Russian forces and taken from Ukraine to Russia with a sack on her head.

Her lawyers have argued that she should at least be released on bail until the trial date, but their appeals have consistently been rejected. At the initial custody-extension hearing on February 10, her lawyer expressed concern that Lt. Savchenko may not survive until May 13 if she remains behind bars. At her appearance in court that day, Lt. Savchenko, wearing a tryzub T-shirt and declaring "Glory to Ukraine" as she entered, said, "I will continue the hunger strike... and will continue it until I'm taken back to Ukraine or until I die."

There had been a glimmer of hope for Lt. Savchenko's release when the Minsk 2 ceasefire agreement was signed. After all, the document provided for "the release and exchange of hostages and illegally detained persons based on the principle of 'all for all.'" (The earlier Minsk protocols of September 2014 also committed the sides to freeing all hostages and illegally held persons.) President Petro Poroshenko even announced that Lt. Savchenko would soon be freed thanks to the deal. But those hopes were quickly dashed when Russia insisted that the Minsk provisions did not apply to Lt. Savchenko, who is facing charges on a crime committed before she was elected to the Verkhovna Rada, and that she is not a prisoner of war. After she was elected a Ukrainian national deputy, Lt. Savchenko was named to Ukraine's delegation to the Parliament Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), which granted Lt. Savchenko immunity and said that status obligates Russia to release her immediately.

Numerous appeals have been made on Lt. Savchenko's behalf also by the European Union, the United States, the United Nations and others.

This week, the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group reported: "Nadiya Savchenko is experiencing kidney and gall bladder problems. ...[Nadiya] has lost over 26 percent of her weight ...it is now 13 days since Savchenko accepted glucose-enriched water making the risk to her health, and her life, grave." Russian authorities have ignored her requests that she be examined by an international team of medical specialists and refused permission for Ukrainian doctors from the official Feofaniya Clinical Hospital to examine her. Thus, Lt. Savchenko continues her hunger strike, notes Halya Coynash of the Kharkiv group, because she sees it as the only way to fight the injustice being perpetrated against her.

State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki on February 25 said: "The United States is deeply concerned by today's decision by a Russian court to continue the detention of Ukrainian Member of Parliament Nadiya Savchenko to May 13. ... The United States deplores her continued ill-treatment and is deeply concerned by reports of her deteriorating health." Calling Russia's detention and treatment of Lt. Savchenko "unacceptable," the U.S. called for her immediate release.

The next day, a spokeswoman for EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini condemned the court decision and said that "Russia bears a responsibility for [Savchenko's] very fragile health." Maja Kocijancic also called for Lt. Savchenko's urgent release "on humanitarian grounds" and said that would be in line with commitments under the Minsk ceasefires.

It should now be eminently clear to all observers that the Moscow court this week handed down a death sentence to Lt. Savchenko. Lawyer Nikolai Polozov told Newsweek: "She is only alive thanks to her army training, will power and courage. But even that is not infinite. If we do not urgently take action, we will witness the dramatic finale of this story."

March  
3  
2014

### Turning the pages back...

Last year, on March 3, 2014, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power countered statements by Russia during an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council.

Ambassador Power stated:

"Listening to the representative of Russia, one might think that Moscow had just become the rapid response arm of the

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. So many of the assertions made this afternoon by the Russian Federation are without basis in reality. ...It is a fact that Russian military forces have taken over Ukrainian border posts, ... the ferry terminal in Kerch... Russian ships are moving in and around Sevastopol... Russian forces are blocking mobile telephone services in some areas... Russia has surrounded or taken over practically all Ukrainian military facilities in Crimea... Russian jets entered Ukrainian airspace... and that independent journalists continue to report that there is no evidence of violence against Russian or pro-Russian communities."

"Russian military action is not a human rights protection mission. It is a violation of international law and a violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the independent nation of Ukraine, and a breach of Russia's Helsinki commitments and its U.N. obligations."

Russia, she added, was not justified in its military intervention in Ukraine, seizing control of public facilities and issuing military ultimatums to elements of the Ukrainian military. "... Russian mobilization," she continued, "is a response to an imaginary threat."

(Continued on page 14)

## REMEMBERING THE HEAVENLY BRIGADE

### Death in Kyiv

by Borys Gudziak

For the past year, every day we hear of painful numbers – x servicemen and y civilians killed by shelling in eastern Ukraine. One year ago, the death of the Heavenly Brigade on the Maidan in Kyiv moved the world. Today, it seems that death has become a statistic. When deaths are too numerous they become depersonalized. Without names, even supreme sacrifice – and our own responsibility in its regard – becomes blurred.

So let me tell you about one young man whose life and death help explain the developments in Ukraine today.

Bohdan Solchanyk was 28 years old. A promising historian, a faculty member at the Ukrainian Catholic University, a poet, a young man in love. He sought to understand the past of his country while fully engaging in its present struggle for dignity in order to build a better future. His future included marriage to Maria Pohorilko, herself an aspiring historian, an UCU graduate and a Ph.D. candidate. Bohdan and Maria both wanted to live with dignity. They hoped to share the story of their country with fellow students, with readers of their articles and books, and with the world at large.

Alas, the final episode in the life of Bohdan occurred on February 20, 2014.

Along with some 80 other unarmed idealists, European-minded Ukrainians, Bohdan was brutally shot and killed by government snipers in the central square of the capital of Ukraine as the world's TV cameras showed the slaughter live.

The message of Bohdan's life and death is simple. It is a message that Europe and the world need to hear at a time of great anxiety and confusion surrounding Ukraine and Russia. This confusion is largely created by the propaganda of those who despise Bohdan's vision of life and are confounded by his very act of sacrifice.

Bohdan was one of the millions who for months assembled peacefully, joyfully, with song, with prayer, with poetry, with street theater, with music and dance in the very center of Kyiv and many other cities and towns in Ukraine. Their goal was simple: to manifest their desire for liberty, for freedom of the press, for the vitality of civil society, for justice in the court system, for freedom from corruption in business, politics, education and the medical system. In short: a life of dignity. A life guaranteed to most Europeans.

Bohdan's life was cut short because his position was a threat to authoritarianism, cronyism and corruption. He was a threat to radical social inequality, with oligarchs and politicians living in vulgar opulence and the rest of the population struggling to survive. He was killed because people in power feared his song and his joy, the dance of millions and the solidarity of a nation.

Bohdan had been in the forefront of social protest over the last 10 years, ever since the Orange Revolution in 2004-2005,

when he was 19 years old. He was not paid by American agents to stand on the Maidan in the middle of the night in five-degree weather. He was not a puppet of external forces. He was not an agent provocateur of the European Union.

He was a human being who recognized his own God-given dignity and wanted that dignity to be ensured for all Ukrainians.

Bohdan's death and the death of the rest of the first 100 killed mercilessly by the riot police and security services led to the collapse of the Yanukovich regime. Yanukovich fled the country because his security forces no longer could sustain the brutality he had instigated. Enough was enough. They realized that criminal methods no longer could control the country. The sacrifice of innocents, the spilling of blood – the most profound and awesome sacrament – toppled an unjust tyranny.

However, the collapse of tyranny in Kyiv could not be endured by the president of Russia. Ukraine had to be punished. Crime had to be annexed; an artificial war had to be created to bring to its knees a society that dared to defend its dignity. It had to be

proved that Ukraine is a failed state and that Bohdan Solchanyk died in vain. That is the story of Bohdan Solchanyk and the millions who stood with him.

That is the explanation of what is happening in Ukraine

today. There are many factors and many issues in this complex story, but at its heart is a pilgrimage from fear to dignity, from authoritarianism to liberty, from corruption to justice – ultimately from death to life. It is a paschal story.

Today Ukrainians and all friends of Ukraine commemorate the sacrifice in blood of the Heavenly Brigade – the first to die on this road to dignity. They commemorate the 5,500 soldiers and civilians who have been killed over the past year because of the invasion of their country.

As they commemorate the dead, they are addressing the humanitarian crisis of the living, the tens of thousands of wounded, the thousands of widows and orphans, the 1.5 million displaced, the 5 million directly touched by the war.

For us who are people of faith, who follow Christ and celebrate His passion and paschal victory, the sacrifice of Bohdan and his colleagues is a reminder of the witness of the martyrs. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13). These are the words of our Lord. They explain this painful anniversary and the heart of the events happening today in Ukraine.

*Borys Gudziak is the bishop of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Eparchy of Paris, the head of the Department of External Church Relations of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church and the president of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.*

*The article above is reprinted with the author's permission from National Review, where it was posted on February 20.*

**One year ago, the Heavenly Brigade (Nebesnia Sotnia) became the first victims of the current Russian aggression.**

The Ukrainian Weekly welcomes letters to the editor and commentaries on a variety of topics of concern to the Ukrainian American and Ukrainian Canadian communities, as well as the Ukrainian diaspora. Opinions expressed by columnists, commentators and letter-writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of either The Weekly editorial staff or its publisher, the Ukrainian National Association.

## COMMENTARY

# U.S.-Canada rift over Ukraine as big as that with Europe

by Taras Kuzio

This week Ukraine celebrates the first anniversary of the Euro-Maidan revolution that toppled kleptocratic President Viktor Yanukovich and when Ukrainians became the first Europeans to die under the European Union (EU) flag. In the same week the second peace agreement signed in Minsk on February 12 collapsed for the same reasons as the first Minsk agreement signed last September: then and now, Russia and its separatist proxies failed to adhere to a single article of the Minsk agreements.

Therefore, it is only a matter of time before the EU will return to the question of tougher economic and financial sanctions and U.S. President Barack Obama has to decide whether to continue to fight his own Democratic Party, as well as Republicans and both houses of Congress, over whether to authorize supplying defensive military equipment for Ukraine (<https://foreignpolicy.com/2015/02/18/lets-call-the-ukrainian-cease-fire-what-it-is-russia-putin/>).

But, Canada, in addition to Western Europe, is also opposed to providing Ukraine with military equipment. With Minsk-2 having disintegrated at the strategic railroad crossing of Debaltseve from which Ukrainian forces retreated, will Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government, which has been strong on rhetoric but weak on substance, and the Canadian Parliament continue to oppose the sending of military equipment to Ukraine?

While the rift between EU members Germany and France and the U.S. over the sending of defensive military equipment to Ukraine has been prominently highlighted, there has been no focus on as important a rift between the U.S. and Canada, the second in just over a decade since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. Ukrainian Canadian activists point the finger at Germany and France for selling out Ukraine, while ignoring their own political leaders. The split between the then Liberal government and hawkish neo-

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Hold world leaders accountable for actions

Dear Editor:

Upon reading the coverage of the Gergiev protests, I was quite impressed with the evident level of organization and coordination that went into reproaching the orchestra leader for his publicly stated Putinist sympathies. So, I'm wondering if any activists in the Ukrainian community are planning demonstrations expressing these same sentiments against other individuals who seem to be enabling Putin's aggressive actions in Ukraine: Angela Merkel, Francois Hollande, Barack Obama.

Certainly, Valery Gergiev's words are

enough to cause anger, but Ms. Merkel's and Mr. Hollande's actions in Minsk caused real damage as they provided the perfect smokescreen for the separatists to seize Debaltseve. Mr. Obama appears to be using inaction on the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 as his weapon of choice against Ukraine. His passivity towards repeated pleas from various leaders of Ukraine (not to mention his U.S. constituents) mocks the dignity of all those Ukrainians whose efforts and sacrifices created, and carry on, this recent revolution.

Holding an orchestra leader accountable for his words is appreciable. Holding world leaders accountable for their actions (or lack thereof) would be truly laudable.

Larissa Kebuz  
Mertztown, Pa.

Con Bush administration represented a strategically important shift in the NATO alliance as Canada broke ranks with the U.S. and Britain over intervention and regime change in Iraq. Today, a new rift has appeared between a Conservative government and the Canadian Parliament and a Republican-dominated U.S. Congress and the U.S. president.

Both houses of the U.S. Congress support sending defensive military equipment to Ukraine, while the Ukrainian Canadian Congress has found only two MPs who support this move in the House of Commons – a Conservative and a member of the National Democratic Party.

Former Liberal MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj stated: "As the founder of what at one time was the most active parliamentary friendship group, the Canada-Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group, I do not understand why the group has not passed a resolution demanding that Canada send defensive lethal weapons to Ukraine" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfs-fqf3Xk3M>).

Last December the U.S. Congress adopted the Ukraine Freedom Support Act that provides for all-round economic, financial, democratic and security assistance to Ukraine. There is no such equivalent legislation in the Canadian Parliament.

The U.S.-Canada rift is perhaps best seen in the plethora of editorials and opinion page commentaries in the British and U.S. media in support of sending defensive military equipment to Ukraine and a generally tougher policy toward President Vladimir Putin's Russia. There is an absence of such media coverage in Canada.

Former Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada Vadym Prystaiko complained last summer about the low level of support (<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ukraine-has-not-received-canadian-aid-promised-months-ago-ambassador-says/article19735632/>). After President Petro Poroshenko visited Ottawa last September, the promised aid was dispersed to Ukraine.

(Continued on page 13)

## PERSPECTIVES

BY ANDREW FEDYNSKY



### Elections do matter: Ohio's 9th District

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is into its second year, the latest in a centuries-long assault on Ukrainians' very right to exist. Taras Shevchenko wrote about it nearly 200 years ago, a sad legacy he had learned from his grandfather, who heard it from even older Kozak ancestors. Now with the euphoria of Euro-Maidan fading, we have to yet again accept that, despite progress in the last 25 years, the struggle for Ukraine has been and remains long-term, a reality that defined much of my childhood and has consumed me as an adult, as it has so many others.

Looking to the current U.S. political landscape, no one has supported Ukraine longer at a higher level than Ohio Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur. I was a young staffer with Congresswoman Mary Rose Oaker when Rep. Kaptur was elected in 1982 from Toledo, 90 miles west of the Cleveland district my boss represented. Our offices worked together on issues affecting Ohio, but also more. 1983 was the 50th anniversary of the man-made Famine in Ukraine and the usual, largely disregarded, congressional resolutions were offered, until activist Ihor Olshaniwsky came up with the idea for a congressional commission on the Famine that would conduct research and publish its findings. With that, the Holodomor entered into real politics, challenging Ukrainian Americans to demonstrate their clout to get it passed.

With my personal background and working for a representative with a large Ukrainian American constituency, I became closely engaged in the battle. Inexplicably, the administration was opposed. Testifying at a hearing in the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the State Department argued that such a costly commission (\$100,000) would complicate America's dealings with the Soviet Union, raised doubts about the historic veracity of the Famine, etc. That's when first-term Congresswoman Kaptur came forward to rebut. She knew full well that the Holodomor had happened and how horrific it was, she testified, because she had relatives who had endured the catastrophe.

Ms. Kaptur's roots, it turns out, go back generations in the Khmelnytsky Oblast, where her ancestors were Roman Catholic Poles in the village of Burtyn. She relates how she first visited her ancestral village in the early 1970s and saw the conditions under Soviet rule. That set her on a course to support human rights in Ukraine and its people's aspirations for independence. With her push and others', the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine was approved and funded. Under the leadership of Dr. James Mace, it gathered facts and provided documentation so that today no one, besides the Russian government, doubts the Holodomor's historical reality.

Soon afterwards, Rep. Kaptur tapped into the network of House members with Ukrainian constituencies and other ties to organize the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, which coordinated action on issues like the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, Chernobyl, recognizing Ukraine's independence, support for the newly independent state, etc. Personally, Rep. Kaptur has been engaged in Ukraine from the macro level to the village, visiting the country more than a dozen times. She's been a critic as well as a cheerleader. When corrupt officials stole money for agro-business development, she used her clout to make them pay it back to the American firm they cheated. For decades, every Ukrainian president, ambassador, farmer, poet, athlete, patriarch

has asked to meet with her.

A month ago, Rep. Kaptur was honored at the Chicago Ukrainian Congress Committee of America commemoration of the January 22, 1919, Unity Day. The event drew 350 people, including Rep. Danny K. Davis who represents Ukrainian Village, Rep. Mike Quigley, Sen. Dick Durbin, Consul General of Ukraine Andriy Pravydyk, several honorary consuls, clergy and others, including my wife and me. Unlike countless other events I've attended, none of the politicians ducked out discretely after they'd delivered an obligatory message. They stayed – Democrats and Republicans – to honor their colleague. Given the floor, each one expressed support for Ukraine and acknowledged Rep. Kaptur's leadership, work ethic and political courage. The Chicago UCCA noted her 33-year advocacy for Ukraine and cited her most recent sponsorship of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act to provide political, economic and military assistance to Ukraine. The bill passed unanimously and is now law.

While in Chicago, Rep. Kaptur also convened a meeting for Ukrainian American leaders with the senator and congressmen to discuss where to go next and to solicit support for a Senate Ukraine Caucus, which took shape two weeks later. Democratic Sen. Durbin along with Ohio Republican Sen. Rob Portman are co-chairs. Ohio's other senator, Democrat Sherrod Brown, is vice-chair. Never waste a moment – that's Rep. Kaptur. Network to friends and allies – that's also her. Get things done.

So why do elections matter? For the 2012 congressional election, Ohio lost two congressional seats, and Cleveland and Toledo were merged, pitting Rep. Kaptur against popular congressman and former Cleveland mayor and presidential candidate, Dennis Kucinich. Choosing between the two was not that difficult for many Ukrainian voters. For 40 years, Mr. Kucinich attended countless Ukrainian events, always bringing a proclamation and warm words. His legislative record, on the other hand, was very meager, whereas Rep. Kaptur had consistently delivered – not only on Ukraine but also for her district. So, along with many other Cleveland-area Ukrainians, I supported Rep. Kaptur. She won easily.

As for Mr. Kucinich today? No longer in Congress, he's still outspoken on many issues, including Ukraine. Among several interviews this one posted on April 9, 2014, on RIA Novosti (now SputnikNews) stands out. Consider: "anyone who is familiar with the history of World War II knows that Russia lost 30 million people [and] everyone knows the junta in Kiev [sic] was installed by a coup and that you have nationalists, neo-Nazis... Russians did not give their lives so that 70 years later neo-Nazis could come to power who were trained by NATO to attempt to camp out on the Russian border in Ukraine." The interview goes on ad nauseam. "Neo-Nazi" comes up nine times. Also, tapping into President Vladimir Putin's lexicon, "coup," "junta," etc. I wonder what happened to Mr. Kucinich. Did he just pretend to be a friend of Ukraine for all those years or is there more to it?

But anyway, so much for Mr. Kucinich. Instead, thank you so much to Rep. Kaptur. She's proof that, in the long-term struggle for Ukraine, elections do matter – very much indeed.

Andrew Fedynsky's e-mail address is [afedynsky@gmail.com](mailto:afedynsky@gmail.com)

## NEWS AND VIEWS

## UUARC's latest humanitarian cargo

## Worthy endeavor advances our joint victory

by Larissa Kyj

For the last 70 years, the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee (UUARC) has responded to the most urgent needs of Ukraine. Even during the most difficult times of Ukraine's struggles, UUARC has been in the forefront in sending aid to those in need.

Today, relying on numerous benefactors and volunteers, UUARC continues to carry on its very necessary and beneficial work. This effort helps achieve a step-by-step progress for our countrymen who are in need of support the most, such as: orphans, the needy, the elderly and those who are handicapped. UUARC also supports various educational and patriotic programs for impoverished children and those from needy large families. Many other needs are met through other charitable endeavors. UUARC stands together with Ukraine, whether during the Orange Revolution (2004), or most recently from the start of the Euro-Maidan and the Russian incursion. UUARC quickly aids all those countrymen who are protecting Ukrainian independence by giving up everything, and by making the ultimate sacrifice.

Besides purchases being made in Ukraine, during the summer and fall of last year, 77 individual boxes and suitcases (weighing 50 pounds each), containing much-needed aid were sent to the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) and the Kyiv Military Hospital. Three containers of humanitarian aid were shipped to Ukraine in the fall and winter.

On September 29, 2014, a 40-foot container was shipped to the regional community organization, Our Home Union of Homeless Afghanistan Veterans in the Lviv Oblast of Ukraine. The container, weighing almost 26,500 pounds, included the following: used furniture in very good condition (tables, chairs, shelves), children's, women's and men's clothing, duvets, blankets, bedding, pillows, mattresses, wheelchairs, medical beds, stair lifts for invalids, walk-

ers, crutches, portable toilets, shower seats, ultrasound devices (ProServ and Sony), therapeutic equipment, X-ray lamps to view films/images, chargers, various medical/physician's equipment, e.g., for inhaling (especially the Misty Max 10 inhaler, oxygen masks, etc.), for urinary and gastrointestinal tracts, insulin-protective containers, surgical stockings, anti-bedsore pillows, and an "ATT To" endoscope. This is just a partial list of the contents of the cargo, valued at \$45,969. It was delivered to the members of the organization and their families, to hospitals in the cities of Pustomyty and Rudky in the Lviv Oblast, to the Lviv hospital Invalids of War and for the needs of the participants in the ATO.

On November 22, 2014, another 40-foot container was shipped, this time to the Logos Community of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Kyiv Patriarchate in the Kyiv Oblast for the needs of the community and hospitals that are treating the wounded participants of the ATO. The cargo (weighing over 25,500 pounds) was valued at \$29,090 and included mostly used items in good condition. Among the multiple items were children's, women's and men's clothing, duvets, blankets, bedding, pillows, mattresses, wheelchairs, beds, various medical products, walkers, medical and other furniture (such as medical examination tables and hospital beds), umbrellas, stair lift motor and cables, medical equipment (ultrasound machine and monitor), and physical therapy products. In addition, the shipment contained new medical and physician's equipment (X-ray machines), textiles and medical items.

On December 27, 2014, a second 40-foot container was shipped to the regional community organization, Our Home Union of Homeless Afghanistan Veterans in the Lviv Oblast. It is worth noting the unusually efficient and constructive cooperation with this organization. The organization's care and responsibility in distributing the cargo, and its subsequent precise operational reporting deserve special gratitude. The



Volunteers who helped pack a container of aid to Ukraine.

container (weighing 23,100 pounds) included the following: sleeping bags for extremely cold temperatures, medical equipment and medical products, personal hygiene items, 4,920 pairs of thermal underwear, 1,420 pairs of warm socks, 4,320 pairs of gloves, camouflage outfits, 257 pairs of military winter footwear (initiated by UUARC's representative in Rochester, N.Y.), 39,120 hand- and foot-warmers, 15 boxes of toys for orphaned children whose parents died in the war, two electric wheelchairs for wounded invalids, 100 units of tactical tourniquets, 350 blood-stopping materials (Olaes Modular Bandages), 150 SWAT and Soft Tactical Tourniquets, 738 units of QuikClot bandages, and 15 boxes (29,480 units) of physician masks. Also, children in orphanages who play for Ukraine's Little League Baseball received eight large boxes of baseball equipment and uniforms (initiated by Basil Tarasko and Roman Leskiw). This is just a portion of the cargo, which was valued at \$105,673.

Everything sent by UUARC passes through appropriate sanitary and disinfection

procedures, and meets all ecological requirements. UUARC has also established a productive cooperative relationship with Ukrainian government institutions and other commercial and civic organizations. Sincere thanks are due to: Ukraine International Airlines, Dnipro LLC freight forwarding company, Meest package delivery company, Universal Travel Services in Philadelphia, the Embassy of Ukraine in Washington and the Consulate General of Ukraine in New York.

These three containers are only a small portion of the assistance that UUARC provides thanks to our dear and tireless contributors. We thank all whose hearts, even thousands of miles away, beat in unison with those that are pain-filled with fate's difficult challenges. We thank those whose thoughts are with our countrymen, as they march and suffer unflinchingly through these most difficult times. Only together, will we achieve our joint victory of a united, peaceful and independent Ukraine.

Let us gather together under UUARC's slogan: "Brother to brother!"

Translated by Leo Iwaskiw.

## FIRST ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION

## UCC statement remembering heroes of the Heavenly Hundred

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress on February 19 issued the following statement on the occasion of the day of commemoration of the heroes of the Heavenly Hundred, which was marked in Ukraine on February 20.

Today, the Ukrainian Canadian community joins our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and around the world in honoring the memory of all those who laid down their lives in the battle for a free and democratic Ukraine. In February 2014, the oppressive, authoritarian regime of former President Viktor Yanukovich opened fire on its own people. The Heavenly Hundred (Небесна Сотня) gave their lives to ensure that the people of Ukraine may live in freedom and dignity. Their sacrifice will be remembered always. The Revolution of Dignity stands as an example to us all of heroism, courage and determination.

Today, the people of Ukraine are once again forced to take up arms to defend themselves against a brutal war wrought on them by an external aggressor – the Russian Federation. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has taken the lives of thousands more of Ukraine's brave daughters and sons. Russia has callously violated international laws, security guarantees, and undermined global peace and security with its illegal invasion of Ukraine and sponsorship of terrorism on the territory of Ukraine.

Today, as we honor the memory of the Heavenly Hundred, we pay tribute to all those who have fallen and all those who today continue to bravely fight, defending Ukraine against Russia's brutal assault on Ukraine's independence. We pray that peace will soon return to Ukraine.

May their memories be eternal!  
Vichnaya pamiat!

Glory to Ukraine! Glory to its heroes!

## FOR THE RECORD: Letter of concern to Fairfield U. about keynote speaker

The letter below was sent on February 11 to Father Jeffrey von Arx, S.J., president of Fairfield University, which hosted Stephen Cohen as its keynote speaker on February 5 as the university celebrated the anniversary of the Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies Program. The author of the letter, Alexander B. Kuzma, chief development officer of the Ukrainian Catholic Education Foundation, has yet to receive a response to his concerns. (The letter was sent c/o Father Charles Allen, S.J., special assistant to the president and university chaplain.)

I find it deeply disturbing that Fairfield University would invite Stephen Cohen as its keynote speaker to mark the anniversary of your Russian and East European Studies program.

Cohen has been a shameless apologist for the brutal regime of Vladimir Putin as Putin has systematically crushed dissent and academic freedom in his own country. He has been even more outspoken in sup-

port of Putin as Russia invaded and re-annexed Crimea and waged a war of aggression against Ukraine that as of last week had already claimed over 5,300 lives.

For 300 years, Russian autocrats – whether tsarist or Soviet – have repeatedly waged campaigns of repression and genocide against the Ukrainian people.

- They have enslaved millions of Ukrainians as serfs.
- They have deported hundreds of thousands to the Siberian gulag.
- By conservative estimates, they starved 3.3 million Ukrainians to death in the Holodomor of 1932-1933; (Raphael Lemkin called the Famine a "classic case of genocide" – a genocide that Putin continues to deny).
- Stalin liquidated the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and drove the Catholic Church into the underground.
- The Soviets shot and tortured Catholic

(Continued on page 12)



## Current events in Ukraine featured during International Week at U. of Alberta

EDMONTON, Alberta – As part of International Week on campus at the University of Alberta, the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) on January 27 participated in two sessions devoted to the current war in Ukraine and the Euro-aidan revolution preceding it.

The first session, on “War and Revolution in Ukraine,” opened with a sketch of the background by Dr. Bohdan Harasymiw, acting coordinator of the Center for Political and Regional Studies at CIUS.

Recounting the course of events from the beginning of the Euro-Maidan demonstrations in November 2013 to the present day, he emphasized the unconventional nature of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. He reported that, according to the United Nations, from mid-May 2014 to January 6 of this year, at least 4,808 people had been killed, 10,468 wounded, and 634,000 internally displaced, with a further 594,000 fleeing to neighboring countries, mainly Russia. Of the 5.2 million inhabitants remaining, 1.4 million were desperately in need of humanitarian aid. These casualties include 1,250 Ukrainian soldiers, but do not include 6,242 Russian soldiers killed or missing.

Obviously, continued Dr. Harasymiw, civilians are bearing the brunt of the violence, as is usual in today’s wars. Like the others, this war, in his opinion, will be very difficult to resolve. In the war of words accompanying this violent conflict, its political nature is too often overlooked, especially by the Ukrainian government. Kyiv must make more of an effort, said Dr. Harasymiw, to win over the people of the Donbas politically “by making conditions of life easier for them, countering the pro-Russian propaganda and treating refugees outside the conflict zone in a more humane manner.”

Dr. Harasymiw’s introduction was based



Bohdan Harasymiw addresses students.

on his presentation “War in Ukraine: Undeclared, Unacknowledged and Unabated” in the CIUS seminar series on January 20. (The text of his paper is available at <http://ukrainian-studies.ca/2015/01/29/bohdan-harasymiw-war-ukraine-undeclared-unacknowledged-unabated/>.)

In his presentation, Dr. Oleh Ilnytzkyj of the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies (MLCS) at the University of Alberta, emphasized the cultural differences between Russia and Ukraine, and how these became apparent during the Euro-Maidan events. He also pointed out some of the excesses in which officials of the previous Yanukovich government had engaged during the rule of that corrupt regime. The most important result of the Euro-Maidan revolution, he stressed, was the change in the attitude of Ukrainian society from subservience to civic consciousness.

Drawing on a course about the Euro-Maidan co-taught with Dr. Ilnytzkyj in the fall of 2014, his colleague in MLCS, Dr. Natalia Pylypiuk, focused on the ecumenism generated by the Euro-Maidan. The extraordinary cooperation and collaboration among Christian clergy of all denominations, Muslim muftis and Jewish rabbis was truly remarkable, noted Dr. Pylypiuk, especially their common efforts in developing a theology of courage and overcoming the colonial legacy of submissiveness. She emphasized that, by working together, the various groups turned an ethnic nation into a political one embracing all ethnicities and religious backgrounds as proud Ukrainians.

Atiya Kanji, who took the course on the Euro-Maidan, offered an interesting comparison between the conflict in Ukraine and its long-standing Asian counterpart – the struggle for Kashmir involving India,

Pakistan and China. Despite the seeming hopelessness of both situations, she concluded with an optimistic prescription for resolving such conflicts, including mutual respect and understanding. Now pursuing her undergraduate degree in political science, as well as studying history, French, German and Russian, Ms. Kanji hopes to study international law.

The second session on January 27 featured a showing of the film “Heaven’s Hundred,” produced by the Babylon ’13 studio. Briefly introduced by Jars Balan, administrative coordinator of the Kule Ukrainian-Canadian Studies Center at CIUS, the film was followed by the comments of Drs. Ilnytzkyj and Pylypiuk, as well as historian Dr. Heather Coleman, director of the Research Program on Religion and Culture at CIUS. A lengthy and lively discussion followed with a keenly interested audience.



During a lively discussion at the session.



A student shows support for Ukraine.

## New archival fellowship announced at CIUS

EDMONTON, Alberta – The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (CIUS) at the University of Alberta announced the establishment of a new archival fellowship in Ukrainian (including Ukrainian Canadian) studies. CIUS invites applications for one or more archival fellowships in this field. The value of one fellowship cannot exceed \$24,000.

The fellowship is open to applications from students, graduate students or scholars wishing to collect archives or assist existing archival institutions to catalogue and microfilm (make digital copies of) their Ukrainian archival collections. Archives may include primary source materials in art, folklore, ethnography or primary source samples of language development obtained through linguistic fieldwork. Other proposals related to the organization and description of archival collections will be considered.

“The Ukrainian community in Canada has a history of just under 125 years; in the United States, just over 130 years,” noted Dr. Bohdan Klid, CIUS assistant director. “During this period, many documents and archival collections related to community life in Canada and ties of

Ukrainians in Canada to their ancestral homeland have accumulated. Some are to be found in community-run museums and institutions, as well as in universities and government-run archives. By advertising this fellowship, we hope to receive applications from individuals who would collaborate with such institutions to catalogue, describe or otherwise work with some of these archival collections.”

The fellowship is made possible through the support of the Stephania Bukachevska-Pastushenko Endowment Fund. This endowment was established by Ms. Bukachevska-Pastushenko at the Canadian Foundation for Ukrainian Studies (CFUS) in Toronto with an initial gift of \$100,000. In January 1987, CFUS transferred the funds to CIUS to be matched two-to-one by the government of Alberta. Income from the fund has supported archival research, the cataloguing of existing collections and publication of research aids at CIUS. The publication of many of the institute’s 65 research reports was funded from its proceeds.

Ms. Bukachevska-Pastushenko was born in Skala, western Ukraine. After completing a teacher education course

at the seminary of the Basilian Sisters in Stanyslaviv (now Ivano-Frankivsk), she taught in Konin, Poland, and left for Germany in 1944. She immigrated to Canada in 1948. The donor dedicated the endowment to the memory of her mother, who valued learning and encouraged knowledge of one’s cultural heritage. It was her intention to help students and scholars study the Ukrainian heritage by encouraging the collection and preservation of the archival holdings on which scholarly work depends.

Applicants are required to submit the following to CIUS: (1) a proposal containing a description of the project; (2) a budget; (3) a curriculum vitae; and (4) two letters of support; if the proposal is to catalogue or make copies of collections from an existing archival institution, one letter must be from a representative of that institution.

All documentation must be sent by March 1 to: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 430 Pembina Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2H8; telephone, 780-492-2972; fax, 780-492-4967; e-mail, [cuis@ualberta.ca](mailto:cuis@ualberta.ca).



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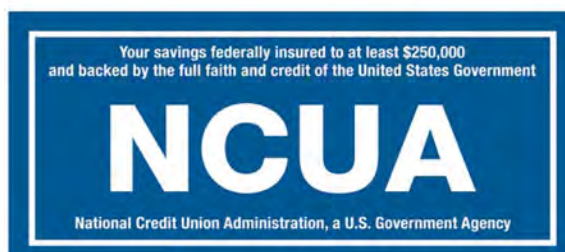
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Violinist Marc Bouchkov rewards his concert audience with an encore at the Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria, Va.



Violinist Solomia Gorokhivska of the Gerdan trio performs at the Embassy of Ukraine. In the background are photos from the Maidan.

# Washington in February: concerts, exhibits, remembrances of the Maidan

by Yaro Bihun

WASHINGTON – February was a cold and weary month in this capital city, especially for Ukrainian American, their minds immersed in the horrific events in eastern Ukraine.

And while official and other visits, presentations, meetings and discussions continued to dominate local activists' calendars here, several Ukrainian cultural events

– concerts, art and photo exhibits – managed to find a way into their schedules as well, which helped ease their distress.

On the first day of the month, Ukrainian violinist Marc Bouchkov gave his second performance here in two years at the Lyceum in Old Town Alexandria. Under the sponsorship of The Washington Group (TWG) Cultural Fund, as in 2014, and accompanied by pianist Anna Balakerskaia, Mr. Bouchkov's program included works by

Brahms, Ysaye, Chausson and Ravel. But what brought the packed recital hall audience to its feet was his own solo violin arrangement "Fantasy on a Ukrainian Theme," based on two popular Ukrainian folk songs, "Vziav by ya Banduru" and "Plyve Kacha po Tysnyi."

The following weekend, it was pianist Mykola Suk. He joined with the PostClassical Ensemble at the Georgetown Dumbarton United Methodist Church in an evening devoted to Beethoven, which included Mr. Suk's rendition of the "Moonlight" Piano Sonata No. 14.

Mr. Suk is no stranger to Washington. Five years ago he joined with the PostClassical Ensemble in an all-Liszt "Angels and Devils" program, and later that

year he performed the "Moonlight" Sonata at a TWG Cultural Fund concert. He has also played a few concerts at the National Gallery of Art and at other capital venues here.

While Messrs. Bouchkov's and Suk's performances had no direct connection with the current events in Ukraine, the fact that their country of origin has been dominating the news for so many months was difficult to ignore by those attending.

The following Sunday, February 15, it was the Gerdan folk ensemble – violinist Solomia Gorokhivska, flutist Andrei Pidkivka and pianist Oksana Skidan – performing Ukrainian Carpathian mountain

(Continued on page 15)



One of the moving photographs from "Images from Ukraine's Maidan, 2013-2014" on exhibit at the Wilson Center in Washington.

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

yet fulfilled the first point of the Minsk agreement: to cease fire." Separatists said on February 24 that they were beginning to pull back heavy weapons. But monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said they could not yet verify the withdrawal because the sides have not confirmed how many guns were in place before the ceasefire was meant to take effect. Kyiv has expressed concerns the separatists, who seized the town of Debaltseve four days after the

ceasefire was meant to go into effect on February 15, were merely redeploying their weaponry near Mariupol, the largest government-held city in the Donetsk Oblast. (RFE/RL, with reporting by news services)

### Rada's first deputy chair visits Ottawa

OTTAWA – Andriy Parubiy, first vice-chair of the Ukrainian Parliament, visited Ottawa on February 23. He met with ministers, MPs and representatives of the Ukrainian community. In a meeting with Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Robert Nicholson, Mr. Parubiy discussed the security situation in eastern Ukraine, including

concerns over Mariupol, and the steps taken toward reform by Ukraine's government. Minister Nicholson said Canada is committed to working closely with the government of Ukraine to build a united, democratic and prosperous Ukraine. Mr. Parubiy thanked Canada for taking a leadership role in supporting Ukraine and for the new economic sanctions and travel bans imposed on February 17 against 37 Russian and Ukrainian individuals and 17 Russian and Ukrainian entities. Minister Nicholson and Mr. Parubiy also discussed the February 12 Minsk agreement and the persistent ceasefire violations by the Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine. Minister Nicholson offered his sympathies to the Ukrainian people following the bombing of a peaceful demonstration in Kharkiv. The minister also called on the Putin regime to withdraw its forces immediately from Ukraine and to use its influence on the separatists to have them lay down their weap-

ons. (Ukrainian Canadian Congress)

### Deadly blast rocks Kharkiv march

KYIV – Officials in Ukraine said they have detained four Ukrainian citizens in connection with an explosion in the eastern city of Kharkiv that left four dead and 11 injured. Police say the people killed in the February 22 explosion were a police officer, Vadim Rybalchenko, and a civilian, Ihor Tolmachev; two more fatalities were 15-year-old Danylo Didyk and 18-year-old Mykola Melnychuk, who died of their injuries in the hospital. Four of the wounded were also police officers. Oleksandr Turchynov, head of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, said a counterterrorism operation has been launched in Kharkiv in response to the incident. The bomb struck a peace march that was being held to mark the first anniversary of the overthrow of former President Viktor

(Continued on page 13)

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## Letter of concern...

(Continued from page 8)

priests, nuns and bishops (in 2001, St. John Paul II beatified 28 of the most notable Ukrainian martyrs that defied Soviet and/or Nazi tyranny, but these constitute only a tiny fraction of the thousands of Ukrainian Catholic clergy and laity who were annihilated).

• They brutally murdered Ukrainian poets, scholars, songwriters and artists.

Rather than make amends for this horrific history, Vladimir Putin has lamented the demise of the Soviet Union as a national "disaster" and has now mounted a re-invigorated campaign to restore the "glory" of Russia's empire.

One can imagine the international uproar if Angela Merkel began to express fondness for Hitler, or if she declared the demise of the Third Reich a "national disaster." Yet Cohen seems to feel that Putin's yearning and nostalgia for the Soviet police state is perfectly reasonable.

In a stunning example of twisted logic, Cohen basically told his audience last week that Putin was justified in his invasion of Crimea and his aggression against Ukraine because NATO "forced his hand."

Prof. Cohen is fond of parroting Putin's bigotry and demonizing all Ukrainians who oppose his brand of tyranny as "fascists." The fact is that the percentage of Ukrainians who supported far right parties in the last year's election (2 percent) was tiny when compared to the robust percentages that far right parties received in the latest elections in Hungary (Jobbik – 15 percent), France (Front National – 25 percent), Denmark (Dansk Folkeparti – 27 percent) and Greece (Golden Dawn – 10 percent). Ironically, these are the very parties that Putin is courting to drive a wedge between European allies. These are also the elements that have expressed open admiration for Putin's "strong man" posture, his Russian supremacist ideology, his primitive imperialism and his suppression of dissent.

This bizarre fusion of the extreme Left and extreme Right should not come as a surprise to scholars familiar with the history of Eastern Europe. After all, this was the nature of the Molotov-Ribbentrop "Non-Aggression" Pact that enabled Hitler and Stalin to dismember Poland in 1939. The "non-aggression" did not apply to Poles or Ukrainians who were deported en masse to Siberia, the thousands of Polish POWs who were shot in the Katyn Massacre, or the first contingents of Jews that Stalin was only too happy to deport to Hitler's Germany following the 1940 conference at Zakopane.

As a venerable Catholic-Jesuit institution,

one would think that Fairfield University remains committed to a zealous search for truth, not a stretch for what comedian Stephen Colbert refers to as "truthiness" – a devious, marginally plausible contortion of the facts designed to persuade the naïve or reinforce misinformation.

As a brazen proponent of Putin's imperial agenda, and as a willing participant in Russia's well-financed global propaganda campaign, Cohen has brought new vitality to the concepts of "blaming the victim" and Orwellian doublespeak. In the process, he has brought sophistry to new heights while bringing scholarly integrity to new lows.

At a bare minimum, Prof. [David] McFadden [director of Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies] owes his students and the university community a chance to hear the alternative views of respected scholars like Yale's Timothy Snyder (author of "Bloodlands"), Anne Applebaum or Dr. Alexander Motyl of Rutgers. I would gladly introduce you to Prof. Myroslav Marynovych, the Vice-Rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University, a celebrated author and human rights champion and a former political prisoner who spent seven years in one of the deadliest camps in the Soviet gulag (Perm 36).

Cardinal [Timothy] Dolan and other Catholic prelates hailed last year's Maidan uprising in Ukraine as a "Revolution of Dignity." If you prefer to give credence to Prof. Cohen's assertion that this was a "fascist putsch," I would urge you to read the statements of Ukraine's Chief Rabbi Yaakov Bleich and other Jewish leaders who have become staunch defenders of the new government in Kyiv and fierce critics of the pro-Russian "separatists" and their blatant anti-Semitism. (As a case in point, last week, Alexander Zakharchenko, the leader of the Donetsk People's Republic – the war criminal that Putin has insisted Angela Merkel negotiate with, denounced the Poroshenko government in Kyiv as being run by "miserable Jews." How Prof. Cohen can find sympathy or common cause with such people is beyond me, but it certainly begs the question of his credibility and judgment.)

I would respectfully request an opportunity to meet with you and if possible, to include a small delegation including Bishop Paul Chomnycky of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford [Conn.], and Ms. Roma Hayda, a prominent lay leader in Fairfield County, so that we might discuss these concerns in greater detail.

In the meantime, I ask for your prayers for the thousands of Ukrainians and Russians who have already perished in this vainglorious war that Putin has unleashed, for the thousands more wounded, and for the nearly million internally displaced refugees now facing a very bleak future.

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

Yanukovich. An official with Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) was quoted as saying the four people who were detained "underwent instruction and received weapons" in the Russian city of Belgorod. A Kharkiv prosecutor was quoted by Interfax as saying the bomb was "filled with shrapnel." A local SBU official said a similar weapon had been located and disarmed in Kharkiv on February 19. "Today is memorial Sunday, but on this day the terrorist evil revealed its predatory nature," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said on Facebook. A minute of silence was observed in Kharkiv on February 23 in honor of those who died and were wounded in the explosion. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Interfax)

### Lysenko: OSCE observers threatened

KYIV – A "Donetsk People's Republic" commander at the militant-held checkpoint in the Kyivsky district in Donetsk on February 22 threatened to kill observers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a Ukrainian military spokesman reported. A report by the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) in Ukraine also stated that the SMM unmanned aerial vehicle used to monitor compliance with the Minsk package in the environs of Donetsk airport was consistently jammed. "Insurgents used the means of electronic warfare to impede the work of international observers. This showed, once again, how pro-Russian militants violated international law and the Minsk agreements," said Col. Andriy Lysenko, spokesperson for the Anti-Terrorist Operation, at a press briefing at the Ukraine Crisis Media Center in Kyiv. (Ukraine Crisis Media Center)

### U.S., Russia clash over Ukraine at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS – The United States and Russia traded accusations, mainly over

the conflict in Ukraine, at the United Nations Security Council on February 23. Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov said the Security Council had become a tool to "rubber stamp" decisions made by Western countries. He accused the United States of "unsavory methods," including what he called "the unconstitutional state coup in Ukraine a year ago." Mr. Lavrov also cited Western interventions in Syria, Libya and Iraq as violations of the UN Charter. U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power suggested Moscow's call for greater respect for nations' sovereignty and territorial integrity was hypocritical. "Russia today is training, arming, supporting and fighting alongside separatists who have brutally seized Ukrainian territory – a blatant violation of the U.N. Charter and an assault on its neighbor's sovereignty," she said. Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Pavlo Klimkin said Russia had "unleashed a hybrid war" on his country and added that Kyiv might request a U.N. peacekeeping mission to help maintain a truce in eastern Ukraine. "It is horrifying that these flagrant violations have been committed by a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council that bears a special responsibility for maintaining international peace and security," Mr. Klimkin said. Lithuanian Foreign Affairs Minister Linas Linkevicius accused Moscow of trying to redraw Europe's borders by violence and force. "From eastern Ukraine to Moldova's Transdnister, to Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions, a pattern exists of Russia's interference in the sovereign affairs of neighboring states," he said. "For a year now, Ukraine has been under attack by Russian commandos and mercenaries." (RFE/RL, with reporting by the Associated Press, Reuters and Deutsche Presse-Agentur)

### Pope said to be planning Ukraine visit

KYIV – Pope Francis has agreed to make a visit to Ukraine, according to Yuriy Tandit, the negotiator of the Security Service of Ukraine for the release of hostages.

## U.S.-Canada...

(Continued from page 7)

Canadian government ministers and commentators have argued along two lines against sending defensive military equipment to Ukraine.

Firstly, the argument goes, Ukraine is highly corrupt and the aid could be stolen. While it is true that Ukraine has a high level of corruption, this is true for Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, with which Western democracies have long had security ties. Indeed, if Canadian special forces can train the Kurds to fight the Islamic State's threat to Iraq's sovereignty, why couldn't they train Ukrainians to defend theirs? Training could be increased within long-running annual Canada-Ukraine Maple Arch and Rapid Trident exercises.

Training and advice are as important as military hardware in transforming Ukrainian forces into counterinsurgency forces, and such assistance by its very nature cannot be stolen. Training by Canadian special forces, considered to be one of the best in the world, would make Ukrainian forces more accountable, reducing civilian casualties arising from outdated Soviet-era military tactics that rely heavily on indiscriminate artillery and rocket attacks.

A second argument cited by those opposed to sending defensive military aid to Ukraine is that such aid could end up in the hands of nationalist volunteer battalions. Here, the answer is simply for Canada to do the same as the U.S. in sending assistance only to the Ukrainian military.

While Prime Minister Harper has used a megaphone in his attacks against President

Putin's destructive support for the conflict in Ukraine, his government and the Canadian Parliament have adopted weaker economic and financial sanctions than the European Union and the United States. The Harper government has responded that the purpose of the sanctions against Russia is to punish Mr. Putin's government, not Canadian industry (<http://ottawacitizen.com/news/politics/canada-under-pressure-to-strengthen-ukraine-crisis-response>). New sanctions adopted this month have targeted the Russian energy companies Rosneft and Chemezov. Canada has also not supported the call of the U.S. Congress to provide defensive military assistance to Ukraine. What's more, the U.S. will begin to train Ukrainian forces next month.

Now is the time for Prime Minister Harper to follow the lead of Lithuania and Poland, which have stated their willingness to begin supplying arms, and Britain, which has sold 75 Saxon armored personnel carriers to Ukraine. Canada should be on the same page as the U.S. on this important strategic decision.

Failing a repair of the rift with the U.S., Canada's 1.5 million voters of Ukrainian descent will undoubtedly bare the Harper government's reticence when they go to cast their votes in the next elections. Former Liberal MP Wrzesnewskyj said, 'Ukraine will win this war of aggression that Russia has begun against Ukraine. The question is, at what cost? Will it be at the cost of 10,000s? Will it be at the cost of 50,000s? Will it be at the cost of 100,000 Ukrainians? This is why it's imperative that the West finally act in ways that will change Putin's calculus.' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uqg2GqLNFLA>).

Speaking on Ukrainian television's Channel 5, he said: "A few days ago I returned from the Vatican, where I met with Pope Francis. The day before yesterday we handed him a letter from Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko with the invitation, and the pope told us he would come to Ukraine." He added, "I want to congratulate the Ukrainian people that Pope Francis, who prays for peace in our country, will likely visit us." The last visit to independent Ukraine of a pope took place in 2001, when Pope John Paul II came to the country. (UNIAN)

### Kyiv and rebels swap prisoners

KYIV – The Ukrainian government and pro-Russian rebels have exchanged prisoners in the east of the country as part of the shaky international ceasefire reached nearly two weeks ago. A total of 139 Ukrainian troops and 52 rebels were exchanged late on February 21 some 20 kilometers west of Luhansk, according to both sides. The exchange is a key part of the deal agreed upon by the leaders of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine on February 12. Earlier, the Ukrainian prisoners were transported to a location near Zholobok, where they were made to line up and listen to a speech by a rebel representative, who ordered the men to leave the territory claimed by the separatist movements in the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. The soldiers – some of them using crutches, at least one carried on a stretcher – then walked for around three kilometers to a rendezvous point. Ukraine's military on February 21 reported attacks over the past day that killed a serviceman and wounded 40, with mortars reaching the fringes of Mariupol, among other places. According to Reuters, some rebels had formed a base in a complex of houses in Bezimenne further up the coast from Mariupol. Reuters reporters said there were dozens of well-armed fighters milling around, some of whom looked like Russian military special forces wearing Russian army patches and insignia on their uniforms. (RFE/RL, with reporting by the Associated Press and Reuters)

### Putin warns gas cuts are possible

MOSCOW – Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned that Ukraine faces a natural-gas cutoff that could leave Europe with shortages while saying Kyiv's suspension of gas supplies to separatist parts of eastern Ukraine "smells of genocide." Mr. Putin said on February 25 that Russia hopes it will not halt the delivery of gas to Ukraine, but that

depends on Kyiv's "financial discipline." The Russian company Gazprom said it would stop sending gas to Ukraine on February 26 if Kyiv does not make a prepayment for more gas. But Ukraine's state energy company, Naftohaz, said earlier this week it had only received about half the gas it has paid for and would not pay for new supplies until it received all the gas it is due. Gazprom said the missing gas was being sent to rebel-controlled parts of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions that were no longer receiving gas from Ukraine. Gazprom started shipping gas directly to separatist-controlled areas of eastern Ukraine on February 19 after Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev ordered his Energy Ministry to work out a supply plan as "humanitarian aid." Those shipments are passing through the Prokhorovka and Platovo gas-metering stations on Russia's border with the Luhansk and Donetsk regions. Mr. Putin said Ukraine's reported failure to provide some areas in those regions with gas amounts to "genocide." He said, "Imagine these people will be left without gas in winter. Not only that there is famine... It smells of genocide." Gazprom said it is supplying gas to the parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in eastern Ukraine that are controlled by pro-Russian separatists since Kyiv stopped supplying them. (RFE/RL, with reporting by news services)

### Russia's credit rating downgraded

NEW YORK – Moody's Investors Service has cut Russia's credit rating to junk grade. Moody's downgraded Russia's sovereign rating to Ba1 from Baa3, citing the impact from the Ukraine crisis as well as the steep fall in oil prices and the ruble exchange rate. Standard & Poor's had downgraded Russia's rating to junk last month. Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said Moody's downgrade was based on "factors of a political character." Mr. Siluanov said the downgrade was based on "unrealistic" forecasts with "no analogies," as the agency had made pessimistic assumptions that went well beyond forecasts by the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and international banks. Russia's economy has been hit by the double impact of weaker energy prices as well as Western sanctions over its role in Ukraine. The Russian economy is expected to contract by 4 to 5 percent this year for the first time since President Vladimir Putin took the helm in 2000. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by the Associated Press and Reuters)



## John S. Reshetar, Jr

died February 7, 2015.

He was born July 14, 1924.

John S. Reshetar, Jr. was a Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Washington in Seattle since 1989, following four decades of service on university faculties. The 32 years at the University of Washington were preceded by eight years at Princeton (1947-1955) as an instructor and lecturer in politics as well as a year's service as visiting lecturer in political science at Yale. He received his B.A. at Williams College in 1945 (Phi Beta Kappa) and his M.A. (1946) and Ph.D. (1950) in political science from Harvard University. He is the author of *The Ukrainian Revolution, 1917-1920* (1952 and 1972) and of a history of the Soviet Communist Party (two editions) and of a basic work, *The Soviet Polity* (3 editions – 1971, 1978 and 1989). He is also co-author of *Introduction to Comparative Government* (5 editions from 1985 to 2002) and has published more than 30 journal articles and chapters in symposia. He is survived by his wife, Helene T. Reshetar.

May His memory be eternal.

## Samopomich...

(Continued from page 5)

Despite all the active criticism, Samopomich's political posture belies the fact that the party helped to form the coalition government in late November 2014, said Kyiv political consultant Mykhailo Basarab. After all, the party actively participated in the divvying up of positions in the coalition-formation process, he said.

Besides gaining the chairmanships of several key committees, such as the Anti-Corruption Committee headed by the 37-year-old Mr. Sobolyev and the Foreign Affairs Committee led by 32-year-old Hanna Hopko, Samopomich also gained the post of vice-chair of Parliament, filled by Oksana Syroyid, he pointed out. In this way, it's trying to sit on two chairs at once, he said citing the Ukrainian adage.

"Its counter-positioning in its voting – contrasting with its coalition partners – is a desire to minimize its responsibility for the negative deeds of today's government," Mr. Basarab said. "They are making a certain wager for the future: we formed the coalition, but in some cases we took a principled position that differed. So we can't carry the responsibility for the government's miscalculations, as compared with the other coalition partners. It's political craftiness."

Such a position appeals to those pro-Western Ukrainians who are frustrated with the lack of reforms being pursued by the president and the prime minister, whose respective parties are taking the hit in poll ratings.

About 68 percent of Petro Poroshenko Bloc voters don't regret their choice, as compared to 82 percent who don't regret their vote for Samopomich, according to a poll released on February 3 that was conducted in late December of 2,008 respondents by the Razumkov Center and Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Fund in Kyiv.

So far, the political project is a success for Lviv City Council Head (Mayor) Andriy Sadovyi, who was its main financial spon-

sor and figurehead during the election campaign.

So, regardless of Mr. Sobolyev's antics and the party's rebellious voting behavior, it's Mr. Sadovyi's central role in the party that has made many skeptical of its commitment to reforms.

Ironically, the skepticism is greatest among the very residents of Lviv, where Mr. Sadovyi is widely viewed as just another corrupt politician, according to civic leaders that *The Weekly* interviewed.

"Sadovyi's main accomplishment was that he was able to impose a stereotype that he represents a new cohort of figures, which is a deliberate deception of the voter," said Ostop Drozdov, a Lviv political talk show host.

He merely distinguished himself in magnitude, amassing a multi-million-dollar personal fortune through opaque land sales and business contracts, which reached their peak leading up to the Euro 2012 soccer tournament, said Teodor Diakiv, a local activist and former city council deputy.

"Sadovyi the businessman emerged from the construction schemes in preparation for the Euro 2012," he said, citing the biggest affair, which involved denying a German investor the opportunity to build the stadium in favor of government funds that were promptly diverted into private accounts.

"Behind the Samopomich façade is corruption. Sadovyi is a highly professional, corrupt politician who knows how to cover his tracks," Mr. Diakiv said.

Mr. Sadovyi has rejected the accusations of corruption.

With his arsenal of millions, Mr. Sadovyi began to piece together the Samopomich party in 2012 after the Pora political party – as a member of which he was elected as City Council head in 2006 – disintegrated.

Those who helped form the party borrowed the Samopomich name from the network of credit unions that had sprung up in the Halychyna region in the early 20th century and thrived until the Soviet occupation, providing financial services for

Ukrainians who faced economic discrimination under Polish rule.

Then, as party leader, Mr. Sadovyi tapped Mr. Bereziuk, who was his personal psychologist, Mr. Drozdov said. He also serves as an assistant in the department of psychiatry and psychotherapy in the Halytskyi National Medical University in Lviv.

"Bereziuk is practically Sadovyi's second head," Mr. Drozdov said. "It's rare that a psychoanalyst becomes the right-hand man of a politician. He knows how to conceal the mayor's weaknesses and works expertly with public opinion. All the constructions around Sadovyi that create a positive image are Bereziuk's achievement. It's very professionally done."

When the pre-term parliamentary elections were unexpectedly announced following the Euro-Maidan, Messrs. Sadovyi and Bereziuk had to recruit a political team – particularly for the closed electoral lists to present to voters – that would draw the interest of voters.

Besides their own entourage, Messrs. Sadovyi and Bereziuk drew on several key sources, according to the *Liustratsiya* program on the ZIK television network.

They consisted of three soldiers from the volunteer Donbas Battalion that fought in the early months of the Donbas war (led by Battalion Commander Semen Semenchenko), the leaders to the Resuscitation Reforms Package (led by Ms. Hopko), members of the Volia party (led by Mr. Sobolyev) and entrepreneurs (particularly from the information technology sphere).

With its strong contingent of civic activists with roots in Western-sponsored NGOs (including Ms. Hopko, who ranked first on the electoral list), Samopomich's popularity was highest in the capital city of Kyiv, where it gained 21 percent of the vote and even exceeded the party's 19 percent result in the Lviv Oblast.

"All new people competed, which filled a demand," Sergei Gayday, the campaign manager for the People's Front party, said of Samopomich following the elections. "That's what most attracted voters, not

advertisements or messages. Their campaign could have been strengthened even further, yet that was enough for many people to vote for them."

The strong Kyiv result prompted Lviv political experts to comment that Mr. Sadovyi had the Yushchenko syndrome of being more popular away from his homeland.

"Kyiv, and Ukraine as a whole, perceive Sadovyi through the television screen and programs like *Savik Shuster* and Sadovyi's own 24 television channel," Mr. Diakiv said.

They insist that the progress Lviv has made this decade – with 24-hour running water, clean streets and a downtown bustling with shops and business – was achieved in spite of Mr. Sadovyi, who merely has taken advantage of his city's improved image.

Incidentally, Mr. Sadovyi himself didn't qualify for Parliament, having placed himself 50th on the closed electoral list. There's a reason for that, Mr. Drozdov said.

So while Mr. Sadovyi remains in the background for now, dispelling speculation that he's aiming to compete for the Ukrainian presidency some day, the spotlight has been directed towards party leaders such as Messrs. Sobolyev and Semenchenko.

The latter made headlines when declaring after the Ukrainian February 18 retreat from Debaltseve that he was organizing an alternative Joint Chiefs of Staff because of his belief that military commanders weren't giving the president accurate information.

Meanwhile, Mr. Sobolyev focused his battles on the legislative front in the Parliament building.

"That fight could have been perceived as a demonstration of decisiveness and a principled stand in a significant part of society," said Mr. Basarab, the Kyiv political consultant. "Sobolyev could be seen as a person who's even capable of defending the common good with his fists. In these extraordinary times of extreme emotional duress, society might welcome such principled aggressiveness."

## After Debaltseve...

(Continued from page 2)

should be worried about – is the profound shift in U.S. public opinion, which, according to a recent Gallup poll, now regards Russia as the United States' most dangerous enemy (Moskovsky Komsomolets, February 17).

This perception gives direction to President Barack Obama's course on containing Moscow based on the simple premise that Russia does not have a robust or healthy-enough economic base for sustaining confrontation. Mr. Putin remains in denial, and government officials decry as "politically motivated" the decisions of Moody's and Standard and Poor's to downgrade Russia's credit rating to "junk" status (RBC.ru, February 21). But in fact, the government's anti-crisis plan aimed at stimulating growth and prescribing haphazard cuts in budget expenditures deserves exactly this characteristic (Gazeta.ru, February 20).

The measures that are actually neces-

sary are elementary – to cancel the self-defeating counter-sanctions, to curtail the defense expenditures, to fire the most blatantly corrupt executives from state-owned corporations – but just plain impossible for the Putin regime (Vedomosti, February 17). The government, thus, is left with the impossible task of covering rising state obligations with falling revenues and resorting to creative accounting while not even trying to calculate the costs of supplying the separatist "rump Novorossiya" territory in eastern Ukraine with war ammunition and gas. Pundits may crack cheap jokes about the price on bananas breaking through a "psychologically important" ceiling, but the fact of the matter is that falling incomes in Russia are occurring alongside inflation climbing to 20 percent (Newsru.com, February 21).

This economic trajectory is certain to bring a rise in discontent, and Mr. Putin's "political technologists" are trying to preempt it by mobilizing social groups that are prone to aggressive protests. One element of this plan was enacted on February 21 in

downtown Moscow where some 40,000 "patriotic activists" were gathered (for a modest remuneration) to express their outrage against the Ukrainian "Maidan" on the anniversary of the tragic events in Kyiv that took down the corrupt regime of former president Viktor Yanukovich (Novaya Gazeta, February 21). The stimulated urge to exterminate the liberal "fifth column" was ugly; but even uglier was the additional attempt to suppress domestic discontent by targeting the opposition rally scheduled for March 1 (BestToday.ru, February 20). Alexei Navalny, who sought to reinvigorate the Russian anti-war movement with this rally, has been, yet again, put under arrest (Gazeta.ru, February 20).

These Russian domestic disturbances have a direct bearing on the prospects for a ceasefire to hold in eastern Ukraine's war zone. This undeclared but incessantly trumpeted war has become the main content of Russian politics, so that every curtailment of democratic freedoms at home is justified by it, while all the country's mounting economic hardships can only be

explained away by the discourse of a security emergency. Mr. Putin's regime has quickly evolved into a war clique that depends upon a virtual mobilization around a military-patriotic agenda, but it cannot organize anything resembling a real mobilization of the economy where corrupt rent-harvesting remains the prevalent mode of doing business. In every pause, the picture of Russia's irreversible economic decline comes into focus, so the proposition for stimulating public support with yet another "victory" becomes imperative.

A ceasefire may be useful for knocking Russia's external enemies off balance, but it has to be broken before sobering Russians start asking questions about where the war path is actually leading. Ms. Merkel's and Mr. Hollande's best intentions may, perhaps, buy a few weeks of relative calm, but then – Mariupol could be next.

*The article above is reprinted from Eurasia Daily Monitor with permission from its publisher, the Jamestown Foundation, www.jamestown.org.*

## Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

Ambassador Power also stated that there was no evidence that the population of Crimea or other parts of eastern Ukraine was at risk because of Ukraine's new government. "...On the contrary," she said, "the new Ukrainian government has placed a priority on internal reconciliation and political inclusivity. [Acting] President

[Oleksander] Turchynov has made clear his opposition to any restriction on the use of the Russian tongue."

"Tonight the OSCE [Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe] will begin deploying monitors to Ukraine. These monitors can provide the needed assessments of the situation on the ground. Their presence is urgently necessary in Crimea and in key cities in eastern Ukraine. The United States calls upon Russia to ensure that their access is not impeded."

After Viktor Yanukovich fled to Russia, and the new democratically elected Ukrainian government took charge, Ambassador Power noted: "Russia has every right to wish that events in Ukraine had turned out differently, but it does not have the right to express that unhappiness by using military force or by trying to convince the world community that up is down and black is white."

"...As I said in our last session, Russia's actions speak much louder than its words. What is happening today is a dangerous

military intervention in Ukraine. It is an act of aggression. It must stop. This is a choice for Russia. Diplomacy can serve Russia's interests. The world is speaking out against the use of military threats and the use of force. Ukrainians must be allowed to determine their own destiny."

*Source: "U.S. ambassador to U.N. sets the record straight on Russia's aggression," The Ukrainian Weekly, March 9, 2014. www.BusinessInsider.com.*

# Washington in February...

(Continued from page 11)

folk songs at the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church. Again, while not related to the program, the Ukrainian crisis, may well have been on the minds of the predominantly non-Ukrainian audience there.

But the crisis in Ukraine was the primary focus of the Gerdan trio's performance five days later, February 20, at the Embassy of Ukraine. Indeed, it was a Maidan charity concert and photo exhibit arranged by the Embassy and the United Help Ukraine organization to commemorate the "Fallen Heroes of the Heavenly Hundred" and raise funds for humanitarian assistance for those now suffering in Ukraine.

Also commemorating the first anniversary of that infamous bloody day on Kyiv's Maidan was a post-liturgical gathering at the Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family on February 22 for a commemorative concert. It featured the Spiv-Zhyttia chorus with Victor Morozov accompanying on the guitar, young children reciting poems, the singing of memorial hymns, prayers, and remarks by Bishop John Bura, Ukraine's Ambassador



The opening ceremony of the "Images from Ukraine's Maidan, 2013-2014" exhibit at the Wilson Center in Washington.



Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine William Green Miller and Suzanne Miller study Anastasiya Nekupela's "Our Strength Lies in Unity" at the Wilson Center in Washington.

Olexander Motsyk and others.

The visual images of the Maidan were brought to Washington on February 18 to the halls of the Wilson Center in the form of an art and photo exhibit, "Revolution of Dignity: Images from Ukraine's Maidan, 2013-2014."

The official opening of the exhibit, displaying some 40 works by 17 Ukrainian artists and photographers on two of the building's floors, attracted many leaders and members of Washington think tanks and organizations active in trying to get the United States to assist Ukraine in these desperate times.

Sponsored by the Wilson Center, the Kennan Institute and the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council, the exhibit was organized by Natalia Moussienko, a former Kennan Institute Fulbright Scholar and now a senior fellow at the National Academy of Arts of Ukraine. Ambassador Motsyk was among the dignitaries participating in the opening ceremony.

The exhibit will be available for public viewing Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., until March 18.

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## COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

# Students hold warm clothing drive for soldiers in Ukraine



PASSAIC, N.J. – As part of Catholic Schools Week and in keeping with the theme “Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service,” the students of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic School here held a “Socks for Ukrainian Soldiers” drive. They collected 419 pairs of socks, 50 hats and 19 pairs of gloves, which will be sent to Ukraine by the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna (OOL) as part of their “Zihryi Heroya” (Keep a Hero Warm) clothing drive. Along with the warm items, the students sent their prayers for the soldiers and their families.

## Parish in Tucson marks beginning of Great Fast, hears UCU presentation



Parishioners of St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Tucson, Ariz., gathered on the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

TUCSON, Ariz. – The small but vibrant St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Parish celebrated the first Sunday of the Great Fast with an icon procession around the outside of the church in honor of the victory of icon veneration over the heresy of iconoclasm. Celebrated annually since the year 843 AD, this Sunday is also called the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

Taking advantage of Tucson’s balmy climate, the parish holds an outdoor procession every year, with stational prayers at the four sides of the church/hall complex. “It’s an important way to manifest our faith to the surrounding neighborhood,” explained Father Andriy Chirovsky, pastor of the parish and professor of Eastern Christian theology and spirituality at Ottawa’s Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies, where one of his most popular courses is titled “Theology and Spirituality of Icons.”

After divine liturgy and its weekly lunch for parishioners, the parish welcomed Alex Kuzma, development officer for the Ukrainian Catholic Educational Foundation who presented “Good News from Ukraine,” a report on the successful work of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv.

In the midst of all the distressing developments following the Maidan massacre of 2014 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, parishioners found it refreshing to hear some good news coming out of the war-torn country.

The Ukrainian community in Tucson is preparing an exhibit honoring Taras Shevchenko that will be held at the University of Arizona Student Union Gallery in the month of March. The exhibit is being prepared by Dr. Ihor Kunasz, with assistance from Ukraine’s Consulate General in San Francisco.

## Sen. Richard Blumenthal visits St. Michael’s Church in New Haven



NEW HAVEN, Conn. – On Sunday, January 25, the Rev. Iura Godenciu held a “panakhyda” for the heroes of the Maidan after the 10:30 am divine liturgy. Everyone held candles to remember Ukraine’s heroes. Before the traditional “Prospora” meal at the church hall, Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) came to speak to the parishioners. The senator stated that “The heroes of Maidan were heroes that stood up for the future of Ukraine; they demonstrated dignity and a desire for freedom.” Sen. Blumenthal said he is joining with many of his colleagues to call for the release of imprisoned Ukrainian pilot Nadiya Savchenko. Seen above (from left) are Father Godenciu, Sen. Blumenthal, Myron Melnyk, director of the local School of Ukrainian Studies, and Halia Lodynsky, teacher at the school and community activist.

– Halia Jurczak-Lodynsky

## Ukraine marks...

(Continued from page 1)

Many foreign leaders, including Presidents Dalia Grybauskaitė of Lithuania, Bronislaw Komorowski of Poland, Joachim Gauck of Germany, Nicolae Timofti of Moldova, Giorgi Margvelashvili of Georgia and Andrej Kiska of Slovakia, as well as European Council President Donald Tusk, attended a separate memorial event in Kyiv on February 22. Ministers of many other countries were also present.

They participated in what was billed as a

March of Dignity down the Kyiv streets where Ukrainians had fought a year ago, walking arm in arm. A huge Ukrainian flag was carried by the crowd. The march ended with a prayer for peace at Independence Square.

In Kharkiv, where a similar peace march was held that day, an explosive device filled with shrapnel was thrown into the crowd. Two people, a civilian and a policeman, were killed; two more, a 15-year-old boy and an 18-year-old student, died later in the hospital of injuries sustained in the attack.

RFE/RL’s Ukrainian Service reported that in the city of Sumy in northeastern

Ukraine protesters gathered on February 22 to burn an effigy of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Meanwhile, in Moscow on February 21, thousands of Russians marched to mark the first anniversary of what they view as a “coup” in Ukraine. According to RFE/RL’s Russian Service, participants in the march carried flags with the face of Vladimir Putin and Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov, and posters with anti-U.S. and pro-Kremlin slogans.

In related news, the head of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) accused a Russian presidential aide of supervising a commando of Russian snipers believed to have tar-

geted Euro-Maidan demonstrators.

Valentyn Nalyvaichenko told Ukraine’s 1+1 television channel on February 20 that three groups of Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) members visited Kyiv between November 2013 and February 2014 to organize efforts to disperse the protesters. Mr. Nalyvaichenko said Vladislav Surkov, an influential aide of Russian President Putin, was in charge of coordinating the operation.

Sources: RFE/RL, with reporting by Interfax and TASS; Ukraine Today; the official website of the president of Ukraine.



# SPORTSLINE

by Matthew Dubas

## Soccer

• Ukraine's junior team for the UEFA U-19 European Championship (Euro 2015) was seeded in the second pot after a drawing on February 5 in Nyon, Switzerland. Ukraine will compete against Austria, Portugal, Switzerland, France, Sweden and the Republic of Ireland. Greece is the host of the tournament final and has a bye to the final that will be held on July 6-19. Due to a decision by the UEFA Emergency Committee, Russia cannot be placed in the same group as Ukraine. The tournament has 52 participating nations, divided into nine groups, with seven having six teams and two with five teams.

• The UEFA U-17 European Championships group stage was drawn on December 3, 2014, in Nyon, Switzerland. Ukraine had drawn Group 8, with Germany, Italy and Slovakia, with matches to be played on March 21-26 in Germany. The tournament final is scheduled for May 6-22 in Bulgaria. The top three teams in each finals group will progress to the FIFA U-17 World Cup in Chile scheduled for October 17-November 8.

## Boxing

• On February 21 heavyweight Andrey Rudenko (24-1-0, 16 KO) lost by unanimous decision against Hughie Fury (14-0-0, 8 KO) of Great Britain at the Salle des Etoiles in Monte Carlo, Monaco. Referees scored the fight 98-92, 98-91, 97-92 in favor of Fury.

• Welterweight Taras Shelestyuk (22-0-0, 8 KO) won by third-round TKO against Francisco Javier Reza (13-12-0, 10 KO) of Mexico on February 20 at Turning Stone Casino in Verona, Calif.

• Super-welterweight Stanyslav Skorohod (9-0-0, 7 KO) won by fourth-round TKO (out of six rounds) against American Michael Moore (13-1-0, 6 KO) on February 13 at Mohegan Sun Casino in Uncasville, Conn.

• Light-heavyweight Sergey Demchenko (14-7-0, 10 KO) lost against Juho Haapoja (24-5-1, 15 KO) of Finland by second-round TKO (out of 10 rounds) on January 31 in Kauhava, Finland.

• Super-welterweight Ivan Golub (4-3, 0 KO) won against Rashawn McCain (2-2-1, 0 KO) of the U.S.A. by first-round TKO (out of six rounds) at B.B. King Blues Club and Grill in New York on January 29. Golub, 26, who is originally from Horlivka, Ukraine, and now resides in Brooklyn, is a 6-foot south-paw known as "The Volk."

• Light-heavyweight Oleksandr Gvozdyk (4-0, 3 KO) won by second-round TKO out of eight rounds against American Corey Cummings (18-7-1, 13 KO) on January 24 at the 1st Bank Center in Broomfield, Colo.

• Lightweight Ivan Redkach (18-0-0, 13 KO) won against Yakubu Amidu 21-6-2, 19 KO) of Ghana on January 9 in Morongo Casino in Cabazon, Calif. Amidu retired after six rounds out of 10. Middleweight Evhen Khytrov (8-0-0, 8 KO) won by third-round TKO (out of eight rounds) against Maurice Louishome (8-0-1, 4 KO) of the U.S.A. Super-featherweight Victor Chernous (15-2-1, 5 KO) lost by unanimous decision against Tevin Farmer (18-4-1, 4 KO) of the U.S. after eight rounds.

• Cruiserweight Alexander Usik (6-0-0, 6 KO) won by ninth-round (out of 10 rounds) TKO against Danie Venter (19-7-0, 14 KO) of South Africa on December 13, 2014, at the Sports Palace in Kyiv. Usik won the WBO Intercontinental title. Also on the undercard: super lightweight Mishiko Beselia (9-0-0, 5 KO) won after Marijus Kravcuk (4-2-1, 2 KO) retired after three rounds of eight; super-welterweight

Alexander Spirko (18-0-0, 9 KO) won by second-round (out of eight) KO against Jony Ibramov (15-6-2, 1 KO) of Uzbekistan; Petr Ivanov (2-0-0, 1 KO) won by unanimous decision out of four rounds against Levan Shonia (14-7-0, 10 KO) of Georgia; featherweight Oleg Malinovsky (14-0-0, 4 KO) won by unanimous decision after eight rounds against Irakli Jeiransashvili (8-3-5, 3 KO) of Georgia; and middleweight Maksym Ponomariov (10-1-0, 0 KO) won by third-round (out of six) TKO against countryman Bohdan Bondarenko (1-9-0, 1 KO). Losses for Ukraine included welterweight Valentyn Kuts (22-4-0, 8 KO) against Fariz Mamedov (17-2-1, 10 KO) of Turkmenistan by second-round KO (out of six); super-lightweight Mykhaylo Andriyets (0-3-0, 0 KO) lost by unanimous decision against Eldos Sarkulov (3-0-0, 0 KO) of Kazakhstan after six rounds; super-featherweight Dmytro Aushev (1-6-0, 1 KO) lost to Bekman Soylybayev (3-0-0, 1 KO) of Kazakhstan by unanimous decision after six rounds; and welterweight Artem Komar (0-3-0, 0 KO) lost by unanimous decision after four rounds to Roman Zhailauov (13-0-0, 8 KO) of Kazakhstan.

• Middleweight Sergiy Derevyanchenko (3-0-0, 2 KO) won by first-round TKO against Raul Munoz (23-17-1, 16 KO) of the U.S.A. on December 12, 2014, at UIC Pavilion in Chicago. The fight was scheduled for eight rounds.

• Super-welterweight Ivan Golub (4-0-0, 2 KO) won by first-round KO against Josh Williams (9-7-0, 5 KO) on December 3, 2014, at B.B. King Blues Club and Grill in New York City. The fight was scheduled for six rounds.

• Featherweight Vasyl Lomachenko (2-1-1, 1 KO) won by unanimous decision after 12 rounds against Chonlatarn Piriypinyo (52-1-0, 33 KO) of Thailand on November 22, 2014, at Cotai Arena in Macau, China. Referees scored the fight 120-107, 120-107, 120-107.

• Welterweight Vyacheslav Senchenko (36-2-0, 24 KO) won by unanimous decision after eight rounds against Laszlo Toth (19-0-1, 14 KO) of Hungary on November 22, 2014, at Ice Palace Terminal in Brovary, Kyiv Oblast. Super middleweight Maxim Bursak (30-3-1, 13 KO) won by second-round TKO against Ramazi Gogishashvili (14-4-2, 5 KO) of Georgia; light-heavyweight Oleksandr Chervyak (15-4-1, 5 KO) won by fifth-round TKO (out of eight rounds) against Paata Aduashvili (11-7-2, 8 KO) of Georgia; featherweight Oleg Yefimovych (25-2-0, 14 KO) won by first-round TKO (out of eight rounds) against Dzmritri Zgafonau (8-3-0, 2 KO) of Belarus; flyweight Artem Dalakian (10-0-0, 6 KO) won by second-round TKO (out of eight) against Malkhaz Tatrishvili (8-7-0, 0 KO) of Georgia; super-lightweight Mishiko Beselia (8-0-0, 5 KO) won by second-round TKO (out of eight) against Farhod Oripov (11-11-1, 5 KO) of Uzbekistan; and welterweight Dmytro Fedas (5-0-1, 2 KO) won by first-round TKO (out of four) against countryman Vitaliy Charkin (0-13-0, 0 KO).

• Middleweight Evhen Khytrov (7-0-0, 7 KO) won by first-round TKO (out of eight) against American Louis Rose (11-2-1, 3 KO) on November 21, 2014, at the Hard Rock Hotel in Tulsa, Okla.

• Light-heavyweight Oleksandr Gvozdyk (4-0-0, 3 KO) won by sixth-round TKO (out of eight) against American Otis Griffin (24-18-2, 10 KO) on November 15, 2014, at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

• Middleweight Ivan Golub (3-0-0, 2 KO) won by first-round TKO against American Tyson Harrison (2-1-0, 1 KO) on November 13, 2014, at Baltimore Arena in Baltimore.

• Heavyweight Vyacheslav Glazkov (19-0-1, 12 KO) won by seventh-round TKO (out of 10 rounds) against American Darnell Wilson (25-18-3, 21 KO) on November 8, 2014, at the Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, N.J. Light-heavyweight Vyacheslav Shabrynsky (11-0-0, 8 KO) won against Emil Gonzalez (13-9-1, 10 KO) of Cuba after the Cuban retired in the second round out of 10.

• Super-welterweight Stanyslav Skorohod (8-0-0, 5 KO) won by second-round TKO (out of six) against American David Lopez (4-11-3, 1 KO) on October 30, 2014, at Florentine Gardens in Hollywood, Calif.

• Cruiserweight Dmytro Kucher (22-1-0, 15 KO) won against American Galen Brown (42-29-1, 25 KO) on October 24, 2014, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in San Diego, Calif., with the American retiring after four rounds out of eight.

• Super-welterweight Ivan Golub (2-0-0, 1 KO) won by first-round TKO (out of six) against American Kirk Huff (3-2-0, 1 KO) on October 15, 2014, at B.B. King Blues Club and Grill in New York City.

• Welterweight Ilya Prymak (8-1-0, 6 KO) lost by unanimous decision after 12 rounds against Rafik Harutjunan (8-0-0, 5 KO) of the Netherlands on October 13, 2014, at Theater Carr in Amsterdam. With the win, the Dutchman was awarded the WBF welterweight title.

## Tennis

• Alexandr Dolgoplov defeated Australian Sam Groth 6-3, 4-6, 6-0 in the first round, and won against Andrea Haider-Maurer of Austria (6-2, 6-3) in the second round the Abierto Mexicano Telcel ATP World Tour 500 tournament in Acapulco, Mexico on February 23-28. Dolgoplov is set to play against Kei Nishikori of Japan in the quarterfinal round.

• Sergiy Stakhovsky was eliminated in the semifinal at the Open 13 tournament in France on February 16-22 in a 6-3, 3-6, 2-6 loss to Simon Giles of France. Along the way, Stakhovsky won the opener against Lukas Rosol of the Czech Republic 6-3, 6-2; won against Jan-Lenard Struff of Germany (6-4, 4-6, 6-3) in the second round; and won against Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland (6-4, 3-6, 6-4).

• Elina Svitolina lost to Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the second round of the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championship on February 15-21 in Dubai, U.A.E. Ukraine's Yulia Beygelzimer was eliminated in the first round.

• Sergiy Stakhovsky lost to Milos Raonic of Canada (2-6, 3-6, 6-4) in the quarterfinal match at the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament (ATP World Tour 500) in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on February 9-15. Along the way, Stakhovsky won 6-2, 7-6 (7) in the first round against Marcel Granollers of Spain and won against Dominic Thiem of Austria (6-1, 6-3) in the second round.

• Alexandr Dolgoplov lost in the second round of the Memphis Open ATP World Tour 500 tournament in Memphis, Tenn., on February 9-15, against Bernard Tomic of Australia 1-6, 5-7. In the first round, Dolgoplov had a bye.

• Sergiy Stakhovsky lost in the second round at the PBZ Zagreb Indoor tournament on February 2-8 in Zagreb, Croatia, against Mikhail Youzhny 2-6, 1-6. Stakhovsky defeated Bron Coric of Croatia 6-2, 6-4 in the opening match. Ilya Marchenko lost his opener against Viktor Troicki of Serbia 6-4, 6-7, 6-7 (3).

• Sergiy Stakhovsky lost against David Ferrer of Spain 7-5, 3-6, 4-6, 2-6 in the second round of the Australian Open 2015, held in Melbourne on January 19 through

February 1, after Stakhovsky defeated Dusan Lajovic of Serbia 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-7 (3-7), 6-4 in the first round. Ilya Marchenko lost to Milos Raonic of Canada 6-7 (3-7), 6-7 (3-7), 3-7 in the first round; Alexander Dolgoplov lost to Paolo Lorenzi of Italy 4-6, 3-6, 2-6 in the first round. In women's singles, Elina Svitolina won 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (8-6) against Nicole Gibbs of the U.S.A. in the second round after defeating Yulia Putintseva of Kazakhstan 6-3, 7-5 in the first round. Svitolina lost against Serena Williams of the U.S.A. 6-4, 2-6, 0-6. An early exit in the first round came from Lesia Tsurenko who lost to Madison Keys of the U.S.A. 3-6, 5-7. In women's doubles, Yulia Beygelzimer was paired with Timea Bacszinszky of Switzerland against Silvia Soler-Espinosa and Maria Torro-Flor, both of Spain. In mixed doubles, Svitolina was paired with Raven Klaasen of the Republic of South Africa against Michaela Krajicek of the Netherlands and Florin Mergea of Romania. In men's doubles, Stakhovsky and Johnathan array of Great Britain lost to Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay and David Marrero of Spain 4-6, 6-7 (6-8) in the first round.

• Lesia Tsurenko lost in the Round of 32 against Angelique Kerber of Germany 6-1, 4-6, 3-6 at the WTA tennis tournament on January 11-16 in Sydney, Australia.

• Lesia Tsurenko lost in the Round of 32 against Madison Brengle of the U.S.A. 6-7 (6), 3-6 on January 4 at the WTA tournament in Brisbane, Australia.

## Judo

• Svitlana Iaromka and Iryna Kindzerska tied for fifth place in the over-78-kg division at the Judo Grand Prix in Dusseldorf, Germany, on February 20-22. In the men's over-100-kg division, Oleksandr Gordienko lost to Sven Heinle of Germany for fifth place.

• At the European Open in Sofia, Bulgaria, on February 7-8, Svitlana Iaromka and Yelyzaveta Kalanina won first and second place, respectively, in the over-78-kg division. Iakiv Khammo (+100-kg) won second place after losing to Vladut Simonescu of Romania in the final.

• Artem Bloshenko (-100 kg) won against Martin Pacek of Sweden in the bronze-medal final at the International Judo Federation Judo Grand Slam tournament on December 5-7, 2014, in Tokyo.

• Victoria Turks (-78 kg) won second place after losing to Luise Malzahn of Germany in the final at the International Judo Federation Grand Slam tournament in Abu Dhabi on October 31 through November 3, 2014. Along the way, Turks won against Anamari Velensek of Slovenia in the first round, Marta Tort Merino of Spain in the quarterfinal and Sol Kyong of North Korea in the semifinal. Svitlana Iaromka defeated Sarah Adlington of Great Britain in the over-78-kg division for third place. Iryna Kindzerska lost to Ksenia Chibisova of Russia for fifth place in the over-78-kg division.

## Wrestling

• Three Crimean wrestlers - Rustem Umerov, Emil Eredzhepov and Asan Asanov - won bronze medals at the all-Russian Kuresh Competition on February 7 in Almet'yevsk, Tatarstan, (Russian Federation). The tournament attracted 250 wrestlers and is held in honor of Soviet Tatar poet and resistance fighter Musa Dzhaliil. Kuresh wrestling is a traditional Turkic belt-wrestling where wrestlers use towels to hold their opponents, with the goal of throwing the opponent off his feet. Crimean Tatar wrestler Umer Bilyalov won the title of Kuresh World Champion in Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan, in November 2014.

# Rally against Russian aggression in Ukraine scheduled for March 5

Ukrainian National Information Service

WASHINGTON – With the situation in eastern Ukraine having reached a critical stage and the near certainty that the war in Ukraine will continue, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America has scheduled a rally against Russian aggression and in support of Ukraine to be held Thursday, March 5, near the White House. The rally begins at 1 p.m.

The next likely target of Russian forces is Mariupol, a city that stands in the path of establishing Russia's highly coveted corridor to Crimea. Russia has already deployed thousands of troops, with the support of heavy artillery and armor. Credible sources in the Mariupol sector report that "there is no evidence of a real withdrawal of heavy weaponry by pro-Russian forces along that front."

Mariupol, however, is strongly defended. Russia may still opt to bypass the city and launch an armored attack southwest of Debaltseve. This offensive would allow Russian forces to carve a direct route to Crimea, while cutting off critically needed supplies to Mariupol. If that should happen Odesa will be the next city in the line of assault, and the implications of its capture

for Ukraine could be catastrophic. Urgent action on the part of the West is needed now to prevent such a disaster from taking place, the UCCA underscored.

Last year, Congress unanimously passed the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014, authorizing the president to provide Ukraine with lethal defensive military assistance. Despite near unanimous agreement among informed experts to provide Ukraine with the needed defensive weaponry, the Obama administration has, to date, chosen not to act.

In light of this, Ukrainian Americans from the metropolitan Baltimore-Washington area, together with hundreds from Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Illinois, Florida and Texas will assemble in front of the White House on Thursday, March 5. Some communities are organizing buses for the rally.

The UCCA notes that, in view of the ever-worsening situation in Ukraine, it is of utmost importance for all freedom-loving people to attend en masse the rally in support of Ukraine and urge the Obama administration to immediately send Ukraine the military assistance it desperately needs to defend itself against the ongoing Russian invasion.

The rally will focus on the continued war in eastern Ukraine and the egregious violations of Ukraine's territorial integrity by Russia, including the illegal annexation of Crimea. Protesters will advocate the immediate implementation of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act signed by President Barack Obama in December 2014, which calls for sending defensive lethal military assistance to Ukraine and the imposition of additional sanctions on Russia. Community representatives will also call for Russia to be removed from the SWIFT international

payment system.

The Crimean Tatar community and other Central and Eastern European communities are expected to participate in the rally. Members of Congress, ambassadors from Central and East European countries, and former U.S. ambassadors to Ukraine have been invited to address the rally.

The rally is being organized by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America and is being held in conjunction with the Ukrainian Days advocacy event scheduled for March 4-5.

## The debacle...

(Continued from page 2)

been captured, while mopping-up operations continue (Interfax, February 19).

The overall number of combatants fighting in Donbas on both sides has never been significant – thousands of troops spread out over a relatively large region. There are no frontlines with trenches – only strong points and check points with garrisons here and there, mostly in towns and villages. With the frontline so porous, any "surrounding" of anyone is not as ominous as it sounds. At present, it is still winter in Donbas: armored personnel carriers, other armor and army trucks can move through the fields. A rebel field commander involved in the Debaltseve fighting told Russian BBC Radio: "The Ukrainians in Debaltseve were hard pressed, but never fully surrounded." The rebels were firing at Ukrainian supply lines, while "the Ukrainians were firing on ours." This rebel commander does not believe the ceasefire stipulated by Minsk 2 has any chance of holding, since both sides will use the lull in the fighting, "as before," to reorganize, resupply and prepare for more fighting, "since no one trusts anyone" (BBC News Russian Service, February 18).

The daily Vedomosti reports, quoting Russian military sources, the withdrawal of the Ukrainian soldiers from Debaltseve with weapons and "military vehicles they managed to fill with fuel and get running" was the result of a backroom deal, negotiated by Russian and Ukrainian military officers from the joint observer group and "some Ukrainian politicians." Since all sides want the Minsk 2 ceasefire agreement to succeed or at least not to collapse immediately, "the Debaltseve problem was removed." Mr. Poroshenko could have agreed to some compromise on the Debaltseve bulge with Mr. Putin during the Minsk talks on February 12, but refused, so "hundreds of his troops were taken prisoner" and the Ukrainian military was humiliated by another defeat (Vedomosti, February 19). This account, however, does not explain why the Ukrainian troops, presumably retreating under the terms of a backroom agreement, were hit on the road by punishing rebel fire.

A full implementation of the Minsk 2 accords, which in the future leaves the rebel-controlled parts of Donbas as a semi-autonomous Russian-speaking region with

in a partially decentralized, but mostly Western-orientated Ukraine, is hardly something Moscow could tolerate. The pro-Russia rebels insist that any durable political solution of the conflict must involve a fundamental change of the Ukrainian Constitution and the regime in Kyiv. The rebels demand the transformation of Ukraine into a loose confederation of semi-independent regions, the renunciation of laws and decrees that allowed the use of force against the separatists, and a renewed declaration of Ukrainian non-alignment. "Any move of Ukraine closer to NATO will mean the immediate abrogation of the Minsk accords," the rebels have stated (Interfax, February 16).

The present Ukrainian government and the Verkhovna Rada elected last October are predominantly pro-Western, which reflects the majority opinion of the Ukrainian people. A political and constitutional regime change, like the one Mr. Putin and the rebels are demanding, would seem to require a fundamental destabilization in Kyiv: Ukrainians must be forced to feel vulnerable, abandoned by the West and divided, their military publicly humiliated by pro-Russia forces. The Debaltseve debacle seems to be already fomenting a storm.

Ukrainian soldiers and volunteers have been constantly commenting on Facebook about the Debaltseve battle from the field. The commander of the volunteer Donbas Battalion and Rada National Deputy Semen Semenchenko has accused the Ukrainian military command (General Staff) of gross incompetence. The General Staff and other volunteers, in turn, have accused Mr. Semenchenko of disclosing sensitive military information in his Facebook posts, which resulted in rebels bombarding the columns of troops retreating from Debaltseve (Fresh-news.org, February 18).

In his Facebook comments, Mr. Semenchenko announced the creation of a joint command of 17 volunteer battalions. According to Mr. Semenchenko, President Poroshenko is being "misled" by the military command on the real losses and the general situation. A "parallel volunteer general staff" has been previously promoted by extreme nationalist leader and Rada National Deputy Dmitry Yarosh (UNIAN, February 19). The Russian plan of utter Ukrainian destabilization seems to be progressing.

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## John Kerry...

(Continued from page 1)

stacked like firewood, and street lamps riddled with bullet holes. I paid my respects at the Rada, where photos of the fallen stood on display framed by crowns of thorns. And I placed roses and a candle on the Shrine of the Fallen on Instytutska Street.

But what inspired me most was the Ukrainian people themselves, who are striving for a democratic and European

future in the face of adversity and Russian aggression.

Today we are united with Ukraine in somber remembrance of the sacrifices made by the "Heavenly Hundred." We also recognize the efforts of the people of Ukraine to make progress over this difficult year. From Lviv to Luhansk, from Chernivtsi to Sevastopol, Ukrainians are coming together to define their own future.

And finally, we join you in declaring, Slava Ukrayini. Glory to Ukraine.

America stands with you.



KLK Cordially Invites Members, Family & Friends  
To Our Annual KLK Winter Ski Races  
Date: Saturday, March 7, 2015  
Place: HUNTER MOUNTAIN, NY  
Registration: 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Ski Lodge

**Lift Tickets and Races:**  
Adults \$60.00 Seniors (65 & up) \$45.00  
Young Adults (13-18) \$45.00 Juniors (7-12) \$35.00  
Toddlers (6 & under) \$15.00


**Race Tickets only:**  
Adults & Seniors \$15.00 Children (2-18) FREE

**Lift Tickets only:**  
Adults \$50.00 Young Adults \$45.00 Seniors \$45.00  
Juniors \$35.00 Toddlers \$10.00

**Races begin at approximately 10:00 a.m.**  
**Opening Ceremony 9:45 a.m.**

**Dinner and Awards Ceremony: Hunter Ski Lodge**  
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Adults: \$45.00; Children, ages 14 & under - Free, if accompanied by an adult.  
Please **wear your embroidered blouses or shirts** to the Awards Ceremony  
Please visit our website [www.klkusa.com](http://www.klkusa.com). For more information please contact [virapopel@aol.com](mailto:virapopel@aol.com)

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# OUT & ABOUT

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>Through March 8<br/>New York</p> <p>Through March 14<br/>Houston</p> <p>Through March 18<br/>Washington</p> <p>Through<br/>September 13<br/>New York</p> <p>March 4-5<br/>Washington</p> <p>March 5<br/>Washington</p> <p>March 6<br/>Brooklyn, NY</p> <p>March 6<br/>Jenkintown, PA</p> <p>March 7<br/>Chicago</p> <p>March 7<br/>Hunter, NY</p> | <p>Performance, "Hitting Bedrock: Dreams of Donetsk, Poetry of Serhiy Zhadan and the War in Ukraine," Yara Arts Group, La MaMa Experimental Theater, 646-430-5374 or <a href="http://www.lamama.org">www.lamama.org</a></p> <p>Art exhibit featuring works by Lydia Bodnar Balahutrak, "Nature Studies, Hunter Gather Gallery, 713-664-3302 or <a href="http://huntergatherproject.com/2015/02/02/nature-studies">http://huntergatherproject.com/2015/02/02/nature-studies</a></p> <p>Exhibit, "Revolution of Dignity: Images from Ukraine's Maidan, 2013-2014," U.S.-Ukraine Business Council, Wilson Center International Center for Scholars and the Kennan Institute, Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 202-691-4000 or <a href="mailto:kennan@wilsoncenter.org">kennan@wilsoncenter.org</a></p> <p>Art exhibit, "Staging the Ukrainian Avant-Garde of the 1910s and 1920s," The Ukrainian Museum, 212-228-0110 or <a href="http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org">www.ukrainianmuseum.org</a></p> <p>Ukrainian Days advocacy event, Ukrainian National Information Service, Capitol Hill and area locations, <a href="http://www.ucca.org">www.ucca.org</a> or <a href="mailto:unis@ucca.org">unis@ucca.org</a></p> <p>Rally in Support of Ukraine, White House plaza, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, <a href="http://ucca.org">ucca.org</a> or <a href="mailto:unis@ucca.org">unis@ucca.org</a></p> <p>Benefit concert, "Songs for Peace," with Anastasiya Prykhodko, La Vue Restaurant and Lounge, <a href="http://www.razomforukraine.org">www.razomforukraine.org</a></p> <p>Lenten fish fry dinner, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, <a href="mailto:phillyfishfry@cym.org">phillyfishfry@cym.org</a></p> <p>Annual live and silent auction, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522 or <a href="mailto:stano@uima-chicago.org">stano@uima-chicago.org</a></p> <p>Ski races, Carpathian Ski Club, Hunter Mountain, <a href="http://www.klkusa.com">www.klkusa.com</a> or <a href="mailto:virapopel@aol.com">virapopel@aol.com</a></p> | <p>March 7<br/>San Francisco</p> <p>March 7<br/>Alexandria, VA</p> <p>March 7<br/>New York</p> <p>March 7<br/>New York</p> <p>March 7-8<br/>Silver Spring, MD</p> <p>March 8<br/>New York</p> <p>March 12-13<br/>New York</p> <p>March 13<br/>New York</p> | <p>Concert celebrating the 201st birthday of Taras Shevchenko, "Program of Ukrainian Songs, Music and Poetry," St. Michael Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 650-281-6927 or <a href="http://www.stmichaeloucsf.org">www.stmichaeloucsf.org</a></p> <p>Benefit concert, "Songs for Peace," with Anastasiya Prykhodko, George Washington Masonic National Memorial, <a href="http://www.unitedhelpukraine.org">www.unitedhelpukraine.org</a></p> <p>Music at the Institute concert, with violinists Scott St. John and Solomiya Ivakhiv, violists Sharon Wei St. John and Douglas McNabney, and cellist Tomas Wiebe, Ukrainian Institute of America, 212-288-8660</p> <p>Taras Shevchenko Conference, Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute, Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S., Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130</p> <p>Ukrainian fair, "Buy Ukrainian," Holy Trinity Ukrainian Catholic Church, <a href="http://www.buy-ukrainian.com">www.buy-ukrainian.com</a> or <a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/396546653237156">www.facebook.com/events/396546653237156</a></p> <p>65th anniversary concert, celebrating works of Taras Shevchenko, The Ukrainian Chorus of New York Dumka, Selfreliance New York Federal Credit Union, The Great Hall at Cooper Union, 917-301-8355 or <a href="http://www.dumkachorus.org">www.dumkachorus.org</a></p> <p>Conference, "Kharkiv - City of Ukrainian Culture: International Conference in Honor of Yuri Shevlov," Columbia University, 212-854-4697 or <a href="mailto:ma2634@columbia.edu">ma2634@columbia.edu</a></p> <p>Presentation by Serhiy Zhadan, "Kharkiv-Mesopotamia," Columbia University, The Ukrainian Museum, 212-854-4697 or <a href="mailto:ma2634@columbia.edu">ma2634@columbia.edu</a></p> |
|--|---|--|--|

*Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in The Ukrainian Weekly. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to [mdubas@ukrweekly.com](mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com).*





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## Attention, Debutante Ball Organizers!



In keeping with our tradition, The Ukrainian Weekly will publish a special section devoted to the Ukrainian community's debutantes.

The 2015 debutante ball section will be published **on March 22.**

**The deadline for submission of stories and photos is March 13.**

Please e-mail materials to: [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com)

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

### Ongoing through Sunday, March 8

**NEW YORK:** Yara's new theater piece, "Hitting Bedrock: Dreams of Donetsk, Poetry of Serhiy Zhadan and the War in Ukraine," created and performed by Yara Arts Group, conceived and directed by Virlana Tkacz is performed on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2: p.m. at La MaMa Experimental Theater, 74a E. Fourth St. Admission: \$18; \$13 for seniors and students. Tickets are available by calling 646-430-5374 or at [www.lamama.org](http://www.lamama.org).

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Museum and Yara Arts Group present "Yara at 25: Looking Back/Moving Forward," a museum exhibition that is both a retrospective of Yara's theatrical work and a look into the future. The exhibition includes costumes, instruments, photographs, props and videos from Yara's productions at La MaMa Experimental Theater in New York, and from performances and research expeditions in Ukraine, the Buryat Republic in Siberia, Kyrgyzstan, China and Japan. The exhibit is open Wednesdays through Sundays, 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Ukrainian Museum is located at 222 E. Sixth St.; phone number, 212-228-0110; website, [www.ukrainianmuseum.org](http://www.ukrainianmuseum.org).

### Saturday, March 7

**NEW YORK:** The Ukrainian Institute of America and Music at the Institute invite the public for the concert "Romantic at Heart." The program will include works by Brahms,

Dvořák and Myska. The concert will take place at 8 p.m. with a pre-concert talk presented by Dr. Glenn Stanley, professor of music at the University of Connecticut, at 7 p.m. The Ukrainian Institute of America is located at 2 E. 79th St. General admission: \$30; seniors, \$25; students and UIA members, \$10. For more information visit [www.ukrainianinstitute.org](http://www.ukrainianinstitute.org).

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh-A), jointly with the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the U.S. (UVAN) and the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute (HURI), invites all to the 35th annual Taras Shevchenko Scholarly Conference. Albert Kipa, president of UVAN, will deliver opening remarks. The participants will be: Oleksander Boron (head of the Shevchenko Section of the Shevchenko Institute of Literature, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine), "Samuel Richardson's Novel 'Clarissa' and the Novellas of Shevchenko"; Oles Fedoruk (Shevchenko Institute of Literature, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine) "Shevchenko and Censorship"; and Tetiana Shestopalova (Fulbright scholar, 2014-2015) "Shevchenko as an Inspiration for the Critical Thought of George Shevelov" George G. Grabowicz, president of the Shevchenko Scientific Society in the U.S. and professor at Harvard, will make the concluding remarks. The conference will take place at the NTSh-A building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 4 p.m. For additional information call 212-254-5130. Please note the earlier than usual starting time.

### PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Items must be **no more than 100 words** long.

Information should be sent to [preview@ukrweekly.com](mailto:preview@ukrweekly.com). When e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments – simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message. Preview items and payments may be mailed to: Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

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