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# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal non-profit association

Vol. XCII

No. 18

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

\$2.00

## **During surprise visit to Kyiv, Stoltenberg says flow of weapons to Ukraine will increase**

**NATO chief invites Zelenskyy to Washington summit**



Office of the President of Ukraine

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy greets North Atlantic Treaty Organization chief Jens Stoltenberg (right) in Kyiv during an unannounced visit on April 29.

by Roman Tymotsko

LVIV – North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) chief Jens Stoltenberg arrived in Kyiv for an unannounced visit on April 29, during which time he told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that the flow of Western weapons to Kyiv would now increase. He also invited Mr. Zelenskyy to the alliance's summer summit in

Washington, D.C.

"I will be very honest with President Zelenskyy and the Verkhovna Rada that NATO allies have not delivered what we have promised in recent months. It took the United States six months to agree on a package, and European allies did not deliver the ammunition we promised. But now I

(Continued on page 6)

## **Ukraine uses ATACMS to hit more Russian oil refineries and military bases**

**Russia, in turn, attacks additional civilian targets in Odesa**



Public domain

An oil refinery is seen ablaze on the night of May 1 in the Russian region of Ryazan, which is considered part of Moscow's "Golden Circle" of cities that surround it.

by Mark Raczkiewycz

CHICAGO – Ukraine continued to strike Russian oil refineries over the week to hinder Moscow's economy and limit its military pre-deployment capabilities.

Drones struck refineries owned by state-run Rosneft in the Voronezh and Ryazan region overnight on May 1, according to

anonymous sources at Ukraine's Defense Intelligence (HUR).

Both HUR and the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) often confirm cross-border or aerial attacks on Russian soil without personal attribution.

Kyiv perceives that sanctions imposed

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## **With ATACMS in hand, Ukraine looks to neutralize Putin's fortress in Crimea**

by Todd Prince  
RFE/RL

Ever since Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, his armed forces have pounded Ukraine with missiles and drones fired from the relatively safe confines of Crimea.

Following his occupation of the Ukrainian Black Sea peninsula in 2014, the Kremlin leader poured billions of dollars into militarizing Crimea, expanding bases and constructing depots and other infrastructure.

Now fortress Crimea faces a significant new threat that could neutralize its crucial role in the 26-month-old war: U.S. long-range ATACMS, or Army Tactical Missile Systems. After nearly two years of hesitation, the United States earlier this month delivered versions of the powerful ballistic missiles that can travel 186 miles – essentially reaching any of the more than 100



Public domain via RFE/RL

With a range of up to 186 miles, U.S.-made ATACMS (seen above) can reach any target in the Russian-occupied Ukrainian region of Crimea.

military targets on the peninsula.

"The delivery of ATACMS is a big breakthrough. It could basically make Crimea

militarily worthless," Philip Karber, a Washington-based military analyst who focuses on Ukraine, told RFE/RL.

Crimea is home to Russia's Black Sea fleet, six air bases, command-and-control centers, arms depots, docks, barracks and more. It is also dotted with air-defense radars and anti-missile systems to protect the facilities.

Russia regularly fires missiles, including hypersonic ones, and drones from Crimea into southern Ukraine. Lately, it has been pounding the Ukrainian port city of Odesa from the peninsula.

**'An unsinkable aircraft carrier'**

Crimea also serves as a key logistics hub for Putin's war effort. Russia moves critical supplies such as ammunition, heavy armor, fuel, food and medical equipment from the Krasnodar region to Crimea by road, rail and ferries and other ships. Much of the supplies and manpower move north through the peninsula into the Russian-occupied parts of the Kherson and Zaporizhia regions.

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## NEWS ANALYSIS

# War of attrition in Ukraine perturbs Putin's elites

by Pavel K. Baev  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Last week was full of shocks for Moscow. The United States finally approved \$61 billion in aid to Ukraine, the European Parliament passed a resolution rejecting the legitimacy of Russia's March presidential elections, and Russian Deputy Defense Minister Timur Ivanov was arrested in Moscow on accusations of bribery. The last event was the most astounding, as there have been practically no significant corruption cases in Russia since the war in Ukraine began (The Moscow Times, April 25). Mr. Ivanov has been a prominent figure in Moscow's high society and has ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, and Sergei Kiriyenko, the first deputy chief of staff of the Presidential Administration (The Moscow Times, April 25). Mr. Ivanov was detained immediately after a session of the Defense Ministry Collegium, standing for his first court hearing in full uniform (Kommersant, April 24).

The corruption charge against Mr. Ivanov seems too trivial for such a severe and public persecution. This has led to widespread speculation that he might have committed high treason, though officials have denied this rumor (RBC.ru, April 24).

The only large-scale investigation for high treason in Russia currently involves a group of scientists developing hypersonic technologies. The main driver of the investigation seems to be Putin's anger over poor weapons performance, including the Kinzhal air-launched missile (Meduza.io, February 1; Kommersant, April 18). Mr. Ivanov had nothing to do with this research. Instead, he was in charge of managing the finances of prestigious construction projects, including Patriot Park, a popular park filled with military exhibitions largely commemorating World War II, or the Great Patriotic War, as it is called in Russia (Izvestiya, April 24). Mr. Ivanov's main patron is Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, who swiftly dismissed his discredited deputy. Mr. Shoigu, however, has refrained from making any further comments, perhaps because his own involvement in corruption was exposed a few years ago by a non-governmental organization (NGO) led by Alexei Navalny (Istories Media, April 24).

The Federal Security Service's (FSB) attack on a prominent figure in the vast Shoigu crew was entirely unexpected as the defense minister is in charge of Putin's war in Ukraine (Carnegie Politika, April 24). Since the death of Yevgeny Prigozhin, Mr.

(Continued on page 8)

## Russia and Belarus war-game nuclear attack on Ukraine and Eastern Europe

by Alexander Tararov  
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Almost immediately after the U.S. House of Representatives approved \$61 billion in military assistance to Ukraine, the Kremlin once again threatened the West with nuclear war. Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov declared that increasing Western aid to Ukraine threatens a direct military clash between nuclear powers. According to him, the concern is that the three Western nuclear states (the United States, the United Kingdom and France) are among Kyiv's key sponsors and therefore heighten the use of nuclear weapons. Moscow considers this a serious strategic risk and may take matters into its own hands as Kremlin propaganda claims that Russia is fighting a "long war" against Ukraine and the collective West (RIA Novosti, April 22).

Mr. Lavrov's statements do not appear to be simply empty rhetoric, as Russia has pre-deployed tactical nuclear weapons (TNWs) in Belarus for potential preemptive use (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, March 13). The Federation of American Scientists (FAS) recently confirmed the establishment of a nuclear warhead storage base near Asipovichy, Belarus, where the 1,405th Artillery Ammunition Base is located (FAS, March 14). The location is also near the 465th Missile Brigade, which is armed with Russian-supplied Iskander-M operational-tactical missile systems, or TNW carriers.

Western analysts believe that moving nuclear weapons to Belarus is clearly a political signal. The true purpose behind the move, however, may be more rooted in posturing than practical tactics. Russia already has the capability to strike North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member states with nuclear weapons from its territory. Placing nuclear warheads in Belarus does not give Russia a significant military

advantage in Eastern Europe. Moreover, Russia already has modernized nuclear weapons storage facilities in Kaliningrad. Instead, some Western commentators emphasize that the deployment is designed to unnerve NATO's easternmost members and re-emphasize Russia's status as a nuclear power (Reform.news, March 15).

The nature of the deployment of Russian TNWs indicates that Moscow may be preparing for their operational use against Ukraine and NATO's eastern flank. Specifically, the military storage facility at the 1,405th Artillery Ammunition Base was modernized with additional security perimeters and an access point (Reform.news, March 15). As a rule, nuclear weapons storage facilities subordinate to the 12th Main Directorate of the Russian Ministry of Defense, which is responsible for managing the nuclear arsenal and must be equipped with certain security measures. No underground bunker-type fortifications, designed for the long-term storage of TNWs, however, were built on the Belarusian base's territory. Instead, the nuclear warheads were placed in one of the arsenals of the ammunition base, which also stores operational-tactical missiles for the Iskander-M system. In turn, storing the nuclear warheads almost in tandem with their launch vehicles indicates that a repair and maintenance base (RMB) has been organized on the territory of the 1,405th Artillery Ammunition Base to prepare the TNWs for operational use. In particular, RMB personnel are tasked with setting nuclear warheads on missiles.

During peacetime, TNWs are stored at special bunker-type fortified facilities, and RMBs are located outside the bases housing the TNW carriers and delivery vehicles. After receiving an order or special signal

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## NEWSBRIEFS

### U.S. imposes new sanctions on Russia

The U.S. Treasury Department on May 1 imposed new sanctions on hundreds of companies and people tied to Russia's weapons development program as part of its continuing effort to limit Russia's ability to access the materials it needs to "prosecute its illegal war against Ukraine." The department said in a news release that the goal of the sanctions was to "further degrade Russia's ability to sustain its war machine." The Treasury Department imposed sanctions on nearly 200 targets, while the State Department designated more than 80. The sanctions aim to limit Russia's military-industrial base, chemical weapons programs and people and firms in third countries that help Russia acquire weapons components. They also target over a dozen Chinese firms accused of helping Russia find workarounds to previously announced sanctions. The new measures also aim to punish individuals tied to the death of Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny. The "Treasury has consistently warned that companies will face significant consequences for providing material support for Russia's war, and the U.S. is imposing them today on almost 300 targets," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said. The actions "will further disrupt and degrade Russia's war efforts by going after its military-industrial base and the evasion networks that help supply it," she said in the news release. Included in the new sanctions announcement are importers of ingredients used to produce gunpowder, rocket propellants and other explosives. Also included are Russian government entities and people tied to Russia's chemical and biological weapons programs and firms related to Russia's natural gas construction projects. The Treasury Department's news release said firms in China, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Slovakia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates are accused of helping Russia acquire technology and equipment from abroad. The State Department sanctions target three people in connection to the death of Mr. Navalny, who died in February in a Russian Arctic prison. Russian authorities say he died of natural causes. His followers believe he was killed

by the authorities, which the Kremlin denies. Added to the U.S. sanctions list are the director of the correctional colony in Russia where Mr. Navalny was held for the majority of his imprisonment, the head of the solitary confinement detachment, and the head of the medical unit at the Arctic colony where he was imprisoned before his death. The officials oversaw the cells where Mr. Navalny was kept in solitary confinement, the walking yard where he allegedly collapsed and died, and Mr. Navalny's health, including in the immediate aftermath of his collapse, the State Department said. The sanctions freeze any assets the entities and individuals hold in U.S. jurisdiction, block them from using the U.S. financial system and bar American citizens from dealing with them. (RFE/RL, with reporting by AP and Reuters)

### Austin appeals for more Patriots for Ukraine

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin on April 30 appealed to the partners of the United States to transfer Patriot air defense systems to Ukraine, which has repeatedly requested more of the air defense systems to help protect Ukrainian cities and infrastructure from Russian attacks. "There are countries that have Patriots, and so what we're doing is continuing to engage those countries," Mr. Austin told the House Armed Services Committee. "I have talked to the leaders of several countries ... myself here in the last two weeks, encouraging them to give up more capability or provide more capability." Mr. Austin did not identify the countries, but among those that are known to possess the systems are Spain, Greece, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members last week that his country needs a minimum of seven additional Patriot air defense systems to counter Russian air strikes. Mr. Austin told the committee that he speaks with Ukrainian Defense Minister Rostem Umerov every week and "he is well aware of what we are doing, how we are engaging other countries, looking for additional capabilities around the world." Mr. Austin's testi-

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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

FOUNDED 1933

An English-language newspaper published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a non-profit association, at 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Yearly subscription rate: \$90; for UNA members — \$80.

Periodicals postage paid at Caldwell, NJ 07006 and additional mailing offices.  
(ISSN — 0273-9348)

The Weekly:

Tel: (973) 292-9800; Fax: (973) 644-9510

Postmaster, send address changes to:

The Ukrainian Weekly  
2200 Route 10  
P.O. Box 280  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

The Ukrainian Weekly Archive: [www.ukrweekly.com](http://www.ukrweekly.com)

**The Ukrainian Weekly, May 5, 2024, No. 18, Vol. XCII**

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and advertising manager

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# As Telegram's popularity soars, is it 'a spy in every Ukrainian's pocket'?

by Aleksander Palikot  
RFE/RL

KYIV – Whenever Russia launches drones and missiles against Ukrainian cities, mobile phones vibrate and the unpleasant sound of an air-raid siren goes off.

During such air alerts, many Ukrainians turn to Telegram channels that aggregate official and unofficial information about attacks to decide whether to seek shelter.

"I never take cover anyway, but I am calmer once I know what's going on," psychology student Ilya Yeremenko told RFE/RL. "A feeling of control, even if illusory, is better than a sense of helplessness."

Quick access to unrestricted information has pushed the Telegram messaging app to become a leading news source in wartime Ukraine.

The Dubai-based platform, boasting over 900 million users worldwide, was founded by Russian entrepreneur Pavel Durov in 2013. In his first major interview in seven years, which he gave to U.S. commentator Tucker Carlson on April 17, Mr. Durov vowed Telegram aims to be a "neutral platform" and not a "player in geopolitics."

In Ukraine, though, critics worry it spreads misinformation and facilitates illegal actions. Some accuse Telegram of ties to the Russian state and of contributing to its war effort. Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, has registered a bill that aims to regulate the workings of the platform. But it seems unlikely lawmakers will try to shut the popular application down altogether.

## Invasion spike

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 gave a huge boost to Telegram's popularity in Ukraine.

When Russian rockets rained down on Ukrainian cities and Russian troops streamed across the country's borders, Ihor Lachenkov, creator and author of one of Ukraine's most popular Telegram channels, Lachen Pyshe, was in his native Dnipro monitoring events and posting news around the clock. Within the first 24 hours, his audience nearly tripled from 70,000 to about 200,000.

"People flocked to my channel because it was one of the first to say that the war had started, and it pushed out timely notifications about rocket attacks even before the air-raid alarms started to work properly," Mr. Lachenkov told RFE/RL.

Back then, Ukraine's main television channels began broadcasting a unified, state-controlled news program known as the United Telemarathon to combat the spread of enemy propaganda and disinformation.

But those seeking quicker, more specific, or unofficial information turned to Telegram channels.

Primarily a messaging app, Telegram owes its success as a news source to its straightforward design. Users can easily set up channels and post content to an unlimited number of followers in a top-down manner with no algorithms interfering and almost no advertising.

"There is no other platform that can beat Telegram in terms of audience outreach," Mr. Lachenkov said, adding that Facebook and Instagram are not only less convenient but they also filter out some popular war-related content as too graphic or purportedly promoting hate speech or violence.

The popularity of Telegram in Ukraine has surged since the invasion, with as many as 72 percent of Ukrainians using it to get their news in 2023, compared to 20 percent in 2021, according to a 2023 study by Internews. It eclipses online news websites (41 percent), television (30 percent), radio

(10 percent) and print (3 percent), as well as other social media and apps. The nearest competitors on the list are Facebook with 19 percent and YouTube with 16.

Ukrainian officials and institutions – including President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the country's intelligence service (the Security Service of Ukraine), and popular Mykolayiv region Gov. Vitaliy Kim – run their own hugely popular channels, contributing to Telegram's boom. However, only 12 of the app's 100 most popular channels belong to established media, officials or public figures.

Lachen Pyshe, which now has over 1.5 million followers, made Mr. Lachenkov, 24, one of the country's top influencers. He has raised millions of dollars for the Ukrainian military and was one of those representing Ukraine when the European Parliament awarded the Ukrainian people the Sakharov Prize in December 2022.

## Russian tool?

Unlike Lachen Pyshe, however, almost all big Telegram channels in Ukraine are run anonymously, and their wartime role is far more ambiguous.

Many popular channels mix information about air attacks with lurid content, often sensationalized. Despite having millions of followers, they often ignore accepted journalistic standards.

Unlike official media in Ukraine, many Telegram channels are in Russian, and some are widely regarded as pro-Moscow. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) published a list of channels it said "carry out special information and psychological operations in the interests of the Russian Federation" in March 2022 and later expanded it. Ukraine's Main Intelligence Directorate said Russia has spent \$250 million to promote its narratives on the platform in Ukraine.

In addition, some influential Ukrainian channels – such as "Vertical," "Joker," and "House of Cards" – are likely secretly tied or close to the Ukrainian presidential administration, according to the Ukrainian media monitoring organization Detector Media. Those channels publish unverifiable insider information and dark PR targeting critics, including independent journalists and political opponents.

Telegram has also become a window into the other side of the war that bridges the widening gap between the Russian and Ukrainian information environments. Russian pro-Kremlin military channels are read by both soldiers and civilians in Ukraine.

"Threats posed by Telegram are not restricted to the dissemination of enemy propaganda," Yehor Aushev, an expert at the Institute of Cyber Warfare Research, told RFE/RL. "It is de facto a legalized darknet where one can not only buy drugs or access child pornography but also engage in cybercrime, as do multiple Russian hacker groups."

Access to users' data and devices, including geolocation and cameras, as well as data about networks of users make Telegram "a spy in every Ukrainian's pocket" with a wide range of potential military uses, Mr. Aushev said.

The founder of Telegram dismisses such accusations. Mr. Durov has repeatedly said he created Telegram, together with his younger brother Nikolai, who designed the encryption, to enable people to communicate freely after he refused to comply with Kremlin demands to shut down some groups of Euro-Maidan protesters on his VK social media platform. Mr. Durov left Russia in 2014.

Long regarded as secure and private, Telegram played an important role in the

protests against strongman leader Alyaksandr Lukashenka in Belarus in 2020. It was a go-to place for independent Russian journalists when the repression of media freedom accelerated after the invasion of Ukraine.

But over time things evolved. According to independent Russian media, Telegram found a compromise with the authorities and has been sharing some data with the security services at least since 2018. Currently, services such as Facebook and Instagram are available in Russia only via a virtual private network (VPN), while Telegram is not restricted and is even recommended for internal use by the Russian Army.

"We have more and more evidence that it is a tool in Russia's war against Ukraine," Mr. Aushev said.

Ukraine's military intelligence chief, Lt. Gen. Kyrylo Budanov, said during the Kyiv Stratcom Forum 2024 that the app was "definitely problematic from the point of view of national security." Elsewhere, he has called for its regulation.

## Working solution

With worries mounting, the Ukrainian authorities began looking for a working solution to reduce the potential for harm from Telegram.

On March 25, a group of deputies registered a bill aimed at regulating the platform. The document states that Telegram "may be associated with the aggressor state" and proposes measures to force the company to cooperate with the Ukrainian state or face restrictions.

"We already know that Telegram is on good terms with Russian business, the [Federal Security Service] and the Russian Army. And we have zero control over it," Mykola Knyazhynski, a lawmaker from the opposition European Solidarity party and the initiator of the bill, told RFE/RL.

The bill calls for obliging Telegram, as well as some other platforms, to establish a representative office in Ukraine or a

European Union country to address complaints about the dissemination of prohibited content.

According to Mr. Knyazhynski, the proposed legislation "practically extends the norms of the current media law to the domain of Telegram," is "aligned with E.U. regulations," and "does not target owners of individual channels."

The key provision of the bill obliges Telegram to disclose its ownership structure and sources of funding at the request of Ukraine's National Council. And this is unlikely to happen given what is already publicly known about its financing.

Telegram has long been unprofitable and did not show official revenues for eight years until it enabled limited advertising in 2021 and premium subscriptions in 2022.

In 2018, the Durov brothers tried to raise money by launching a blockchain platform called Telegram Open Network (TON). Despite securing \$1.7 billion for the project through the sale of cryptocurrency Gram, the company was ordered to return most of the money to investors before it launched after a legal battle with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Among multiple investors from several countries were Russian businessmen Roman Abramovich, Sergei Solonin and David Yakobashvili. All of them have ties to the Kremlin, and Mr. Yakobashvili is under sanctions by Ukraine.

After the failure of the cryptocurrency project, Telegram issued bonds on the St. Petersburg Stock Exchange in 2021. Among the investors were VTB Capital, a company in which the Russian state holds a majority stake that has been run by Putin insider Andrei Kostin, and Alfa Capital, which is owned by Mikhail Fridman, a Russian oligarch who has been placed under sanctions by Ukraine and the European Union.

Under the proposed legislation, Telegram would be most likely designated

(Continued on page 12)

## FOR THE RECORD

### U.S. announces new measures in response to Russia's use of chemical weapons in Ukraine

*The following statement was released by the U.S. State Department on May 2. It is attributed to State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller.*

Since February 2022, the United States and its allies and partners have imposed unprecedented restrictive economic measures on Russia to deprive the Kremlin of the revenue, technology and material needed to resource its continuing invasion of Ukraine. Yesterday, the United States Departments of State and the Treasury imposed further costs on Russia by imposing sanctions on more than 280 individuals and entities that enable Russia to wage its illegal war against Ukraine.

Specifically, the Department of State sanctioned more than 80 entities and individuals across multiple sectors essential to waging war on Ukraine. The targets include those involved in Russia's chemical and biological weapons programs; entities involved in sanctions evasion and circumvention; and those involved in the development of Russia's future energy, metals and mining production and export. Yesterday's action specifically reflects the concern of the United States and our international partners with entities based in the People's Republic of China (PRC) that both produce and provide critical inputs to Russia's military-

industrial base. These designations include multiple targets associated with this activity. The department is also imposing costs for worsening repression inside Russia by sanctioning additional individuals in connection with the death of opposition leader and anticorruption activist Alexei Navalny in Russian Penal Colony IK-3.

Separately, the department is imposing sanctions on Russia pursuant to the Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act over its use of the chemical weapon chloropicrin against Ukrainian forces.

Concurrently, the Department of the Treasury is imposing sanctions that further degrade Russia's ability to sustain its war machine by targeting Russia's military-industrial base as well as companies and individuals in third countries who help Russia acquire weapons and key inputs for their war against Ukraine.

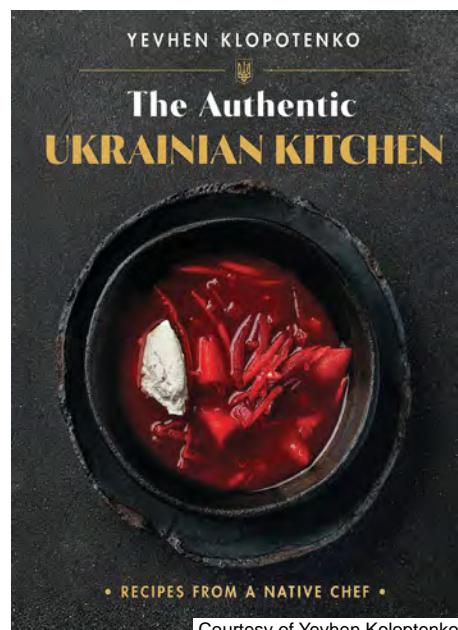
The Department of State and the Department of the Treasury sanctions actions were taken pursuant to Executive Order 14024, "Blocking Property With Respect To Specified Harmful Foreign Activities of the Government of the Russian Federation," as amended by E.O. 14114, and Executive Order 13382, "Blocking Property of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferators and Their Supporters."

# Kyiv master chef Klopotenko adapts to war conditions as he releases second English recipe book

by Mark Raczkiewycz

CHICAGO – The Kyiv-based chef who spearheaded a project to get the Ukrainian beet-root soup of borscht as an “intangible” part of his country’s heritage at the Paris-based United Nations’ Agency for Culture, Science and Education (UNESCO) is releasing his second English-language recipe book.

Its scheduled release date is on May 14 and his second repertoire of recipes are geared more toward English-language home cooks with ingredients that could easily be found in their home countries,



Courtesy of Yevhen Klopotenko

The book cover of Kyiv-based chef Yevhen Klopotenko’s latest recipe book of Ukrainian cuisine, which is scheduled to be released on May 14.

chef Yevhen Klopotenko told The Ukrainian Weekly in an audio interview.

He will be promoting the book in June during a visit to the U.N.’s headquarters in New York. He will also make stops in Chicago and Washington, D.C.

The Ukrainian Weekly received a pre-publication copy of the hardcover recipe book, which includes instructions on how to make food and beverages in eight categories: breads and dips; appetizers; breakfast; salads; soup and borscht; main dishes; sweets and drinks.

Chef Klopotenko considers himself a “culinary ambassador” for Ukraine and traversed every region of his homeland to find authentic Ukrainian recipes beyond the staple dishes of holubtsi (stuffed cabbage), varenky (filled dumplings) and borscht (beet root soup).

UNESCO inscribed borscht on its list of “Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding” last year. The move came largely as a result of mainly the chef’s two-year research efforts to document the many recipes of the savory soup he discovered while traversing the country.

One recipe calls for making stew from wild boar’s blood. It comes from the northwestern region of Volyn, Mr. Klopotenko said on May 1. “It’s actually not surprising, but it is a hunter’s recipe.”

Whereas his first recipe book targeted mostly Ukrainian readers, his second publication is geared to an English-language audience and has recipes that include ingredients such as feta and others that can easily be found in North American grocery stores.

“I already have more than 15,000 orders

for this book,” said the chef, who won the Master Chef Ukraine culinary competition in 2015. That sent him on a free training session to France’s prestigious Le Cordon Bleu culinary school in Paris.

The current book has a borscht recipe that a correspondent for The Ukrainian Weekly tested. That recipe calls for pork ribs and smoked pears, though they were sourced from the central Ukrainian Poltava region.

Appetizers, such as zucchini fritters and banosh, a hearty dish that is widespread in the westernmost region of Zakarpattia, are in the appetizer section. The classical honey bread, or medivnyk, is listed as a dessert.

“I wouldn’t consider myself an anthropologist” for visiting every region for recipes, Mr. Klopotenko said, but “I definitely enjoy discovering everything. ... For example, tomorrow I’ll visit the Podilia geographical area of Vinnytsia Oblast.”

Many of the recipes use simple ingredients but they are complicated to execute. Mr. Klopotenko even read books from the 18th century, such as Ivan Kotliarevsky’s “Eneida” for his research.

One uses homemade sausage with garlic and another roasted duck with banosh that uses corn porridge as a base.

The “ingredients for the recipes needed to be adopted to different parts of the world,” Mr. Klopotenko said.

He calls his book a “love letter to the diverse culture and foodways of Ukraine – and a reclamation of the rich culinary customs as they were intended, before Soviet influence ... changed the trajectory of the cuisine throughout” Ukraine.



Vladyslav Nahornyi

Kyiv-based celebrity chef Yevhen Klopotenko, as seen in December 2022, is releasing a second English-language recipe book that features dishes geared more toward English-language home cooks.

The Soviet sanitization of Ukrainian cuisine that lasted for more than 70 years is a component of his “inspiration” to re-discover other recipes from his homeland, he said.

In two previous interviews with this correspondent, he emphasized how Kremlin authorities took classical recipes from each of the 14 republics they occupied and

(Continued on page 6)

## Chicago’s Selfreliance FCU hails 2023 as a banner year

### Foundation wins prestigious Herb Wegner Award

SFCU Press Office

CHICAGO – From a financial performance perspective, 2023 was a banner year for the Selfreliance Federal Credit Union (SFCU).

Despite challenges, the credit union “achieved excellent financial performance,” said SFCU President and Chief Executive Officer Vitaliy Kutny.

“In a challenging macro environment, we achieved excellent financial performance. Through a structured borrowing transaction, our assets temporarily surpassed \$1 billion, marking a significant milestone for our credit union. This fiscal strength allowed us to expand our team, and we now have 130 employees supporting over 37,000 members across eleven locations in three states,” Mr. Kutny said.

More good news followed as the Selfreliance Foundation learned it had won the National Credit Union Foundation’s (NCUF) prestigious 2024 Herb Wegner Award for the organization’s outstanding achievements.

According to the NCUF, the Herb Wegner Award recognizes innovative institutions or initiatives that have measurably improved the local, national or international credit union system. The Selfreliance Foundation received the award in recognition of its work to support Ukraine, the Ukrainian refugee community and the Ukrainian diaspora, the NCUF said.

Victor Wojtychiw, chairman of the Board of Directors of Selfreliance FCU and secre-



Courtesy of the SFCU Press Office

Accepting the National Credit Union Foundation’s prestigious Herb Wegner Award are (from left to right) Vitaliy Kutny, Daria Twardowsky-Vincent, Victor Wojtychiw and Bohdan Watral.

tary/treasurer of the Selfreliance Foundation, accepted the award in the absence of Foundation President Oleh Karawan and long-time past president Oresta Fedyniak. Joining him on stage during the award ceremony on March 4 were Foundation Vice-President Daria Twardowsky-Vincent, Foundation Member Bohdan Watral and Mr. Kutny.

Officials of the Selfreliance Foundation said they were grateful to the NCUF for its recognition. The Herb Wegner awards were presented at a festive banquet in Washington, D.C., during the National Credit Union Governmental Affairs conference. In attendance was a sizeable delegation of Selfreliance FCU Board Members and management representatives, as well as repre-

sentatives of other Ukrainian American credit unions, all dressed in traditional Ukrainian embroidered finery.

In accepting the award, Mr. Wojtychiw laid out the genesis of the Selfreliance Foundation, which is rooted in the credit union’s origins.

“The ideology of the Selfreliance Foundation can be traced back to the 10 individuals, cooperative leaders in pre-World War II Ukraine, who realized that the Ukrainian immigrants running from the terrors of Stalin and Hitler in Europe needed financial services and security,” Mr. Wojtychiw said. “In 1951, they created Selfreliance Federal Credit Union. They firmly believed in an old Ukrainian adage: *свій до свого по своє*, which roughly translates to ‘people helping people.’”

“Fast forward to 2005, when then-president/CEO of Selfreliance, Bohdan Watral, convinced the Board of Directors that the time had come to separate the credit union’s philanthropy from its financial operations. Thus, the Selfreliance Foundation was created,” Mr. Wojtychiw said.

The Selfreliance Foundation, in cooperation with Selfreliance Federal Credit Union, has become the financial safety net of Ukrainian communities in Illinois, Michigan and New Jersey. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Selfreliance Foundation, under the leadership of then Chairwoman Oresta Fedyniak and present Chairman Oleh Karawan, led the charge to make sure that Ukrainian churches, schools, cultural institutions and youth organizations did not fail during the pandemic shutdowns. They provided grants to

(Continued on page 12)

## Russia and...

(Continued from page 2)

from the supreme commander-in-chief, minister of defense and chief of the Russian General Staff, TNWs are moved to stationary or mobile RMBs. Next, the RMB assembly teams set them on the missiles, after which they are moved to units for combat use (Meduza, March 20, 2022). By contrast, the Russian TNWs in Belarus have been deployed in essentially field conditions. This method reduces the time required to deliver and set up the nuclear warheads on missiles, which indicates preparation for operational use.

In addition, Valery Sahashchyk, representative for national defense of the Belarusian opposition-in-exile's United Transitional Cabinet and former commander of the Belarusian 38th Separate Guards Air Assault Brigade (Brest), says that Belarusian and Russian militaries are war-gaming and preparing for an attack on Lithuania. The wargame imitates an assault on Vilnius with conventional means and a simultaneous demonstrative nuclear strike. According to Mr. Sahashchyk's sources, Russian and Belarusian generals hope such developments will shock the West into surrendering (Nasha Niva, March 23). Mr. Sahashchyk elaborated on the reasons behind this scenario (Reform.news, March 30).

Russian and Belarusian generals concluded that seizing territory by conventional means for attacking troops (based on the experiences in Bakhmut and Avdiivka) is associated with huge losses, while the advance is very slow and small and the captured territory turns into a useless desert.

The Kremlin and Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka are convinced of the moral weakness of Western countries, which they believe would not dare to actively confront Moscow, especially at the

risk of nuclear war.

Aggression against Lithuania by conventional means is on the agenda, along with a demonstrative strike with TNWs – either against Lithuania or Ukraine. Russia may use its nuclear weapons to elicit an ultimatum.

Indicators of plans to attack Lithuania include exercises outside the usual training grounds and the repairing of bridges near its borders, including those not used for economic activities.

Indicators of preparation for a nuclear strike include the reinforcement of radiological, chemical, and biological defense (RKhBZ) units, exercises to decontaminate terrain and the re-equipping of RKhBZ units, which has not happened for quite some time.

Other worrisome indicators include Russian Aerospace Forces using Kh-55 nuclear-capable cruise missiles with imitators of nuclear warheads against targets in Poland and Ukraine from Belarusian airspace (RMF24.pl, May 10, 2023; Defence-ua.com, June 26, 2023). Such simulated attacks suggest that Russia has been practicing for at least a tactical nuclear strike.

The Kremlin's hypothetical use of TNWs from Belarusian territory and airspace would allow Moscow to use Belarus as cover from a retaliatory strike by the United States and NATO (Forstrategy, September 20, 2022). Belarus, not Russia, would become the first natural target for such a response. That Mr. Lukashenka stresses his participation in the decision-making process on using Russian TNWs only heightens the possibility of Belarus becoming a target (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, March 13). As a result, Russia watchers should continue to monitor Belarus's military for signs of potential escalation.

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STAND WITH UKRAINE

## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

# A desperate need for soldiers

As Russian forces continue their relentless advance, breaking through Ukrainian defenses in strategic locations like the village of Ocheretyne and the canal in Chasiv Yar, Ukraine finds itself facing a dire shortage of soldiers to stem the tide of aggression. While the recent \$61 billion aid package from the United States has provided a crucial lifeline in terms of weaponry, the urgent need now is for boots on the ground to bolster Ukraine's beleaguered defense forces.

Despite the infusion of much-needed weapons, including anti-aircraft missiles, artillery and small-arms ammunition, Ukraine's battlefield position remains precarious, and some officers have even used the word catastrophic with us. The recent breakthroughs by Russian troops underscore the pressing need for a significant increase in manpower to shore up defenses and repel enemy incursions. With Ukrainian brigades operating at just 40 percent capacity in terms of personnel and vehicles, there is an urgent imperative to mobilize and train new recruits to fill the widening gaps in the frontline.

The situation on the ground is grim, with Russian forces employing World War I-style infantry wave assaults to overwhelm Ukrainian defenses. Reports of unauthorized retreats by Ukrainian brigades highlight the urgent need for stronger leadership and reinforcement of defensive positions. While the impending arrival of U.S. military aid offers a glimmer of hope, it is clear that Ukraine's greatest need lies in the form of trained and equipped soldiers ready to confront the advancing enemy.

The escalation of hostilities underscores the ruthless determination of Putin's regime to achieve its objectives through military aggression. With no signs of relenting, Ukraine faces an open-ended conflict that demands a sustained and unwavering commitment from its allies in Washington and Brussels. The question now is whether the international community is prepared to step up and provide the necessary support to ensure Ukraine's survival in the face of mounting odds.

As Ukrainian forces continue to fight valiantly against an enemy bent on conquest, the urgent call for reinforcements has grown louder. In addition to the urgent need for reinforcements from within Ukraine, there exists a significant pool of potential soldiers among Ukrainian men of military age who are currently residing abroad. These individuals, scattered across the globe, hold the power to make a meaningful impact by answering the call to return home and join the fight to defend their homeland. While many may have left Ukraine in pursuit of opportunities or refuge from conflict, the gravity of the current situation demands a collective rallying of all able-bodied Ukrainians to stand in solidarity against Russian aggression. Their skills, experiences and commitment to their country's cause can play a crucial role in bolstering Ukraine's defense capabilities and turn the tide of the war. As the threat to Ukraine's sovereignty intensifies, the call for these men to heed their nation's call and return home to join the fight grows ever more urgent. While we understand their desire to flee the horrors of war, they are crucially-needed to ensure the very survival of their homeland, their loved ones in Ukraine and the nation itself.

The time for action is now, as Ukraine's need for help is clear and immediate. Failure to respond decisively risks emboldening Putin's aggression and allowing further territorial gains at the expense of Ukrainian sovereignty. The stakes could not be higher, and the need for more soldiers on Ukraine's front lines has never been more pressing.

May  
5  
2019

## Turning the pages back...

Five years ago, on May 8, 2019, Ukraine observed Remembrance and Reconciliation Day and Victory in Europe Day was marked worldwide by the Western Allies, marking the Allied victory over Nazi Germany in World War II.

Symbolically, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy marked the holiday in Zaporizhia, with a former courier for the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (known by its Ukrainian acronym UPA), Paraskeva Zelenchuk-Potyak, and former Soviet Marine Capt. Ivan Zaluzhnyi, shaking hands to embody reconciliation.

Both the UPA and the Soviet armies fought the Nazi invaders in 1939-1945, but the two sides also fought each other as the UPA sought an independent Ukraine, free from Soviet oppression.

On May 29, 2023, Ukraine's parliament passed legislation making May 8 a national holiday – "Day of Remembrance and Victory over Nazism in World War II, 1939-1945."

Previously, the public holiday "Victory Day over Nazism in World War II," marked on May 9, had been canceled with the adoption of the new holiday and was a stark break from Russia's observances that have been marked since Soviet times on May 9 with military pomp across Russia.

Ukraine also adopted the red poppy flower as the symbol for the new holiday, which is a common symbol for Victory in Europe Day.

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress in its statement commemorating the 74th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day said that 45,000 Canadians made the ultimate sacrifice, with over 55,000 wounded, while more than 1 million Canadians served in uniform during World War II – among them some 40,000 of Ukrainian origin.

"Caught between the totalitarian and genocidal empires of Hitler and Stalin, Ukrainians fought with bravery against both occupiers," the Ukrainian Canadian Congress said. "Victory over Nazi Germany brought neither peace, freedom nor deliverance to Ukraine."

(Continued on page 12)

## During surprise...

(Continued from page 1)

am confident everything will change," Mr. Stoltenberg said at a joint press briefing with Mr. Zelenskyy.

Mr. Stoltenberg noted that the U.S. Congress approved a package of roughly \$61 billion in aid to Ukraine that was signed by President Joe Biden, and last week British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced record aid for Kyiv.

He also added that Germany has agreed to provide Ukraine with more Patriot air defense systems, and the Netherlands has increased its aid for Kyiv.

Mr. Stoltenberg also emphasized that the Russians had paid "a high price for insignificant territorial gains," and Ukraine could still change the situation on the battlefield.

During a joint visit to the National Defense University in Ukraine with Mr. Stoltenberg, Mr. Zelenskyy said that Ukraine would become a NATO member after winning the war against Russia.

"We will be in NATO only when we win. I do not believe that we will be accepted into NATO during the war," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

He noted that for some NATO members Ukraine's accession to the alliance is a risk, while others are simply skeptical.

"The question of NATO is a question of the majority, and the majority is a political question. For Ukraine to be politically accepted into the alliance, we need a victory," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

The head of state also said that Russia's war on Ukraine occurred because, among other factors, Ukraine was previously not accepted into NATO.

"Russia worked very hard with our current partners. They had a dialog, and it [the Kremlin] did everything to ensure that Ukraine was not accepted, not only by NATO but also by the European Union, so that Ukraine would not develop and so that it would not be cut off from the influence of the Russian Federation. Therefore, to break away from this influence, we need to defend our independence with the result of victory," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

He added that during the meeting with Mr. Stoltenberg the two men discussed in detail the situation on the battlefield, Ukraine's capabilities and the capabilities of its partners to support Kyiv.

"The Russian army is now trying to take advantage of the situation when we expect supplies from partners, primarily from the United States. The Russian army is preparing for further offensive actions," he said.

During his visit to Kyiv, Mr. Stoltenberg's

third visit since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the NATO chief announced the creation of a particular financial support fund for Ukraine's defense worth 100 billion Euros over five years.

"Today we discussed [Mr. Stoltenberg's] initiative to create a special financial support fund for Ukrainian defense worth 100 billion Euros for a period of five years," the president said.

"The allies really have the opportunity to implement such an initiative. Details are essential for us. It is important that this is not at the expense of bilateral volumes, which are marked by our agreements on security guarantees," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Mr. Stoltenberg also invited Mr. Zelenskyy to the NATO summit in Washington, D.C., in July, but he noted that the consent of all NATO members is required to invite Ukraine to join the alliance.

Mr. Stoltenberg said he had discussed preparations for NATO's anniversary summit in Washington with Mr. Zelenskyy.

"I look forward to seeing you at the summit in Washington," he said.

Mr. Stoltenberg emphasized that Ukraine's place is in NATO and he said the country will become a member of the alliance in the future. However, he noted that Ukraine should not expect to receive an invitation to join the alliance in Washington.

"Allies really believe that Ukraine's rightful place is in NATO. To make this decision, we need the consent of all allies, and we need consensus, not a majority. That is, we need the consent of all 32 members," Mr. Stoltenberg said.

"And I do not expect we will have that agreement by the summit in July. But I believe that we will be able to demonstrate that we are bringing Ukraine even closer to membership, and we want to see the day when Ukraine joins us as a full member as soon as possible," Mr. Stoltenberg said.

Work is underway to ensure that Ukraine and NATO are interoperable and that Ukraine meets the alliance's standards so that one day when the political conditions are met Ukraine can become a member.

Earlier press reports noted that NATO believes Ukraine must still take concrete steps in implementing the Adapted Annual National Program, a reform plan for 2024 designed to bring Kyiv closer to NATO membership.

That program became a tool for NATO to assess Ukraine's progress toward membership following the July 2023 summit in Vilnius, Lithuania. At that time, the alliance decided that Ukraine would not need to submit a Membership Action Plan.

and help people who are suffering," Mr. Klopotenko said. "After one year of feeding one lady, she gifted me an Easter bread to thank me."

After Russia's all-out invasion in February 2022, the chef hosted 45 charity dinners across the world to support Kyiv's war effort. They included events in Australia, Japan, Europe and Canada.

A book of 619 recipes also was released last month for public schools to "decrease the use of salt and sugar," Mr. Klopotenko said. "It has recipes that are gluten-free and for lactose intolerant" school pupils.

He said that the book, a joint project with Ukrainian First Lady Olena Zelenska to improve nutrition at schools, was also based on "feedback" he received from school-aged refugees he interviewed so that he could know what they like to eat.

"Fifty percent of the recipes are based on classical Ukrainian cuisine. The other half are drawn from around the world," the chef said.

His newest book is being sold for \$40 on the Amazon website.

## Kyiv master chef...

(Continued from page 4)

homogenized them.

"Nowadays, Ukrainian cuisine comes 90 percent from the Soviet past and has nothing in common with Ukrainian cuisine," the chef lamented. "Unfortunately, in Ukraine these recipes were thoroughly hidden, and we face almost 100 years of obliteration and need to revive them."

As a result, he partnered with Inna Poperezhniuk to open the 100 Rokiv Tomy Vpered (100 years back to the future) restaurant in Kyiv.

A former Russian speaker before Kremlin leader Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale war on his country, the chef has since switched to speaking Ukrainian.

Another of the chef's eateries, called Inshi Stravy (other dishes), was opened in Lviv and offers free food to people in need because the western Ukrainian city hosts many war refugees.

"It was a reaction to support each other

## With ATACMS...

(Continued from page 1)

"Right now, Crimea is like an unsinkable aircraft carrier for the Russians, launching drones and aircraft and providing logistical support to their forces in southern Ukraine," Ben Hodges, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant general who commanded U.S. forces in Europe, told RFE/RL.

Ukraine struck several key military targets on the peninsula – including air bases and the 12-mile-long Crimea Bridge, the only physical connection between Russia and Crimea and a critical military supply route – even before the latest deliveries of ATACMS were approved by the United States on April 24.

Though Russia regularly shuts down the bridge due to threats, Moscow continues to deliver substantial supplies to Crimea across the link as well as via ferries, Mr. Karber said. Ships also carry cargo to Sevastopol, the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea fleet located on the peninsula's southwest coast.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for months had been urging the Biden administration to send the longer-range ATACMS, which carry a 230-kilogram warhead, to hit military targets far behind Russian lines, especially those in Crimea. Ukraine produces only a small number of long-range missiles, though it hopes to begin ramping up output this year.

The United States last autumn sent a shorter-range version of the ATACMS with a reach of 103 miles that sprays bomblets when it explodes. Ukraine successfully used them for the first time in October against targets in eastern Ukraine.

Shortly after receiving the longer-range ATACMS earlier this month, Ukraine on April 17 reportedly used them to strike the Dzhankoi air base in northeast Crimea, damaging Russian helicopters, an S-400 strategic surface-to-air platform, the country's most advanced air-defense system, and an aerospace surveillance complex used as a command-and-control center. The reports could not be independently verified.

### The numbers game

The United States has not announced how many of the longer-range ATACMS it has already sent to Ukraine or how many more the country could receive in the coming months.

The New York Times, citing unidentified U.S. officials, said more than 100 of the longer-range ATACMS were delivered to Ukraine. Multiple ATACMS may be needed to destroy or severely damage a single target, Messrs. Karber and Hodges said.

Colby Badhwar, an independent defense analyst, said in a post on X, formerly Twitter, that the United States could plausibly give Ukraine 200 of the long-range ATACMS and possibly more if the roughly 1,140 "expired" missiles in U.S. stocks are still usable.

Ukraine possesses other Western-made missiles, though those supplies are dwindling. The United Kingdom last year sent Ukraine its Storm Shadow precision cruise missiles that can hit targets as far away as 155 miles. Last week, London announced it would be sending more.

### Proof of concept

In the span of 10 days in September, Ukraine used its supply of Storm Shadows to hit two targets in Crimea: a shipyard and the Black Sea Fleet's headquarters in Sevastopol. Ukraine has destroyed or damaged about 24 Russian vessels in the Black Sea – including the flagship Moskva, which was sunk in April 2022 – using a combination of domestic and Western weapons.

Less than two weeks after the strike on the headquarters, Russia withdrew the bulk of its Black Sea Fleet from the peninsula to the Russian port of Novorossiysk.

"The Ukrainians have already proven the concept of what a handful of precision weapons can do against the Russians in Crimea," Mr. Hodges said, referring to the Storm Shadow strikes on Crimea and the subsequent Russian retrenchment.

In an interview with The Washington Post last month, Mr. Zelenskyy said the ATACMS would enable Ukraine to drive the Russian Air Force from the peninsula.

"When Russia knows we can destroy these jets, they will not attack from Crimea," he said. "It's like with the sea fleet. We pushed them from our territorial waters. Now we will push them from the airports in Crimea."

ATACMS, which travel at much greater speeds than Storm Shadows and can reach their targets in minutes, are better suited for use against time-sensitive targets like mobile, ground-based air and missile-defense systems, aircraft on the ground, logistical assets engaged in the loading and unloading of supplies, and artillery and missile launchers.

However, the German Taurus cruise missile is better suited than ATACMS to target the Crimea Bridge. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has so far resisted pressure to give Ukraine the powerful missile, though Western officials hope the U.S. decision to supply the ATACMS will force the German leader's hand.

### Nowhere to hide

Now that Ukraine is armed with ATACMS, Mr. Hodges said, there is nowhere for Russian forces in Crimea to hide. Ukraine's armed forces "know every square meter" of the peninsula, he said. During his visit to the Munich Security Conference in February, Mr. Zelenskyy said he showed U.S. officials which targets he wanted to strike with ATACMS.

"The first big step toward the liberation of Crimea is making it untenable. And long-range, precision strike capability will give Ukraine the opportunity to do that," Mr. Hodges said.

"You don't have to kill all the Russians," he said. "You just have to make sure that they don't have fuel, ammunition and food."

While Mr. Karber said Ukraine would also likely launch ATACMS against Russian military facilities in the occupied eastern parts of the country where Moscow has been making progress and is gearing up for an offensive, Mr. Hodges said Crimea is the key to victory.

"Crimea is what we would call the decisive terrain of this board. Whoever controls Crimea is going to be the winner here," Mr. Hodges said.

In the meantime, just isolating Crimea by destroying supply lines would reduce pressure on Ukrainian forces, he added. Russian missile and drone attacks emanating from the peninsula would ease, and Russian troops in the occupied south would face logistics issues, Mr. Hodges said.

Ukraine could then potentially free up troops in the south for the tougher theater in the east, he said.

"It will clearly have a broader effect other than just getting the Russians out of there," Mr. Hodges said. "It'll have an effect across the theater, psychologically as well as logically and physically."

(With reporting by Volodymyr Prytula of RFE/RL's Crimea.Realities)

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## WASHINGTON IN FOCUS

by Orest Deychakiwsky

## At long last! Reflections on U.S. aid to Ukraine

Since last September, practically all of my columns have addressed the issue of aid for Ukraine. Little did I think that it would take eight long months for a U.S. supplemental aid package to come to fruition.

Approval of the \$61 billion in aid for Ukraine was an excruciatingly long and painful ordeal. Multiple hurdles were eventually overcome in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The peculiar features of our Congressional system, coupled with Congressional dysfunction exacerbated by politics trumping policy as the November elections approach, allowed for less than one-half of one party largely in one chamber to thwart the will of a substantial majority of Congress. That effort will cost Ukraine as the country has lost military momentum, lost infrastructure, and, most tragically, lost lives.

In the end, as U.S. President Joe Biden said upon signing the aid package on April 24, America "rose to the moment."

Military funding, doubtless the priority, makes up the largest portion of the aid package, and within hours of the signing vital military equipment was on the way to Ukraine. The new aid package includes economic and humanitarian support, and it comes as Congress also approved the REPO Act, which gives Mr. Biden the authority to seize billions of dollars in Russian sovereign assets to strengthen Ukraine. Both are crucial to Ukraine's resilience and success and their importance should not be underestimated.

It is shocking, shameful and inexcusable that the only Ukrainian-born member of Congress, Rep. Victoria Spartz (R-Ind.), and Rep. Andy Harris (R-Md.), a co-chair of the House Ukraine Caucus whose Ukrainian mother came to America after World War II, joined "Moscow Marjorie" and other far-right Republicans in voting against the aid package.

It's puzzling that some Ukrainian Americans would rhapsodize about having an ethnic Ukrainian member of Congress as if that would be a panacea. In my experience with Congress going back nearly 45 years, I've seen numerous Senators and House members of every political persuasion with no ties whatsoever to Ukraine supporting Ukraine's freedom and independence. Indeed, many of them barely had any Ukrainian constituents.

Ms. Spartz and Mr. Harris are among the 112 "ignoble, infantile Republicans who voted to endanger civilization," as George Will put it so pointedly in a recent Washington Post column.

In contrast, virtually all other members with roots in Ukraine voted "yes." One is long-time Ukraine champion, House Ukraine Caucus Co-chair Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), whose Polish ancestors came from western Ukraine. Just about every Jewish member of Congress – many of whom trace at least some of their heritage to Ukraine – voted "yes." In fact, I have found that a disproportionately large number of Ukraine's most ardent backers in both the Senate and House going back decades have been Jewish.

For all the "ignobles," we should not lose sight that nearly four-fifths of the Senate and three-fourths of the House voted for Ukraine aid. Those representatives understood that standing with Ukraine would be one of the most consequential, historic decisions they would make during their time in office.

Each of the dozens of Senators and

Representatives who have visited Ukraine since 2022 has been especially outspoken. There is nothing like experiencing the situation on the ground to help appreciate the gravity of the moment.

Enough can't be said about both Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), two political opponents who came together to vigorously promote the aid package. Both men have been staunch friends of Ukraine for decades. And, of course, there was House Speaker Mike Johnson's evolution on Ukraine that led to success.

The chairs and ranking members of relevant House and Senate committees were also instrumental in achieving a favorable outcome.

Pro-Ukraine advocacy does not occur in a vacuum. Bipartisan Congressional support for Ukraine is nothing new. It did not start in 2022, or even 2014. It existed even before Ukraine's independence. There has long been a reservoir of goodwill toward Ukraine in Congress.

I think back to my own Helsinki Commission experience with former House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) who chaired the Helsinki Commission in the 1980s and often raised the issue of Soviet human rights abuses in Ukraine. He implored his colleagues to pass the supplemental, at one point lamenting on the House floor that, "We are sleeping as Ukraine is burning!" Other former Helsinki commissioners, among them Sens. Ben Cardin (D-Md.), who chairs the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Roger Wicker (R-Mich.), the top Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, have strongly supported Ukraine for many years and have traveled there on multiple occasions. Former Helsinki commissioner and U.S. Rep. Michael Burgess (R-Texas) chaired the House Rules Committee hearing that cleared the path for the House Ukraine bill. Watching it on C-SPAN several days before the House vote, I thought back to when he and I traveled to Kaniiv, Ukraine, as observers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) during the 2014 parliamentary elections. While there, I showed him Taras Shevchenko's grave and even a new church that my wife's uncle had financed.

The outside effort to encourage passage was remarkable. Thousands upon thousands of Americans, many with no connections to Ukraine, in hundreds of non-governmental organizations or individually, engaged members of Congress and staff. In meetings, letters and phone calls, they made their voices directly heard, including many of you reading these lines. We kept the faith and persisted even when the situation looked bleak. And the Ukrainian American community was out in force in a way I have not seen since the years leading up to Ukraine's independence.

There is tremendous relief in the democratic world – nowhere more so than in Ukraine itself – that Congress made the monumental decision to continue to stand with Ukraine. But Ukraine supporters can't get comfortable or rest on their laurels. Aid opponents are already claiming that this package will be the last. Be forewarned, the battle against the "ignoble and infantile" is far from over.

Orest Deychakiwsky may be reached at [orestdeychak@gmail.com](mailto:orestdeychak@gmail.com).

# Ukrainian Museum hosts film screening and panel discussion on Russia's destruction of Mariupol

by Nicholas Gordon

NEW YORK – Before Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the city of Mariupol was a vibrant cultural hub and growing seaside tourist destination. Located on the Azov Sea with a population of over 500,000 people, industry-rich Mariupol boasted popular beaches, gardens and historic buildings. Community members gathered at the city's annual arts festivals.

But Russia laid siege to the city as part of its unprovoked campaign of death and destruction against Ukraine, and the city now lies in charred ruin, under illegal occupation by Russian forces. Thousands of Ukrainian civilians from Mariupol are dead or injured.

A new research project and documentary film, "Beneath the Rubble: Documenting Devastation and Loss in Mariupol," created by the organizations SITU Research, Truth Hounds and Human Rights Watch, chronicles Russia's human rights abuses as it destroyed Mariupol.

In a recent event at The Ukrainian Museum in New York's East Village, the investigative team behind the project screened their film and discussed their research. Approximately 50 people attended the event.

"With this project, we found it essential to do what we could to collect evidence that could someday be used to prosecute war crimes against Russia," said Ida Sawyer, director of crisis and conflict with Human

Rights Watch. Ms. Sawyer described how the team conceived of the idea for their project after interviewing people who had escaped from Mariupol.

"Under attack by Russian forces, the citizens of Mariupol lost everything, including power, heat and communication with the outside world," Ms. Sawyer said. "The loss of their city had a psychological impact. Russia is trying to strip Mariupol of its Ukrainian identity, changing maps to place the city in Russia and putting up new monuments of Russian soldiers."

Additional panelists for the event included Sam Dubberley, managing director of the Digital Investigations Lab with Human Rights Watch; Brad Samuels, director of SITU Research; and Evan Grothjan, senior researcher at SITU Research. The discussion was moderated by Adriana Farmiga, acting dean and adjunct professor at The Cooper Union School of Art.

Ms. Sawyer said that through their research her team found over 10,000 graves in five cemeteries in and around Mariupol since the start of the war. She added that the full death toll in Mariupol may never be known due to the current Russian occupation. She said that over 90 percent of the city's buildings and structures were damaged in Russia's attack, including 86 schools and universities, historic houses, monuments, churches and a maternity ward.

The documentary film shows Russia's bombing of Mariupol's historic Donetsk Academic Regional Drama Theatre, which resulted in an estimated 600 civilian deaths. At the time of the attack, Ukrainian civilians had written the word "children" in Cyrillic on the ground in front of and behind the theater to indicate the presence of children sheltering inside.

To complete their project, the team synthesized vast amounts of footage and disparate sources of information, including 240 interviews, and analyzed 850 photos and videos, documents and dozens of satellite images. The result is a 224-page report, a 22-minute video and an online feature with a comprehensive 3D digital damage assessment, an analysis of graves to help estimate the death toll, an organogram with Russian units and commanders involved in apparent war crimes and other data.

By conducting 14 case studies of



Chandler Cearley

Pictured (from left to right) are event moderator Adriana Farmiga, acting dean and adjunct professor at The Cooper Union School of Art; Evan Grothjan, senior researcher at SITU Research; Ida Sawyer, director of crisis and conflict with Human Rights Watch; Brad Samuels, director of SITU Research; and Sam Dubberley, managing director of the digital investigations lab of Human Rights Watch.

Mariupol and the surrounding area, the investigative team documented Russia's blocking of humanitarian aid coming into the city, as well as blocking Ukrainian civilians who were trying to escape the city.

Mr. Dubberley said that, after many months of work, the team grappled with the challenge of how to best present their research "in a way that is compelling and takes you through the investigation of evidence through a legal framework." He noted that, due to the harrowing context of the research, the team had to be cognizant of their interviewees' well-being – as well as their own mental health – throughout their project.

"The report and video stand as a testament to the crimes that happened in Mariupol," Mr. Dubberley said. "We're being contacted by international criminal courts requesting to see our data and evidence, and it's all accessible now through open source."

Moreover, the team is sharing their project with global political leaders and policymakers to bring justice to the people of Mariupol and Ukraine.

"The Russian masterplan to destroy and rebuild Mariupol is pure violence and the evidence for this crime needs to be reckoned with," Mr. Samuels said, adding that the team is currently analyzing possible

avenues of legal action to hold the Russian units and commanders accountable for their role in committing war crimes.

Mr. Samuels said that there is legal precedent for the Russian war crimes of indiscriminate killing of Ukrainian civilians and the destruction of civilian architecture and cultural heritage. Yet, he also explained that the difficulty of the legal process for prosecuting war crimes is "incredibly complicated, fraught and myopic."

"There are legitimate legal strategies to pursue, but they take time and effort, and it's important to think through the best process," Mr. Samuels said. "Our hopes are that the evidence will find its way into the national jurisdiction of Ukraine," Mr. Samuels said.

Ms. Sawyer, too, noted that, while there has been unprecedented support for judicial efforts and their investigation, justice takes time.

"Part of our goal is to make sure that support for Ukraine as a sovereign nation doesn't wane with fatigue," Ms. Sawyer said after the event, which was organized in partnership with the Cooper Union.

More information on Beneath the Rubble: Documenting Devastation and Loss in Mariupol can be found at [www.hrw.org/feature/russia-ukraine-war-mariupol](http://www.hrw.org/feature/russia-ukraine-war-mariupol).



Nicholas Gordon  
Sam Dubberley introduces his investigative team's documentary, "Beneath the Rubble: Documenting Devastation and Loss in Mariupol," at The Ukrainian Museum in New York's East Village in April.

## War of attrition...

(Continued from page 2)

Shoigu has helped to successfully muzzle all "patriotic" voices critical of the president's performance (Novaya Gazeta Europe, April 24). A noisy bunch of "mild bloggers" have been emboldened to vilify corruption in the armed forces, presenting it as the main reason for the absence of a decisive victory in the slow-moving spring offensive (Svoboda.org, April 24). Mr. Shoigu's control over the propaganda machine, however, is still strong enough to minimize the damage. Still, the new installment of U.S. and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) weapons to Ukraine may undercut his position and even turn him into a convenient scapegoat (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, April 25).

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) may currently be using Mr. Ivanov's arrest to divert political attention away from a major blunder: the Crocus City Hall terrorist attack, for which the FSB has been unable to concoct a convincing excuse (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, March 25, 26, 27, 28). The investigation continues pursuing a fake "Ukrainian connection," but this blame game cannot explain why the FSB failed to prevent the attack (Republic.ru, April 24).

Evidence instead points to the establishment of an Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP) base in Tajikistan and the fast growth of its networks among labor migrants in Russia (TopWar.ru, April 19; Kommersant, April 27). Russian security services have neither the resources nor interest in addressing the rise of Islamist radicalism as their priorities are centered on suppressing anti-war sentiment (The Insider, April 5).

Another headache for the FSB is the instability in the North Caucasus, exemplified by the recent deadly attack on a police patrol in Karachaevo-Cherkessiya (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, March 7, April 2; Kavkazuzel, April 23). Brewing tensions between Dagestan and Chechnya nearly exploded into a larger conflict when a squad of Chechen fighters came to the rescue of an official detained at a checkpoint for driving under the influence (Business-Online, April 24). Another looming problem in the region is the deteriorating health of Ramzan Kadyrov, the brutal ruler of Chechnya, whose death could trigger a leadership struggle for his criminal empire (Novaya Gazeta Europe, April 26).

Putin remains reluctant to reshuffle or replace government officials (with the exception of Mr. Ivanov's arrest), even though it could help reassert his authority.

He could, for example, punish governors in the Southern Urals and Western Siberia regions, where poorly constructed dams aggravated the impact of seasonal flooding (Forbes.ru, April 16). Putin's reluctance is underpinned by an existential dread that he and his closest henchmen are approaching their twilight years and may be unable to hold on to power for much longer. Nikolai Patrushev, secretary of the Security Council, Alexander Bortnikov, the FSB director, and Sergei Chemezov, the head of the defense corporation Rostech, are all in their 70s, just like Putin (Carnegie Politika, April 8). Putin prefers to keep around old-timers such as Mr. Shoigu, Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov, and Chairwoman of the Federation Council Valentina Matvienko rather than promote younger politicians, who would only draw attention to his age (The Insider, April 3).

Behind this old guard is a cohort of politicians in their 60s who have few reasons to worry about the change of government, which is due after Putin's inauguration on May 7 (Nezavisimaya Gazeta, April 15). They include Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin, and Mr. Kiriyenko, who have all been reasonably effective in their positions. Besides government ministers, the heads of many state corporations, like Igor Sechin of

Rosneft, Aleksei Miller from Gazprom, and Andrei Kostin of VTB Bank, are also feeling safe in their long-occupied seats of power (The Moscow Times, April 18).

Putin has to watch out for the ambitious careerists in their 50s stuck in the lower layers of state bureaucracy. By authorizing Mr. Ivanov's downfall, Putin has sent a clear warning. He has good reasons to doubt their loyalty and commitment to the war, which for him is the pivotal part of the legacy, but for them, it has merely cost them profits. In a quarter of a century, Putin's regime has mutated into a rigid autocracy. Still, corruption remains its organizing principle, and the mobilization of dwindling resources for waging war goes against the interests of many, if not most, high-middle functionaries in Moscow's overgrown pyramid of power. Reinventing the deeply corrupt and profoundly degraded Russian state as a war machine is a mission too ambitious for the aging crooks who managed to gain control over Russia amid the turmoil of the late 1990s and have delivered the country to the brink of yet another catastrophe.

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## Ukraine uses...

(Continued from page 1)

on Russia are not having the desired impact so it has embarked on a campaign to strike Russian oil facilities and metallurgical plants that are deemed part of the country's war effort and provide revenue for its war chest.

Despite western sanctions, Russia's arms industry is booming.

"Firms in China have provided Russia with semiconductors that are crucial for making various weapons systems. They have also provided navigation equipment, parts for jets and more generic products such as ball bearings used in artillery pieces and other equipment," the London-based Economist magazine reported this week.

The cost of diesel to Russian consumers has risen by nearly 10 percent and gasoline prices reached a six-month high as of April 29 as a result of persistent Ukrainian drone attacks on such targets, U.S. media outlet Politico reported.

More than a dozen Russian oil refineries have been struck in recent months.

Meanwhile, Ukraine employed long-range U.S.-provided ATACMS projectiles over the week to strike targets in the Russian-occupied peninsula of Crimea, including an air base in Dzhankoi.

Washington secretly delivered Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) to Kyiv as part of a security assistance package worth \$300 million that U.S. President Joe Biden approved on March 12.

The Russian-installed head of Crimea, Sergei Aksyonov, said that six of the projectiles were shot down, but social media videos posted on Telegram from residents in Crimea showed otherwise.

The peninsula has six air bases, command-and-control centers, arms depots, docks, barracks and other military facilities.



Social media via Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

**A warehouse that belongs to Ukraine's largest parcel delivery service, Nova Poshta, was struck by a Russian aerial attack on the night of May 1.**

In addition, a military training base in Kuban was also hit with projectiles, open-source intelligence sources said.

ATACMS have a range between 93 and 186 miles and could potentially strike the illegally-built bridge that adjoins mainland Russia to the occupied peninsula.

Even if the bridge is destroyed, publicly available satellite imagery shows Russia is building a railway to connect Rostov-on-Don and Crimea through occupied territory.

It could "pose a serious problem" in term of buttressing Russia's military logistical supplies, HUR defense chief Kyrylo Budanov said in March.

### Russia terrorizes Ukrainian civilians

Russian aerial attacks on non-military facilities once again targeted Odesa on May 1. They left at least three civilians killed and three more injured, the region's governor, Oleh Kiper, said.

Also struck was a postal warehouse run by Ukraine's largest privately-owned parcel delivery service, Nova Poshta. That attack destroyed 15.5 metric tons of shipments worth some \$76,000, the company said on May 2.

The attack "destroyed not only our depot," but also 904 shipments "from online stores with clothes, appliances, children's toys, goodies for pets, medicines," and parcels from relatives, Nova Poshta said.

In April, Russia "used more than 300 missiles of various types, nearly 300 [Iranian] 'Shahed' drones, and more than 3,200 guided aerial bombs against Ukraine," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on X. "Our cities and communities from the Sumy region to the Odesa region, the Dnipropetrovsk region, the Kharkiv region, the Donetsk region, Mykolaiv and Kherson are suffering from this deliberate and vile terror every day and night."

Weapons from the latest \$61 billion U.S. security assistance package can't come fast enough, Mr. Zelenskyy said during a press conference with outgoing NATO head Jens Stoltenberg, who made an unannounced visit to Kyiv on April 29.

"We need a significant speed-up of deliveries to strengthen the capabilities of our soldiers tangibly," Mr. Zelenskyy said. "It is not Russian air bombs and assault operations that should dominate the front line, but our Ukrainian initiative – our air defense, our artillery, our drones."

However, Russia's targeting of civilian areas has forced local governments to adjust and build underground schools to better shelter children.

Kharkiv has embarked on such projects and the governor of Zaporizhia Oblast, Ivan Federov, said on May 1 that five subterranean schools would be built for protection.

He said the Education Ministry gave him the green light while attributing praise to Kharkiv, located just miles away from the Russian border, for doing the same in its subway system.

Bidding for the \$12.6 million project in the Zaporizhia region will start next week, Mr. Federov said.

Three schools will be built in the regional center and another two elsewhere in the region, he added.

About 81 percent of school-aged children who live in front-line areas study online, a Vox Populi poll found in February.

More than 3,500 educational institutions have been damaged or destroyed since Russia's all-out invasion of February 2022, Deputy Education Minister Yevhen Kudriavets said in February.

That tally accounts for one-seventh of all Ukrainian educational institutions hit by Russian aerial attacks, including drones.

Attacks on purely non-military, civilian targets is considered a war crime, according to the United Nations' Geneva Conventions.



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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

mony came after two people were killed and six wounded in a Russian strike on Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, regional head Oleh Synyehubov said on Telegram as an air-raid alert was announced for most of the country. Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov said separately that two infrastructure targets were hit during the strike. The air-raid alert was declared for the regions of Rivne, Zhytomyr, Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Cherkasy, Kirovohrad, Poltava, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia, and Donetsk. A day earlier a Russian missile attack in the Ukrainian port of Odesa killed at least five people and wounded several others, including Serhiy

Kivalov, a former lawmaker for the pro-Russian Party of Regions, who founded a law school in the Gothic-style building that was struck. Mr. Kivalov lives at the site, where he runs the Odesa Law Academy. Hours before the strike Mr. Zelenskyy called on the West to speed up deliveries of desperately needed weapons for depleted and outgunned Ukrainian troops. Mr. Zelenskyy made his comments in Kyiv at a joint news conference with visiting NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg. He said that small quantities of weapons and ammunition had begun arriving in Ukraine, but he urged that the deliveries gain momentum faster in order to be useful. "Timely support for our army. Today I don't see anything positive on this point yet. There are supplies, they have slowly begun, but this process needs to be sped up," he said. "Promptness

in supply literally means a stabilization of the front line. ... Together we must disrupt the Russian offensive." An influx of weapons is expected to flow after U.S. President Joe Biden signed a long-delayed \$61 billion military aid package last week. Mr. Biden said the package would include air defense munitions to help Ukraine protect its cities and infrastructure, artillery shells and long-range missile systems. Mr. Stoltenberg, visiting the Ukrainian capital for the third time since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022, acknowledged "serious delays in support have meant serious consequences on the battlefield." "For months,

the U.S. was unable to agree on a package and European allies have been unable to deliver ammunition at the scale we promised," he added. "Ukraine has been outgunned for months and forced to ration its ammunition. ... More support is on the way." (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

### U.S. announces \$6 billion aid package

The United States will provide Ukraine with Patriot missiles for its air-defense systems as part of a massive \$6 billion additional aid package, U.S. Defense Secretary

(Continued on page 11)

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The United States will provide Ukraine with Patriot missiles for its air-defense systems as part of a massive \$6 billion additional aid package, U.S. Defense Secretary

(Continued on page 11)



**The Ukrainian Sports Federation  
of the US and Canada (USCAK)**  
regrets to inform that former  
President of USCAK

### Ireney Isajiw

passed away on April 18, 2024.

We express our deepest condolences to wife Oksana and children Larissa, Tamara and Roman with their families.

**May his memory be eternal. Вічна Йому пам'ять!**

**Board of Directors and members of USCAK**



Ділимося сумною вісткою,  
що 16 березня 2024 року,  
проживши 87 років, відійшов у вічність



### д-р Олександр Якубович

довголітній член Пласти, куреня „Лісові Чорти”.

Параастас відбувся 22 березня 2024 року в похоронному заведенні Kolodiy-Lazuta Funeral Home в Пармі, Огайо.

Похоронні відправи відбулися у суботу, 23 березня, в Українській католицькій церкві Покрова Пресвятої Богородиці в Пармі, а відтак, в понеділок 25 березня, на українському кладовищі св. Андрія в South Bound Brook, NJ.

У глибокому смутку залишилися:

дружина	- Дарія (з дому Голубець)
сини	- Марко (Дарія) з дітьми Романом і Андрієм
	- Роман (Андрея)
	- д-р Олександр (д-р Марта) з дітьми Меланією і Миколою

брат дружини - д-р Зенон Голубець (Мирослава) з дітьми:  
сином Левом (Галина) і внуками Орестою і Русланом;  
сином Орестом (Наталія) і внуками Юліяном, Стефаном і Олександром;  
донькою д-р Олександрою Ниршл (д-р Давид) і внуками Анею і Катєю

дальша родина Якубовичів і Голубців, Тарасюків і Пелихів

**Вічна Йому пам'ять!**

Для вшанування пам'яті покійного, на прохання родини, замість квітів на могилу, пожертви були зложені на пластову оселю „Писаний Камінь” та на Український Католицький Університет.

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## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 10)

Lloyd Austin said on April 26 after a meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group. The missiles will be used to replenish previously supplied Patriot air-defense systems, Mr. Austin said in the announcement, which came after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on the countries in the contact group to provide additional defense systems to create an air shield against further Russian missile attacks. In addition to Patriot missiles, the \$6 billion package includes more munitions for National Advanced Surface-to-Air

Missile Systems (NASAMS) and additional equipment to integrate Western air-defense launchers, missiles and radars into Ukraine's existing weaponry. Mr. Zelenskyy raised Ukraine's need for U.S.-made Patriot air-defense systems earlier on April 26 during a virtual meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact Group, also known as the Ramstein Format. Mr. Austin said in his opening comments to the meeting that everyone in the contact group shares Mr. Zelenskyy's sense of urgency, and he announced \$1 billion worth of assistance to Ukraine, including HIMARS, 155-millimeter ammunition, air-defense interceptors and armored vehicles. Mr. Zelenskyy told the group earlier that Ukraine urgently needs

to build its air defense to save lives. Mr. Zelenskyy said this year alone Russian jets have already used more than 9,000 guided aerial bombs against Ukraine, "and we need the ability to shoot down the air combat aircraft so that they do not approach our positions and borders." At least seven Patriot systems are needed to protect Ukrainian cities, he added. At a Pentagon press conference following the meeting, Mr. Austin said the United States was working with allies to locate additional Patriot systems but did not commit to sending more U.S. versions. He said he has been speaking

one-on-one with a number of his European counterparts in recent days about this issue. "It's not just Patriots that they need. They need other types of systems and interceptors as well," Mr. Austin said. "I would caution us all in terms of making Patriot the silver bullet," he said. The contact group meeting comes just days after U.S. President Joe Biden signed a long-delayed \$61 billion military aid package for Ukraine. The United States has already announced that \$1 billion in artillery, air

(Continued on page 12)



**The Corporate Board of Directors  
of the  
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**  
regrets to announce to the members of  
the General Assembly, to members of  
UNA Branch 277 and to the  
UNA membership-at-large, that

**Myron Kuzio**

(September 5, 1925 – April 21, 2024)



Secretary of UNA Branch 277, Hartford, CT  
passed away on April 21, 2024

Mr. Kuzio was a proud UNA Branch Secretary for 24 years.

Mr. Kuzio was a very active and long-time supporter  
of the UNA. His dedication to the Ukrainian National  
Association will not be forgotten.

The Corporate Board of Directors and the entire  
UNA membership wish to express their  
deepest sympathy to family and friends.

**Вічна Йому пам'ять!**

It is with deep sorrow we share  
that on April 10, 2024, our beloved  
wife, mother, mother-in-law,  
aunt and grandmother



**Zoreslava Gallo**  
(née Bernadyn)

peacefully passed into eternity.

Born on March 21, 1942, in Lviv, Ukraine, Zirka was the daughter of the late Dr. Jaroslaw and Stephania (née Olinsky) Bernadyn. Escaping the horrors of WWII, as the Russian army advanced to Ukraine, she and her family fled to the west. First, they found refuge in Germany, where her father headed a Displaced Persons camp. Then, in 1949, the family emigrated to the United States, briefly living in Baltimore, MD before settling in Philadelphia, PA. Zirka attended Immaculate Conception Grade School and John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School; she was active in Plast and studied piano at the Ukrainian Music Institute.

While attending Temple University, she met the love of her life, Ken Gallo. After graduating with a BA in History, and teaching second grade, Zirka and Ken were married in July 1965. They moved to Brookfield, CT in 1969, where they raised their daughter Tamara, and lived for over 40 years.

Zirka went on to complete two master's degree programs, graduating from Western Connecticut State University and Fairfield University, before returning to her true calling – teaching history, which she did at Bethel High School in Bethel, CT.

Zirka was an avid reader, loved the arts and volunteered her time in various organizations including the Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 113 and the Junior Service League of Danbury, CT.

She leaves behind her husband of over 58 years and best friend – R. Kenneth Gallo; her beloved daughter Tamara with husband Mark Oleky, and her loving grandchildren, Pavlo, Mia and Damian Oleky. Left in grief are her sisters-in-law Judy and Louise, many nieces and nephews, along with her cousin Julie Menezes with family and extended family in Baltimore and Ukraine.

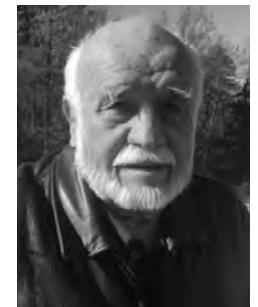
In Zirka's memory, donations may be made to: UCCA for their #SupportUkraine Fund - Ukrainian Congress Committee of America - 203 Second Avenue - New York, NY 10003



With deep sorrow we announce that

**Ireney Isajiw**

peacefully passed away in his sleep on April 18, 2024.



He was born in Lviv, Ukraine on September 3, 1937. He was the son of Peter and Jaroslawa (née Konrad) Isajiw. During World War II, his family fled Lviv and followed escape routes through Eastern and Central Europe until they found refuge in a displaced persons camp and lived near Aufkirch, Germany. Irko, along with his parents and 3 siblings, Olya, Bakho and Yurko, immigrated to the United States in 1949 and settled in Philadelphia.

Ireney attended Northeast Catholic High School, graduating in 1955. He attended and graduated from LaSalle College, receiving a B.A. in 1959. Afterwards, he completed an M.A. at Villanova University. Ireney was a very enthusiastic and dedicated member of the Ukrainian Scouting Organization, Plast. During his many years of commitment to this organization and its principles, Ireney forged long-lasting friendships, many of them with fellow members of the kurin Lisovi Chorty. He enjoyed expeditions and adventures which were the basis of a nearly endless catalog of stories that he frequently shared. His involvement included an array of leadership positions at Plast camps and leadership training programs.

Ireney also enjoyed playing various sports with his brothers and friends in parks and fields throughout Philadelphia. It was at one of these sports facilities – a tennis court in Hunting Park, where he met Oksana Subtelny, who eventually became his wife of nearly 58 years. They married July 9th, 1966 and subsequently had three children - Larissa, Tamara and Roman.

Ireney pursued an extraordinarily long career as a professional educator. In this capacity, he was a memorable presence in Philadelphia's Ukrainian community as a teacher in Ridna Shkola (one of the predecessor programs to the Ukrainian Heritage School, now a program of the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center in Jenkintown). He held positions as both a teacher and an administrator at a variety of schools in the Philadelphia area, as well as New Jersey. His educational career eventually prompted a move to Newton, NJ in the late months of 1976, where he and Oksana raised their children and lived until his passing. Ireney was also a sports enthusiast who was active as an organizer and promoter of sports and athletics in the Ukrainian community, committing his time to USCAK, the Ukrainian Sports Federation of US and Canada. He also spent many Sundays and Monday nights honing his craft as an analyst of American football, generously sharing his commentary with family members.

Ireney will be mourned and missed by his wife, Oksana, his children Larissa with husband, Peter Kebuz, Tamara with husband William Davis and Roman with wife Bridget (née Mathieson). His grandchildren, Luke and Ariana Isayiw, along with Adrian and Alexander Kebuz, will miss his colorful tales and off-beat jokes. Ireney was predeceased by his brother, Dr. Wsevolod Isajiw and his brother-in-law, Dr. Orest Subtelny. His passing is deeply mourned by his sister, Olha Hayduk and his brother, Dr. George Isajiw with wife Patricia. He leaves behind many nieces and nephews, as well as cousins, throughout the US and Canada, as well as extended family in Lviv, Ukraine.

The viewing was held on Friday, April 26th, 6-8pm at Fletcher-Nasevich Funeral Home in Philadelphia. Additional visitation took place on Saturday, April 27th, at 9am at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Melrose Park followed by Requiem Liturgy at 10am, followed by burial at St. Mary's Cemetery in Elkins Park.

**May His memory be eternal. Вічна Йому пам'ять!**

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to:

- Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization  
700 North Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046
- Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center  
700 North Cedar Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046
- Ukrainian American Sport Center – Tryzub  
PO Box 346, Lower State and County Line Roads, Horsham, PA 19044

Ireney's family values the organizations listed above. The family understands that there are many Ukrainian organizations and causes that nobly serve Ukraine and the greater Ukrainian community. Please consider any of them when contemplating donations.

## Chicago's...

(Continued from page 4)

these community organizations, and the credit union under the leadership of president CEO/President Vitaliy Kutnyy worked tirelessly, helping eligible community groups with their PPP [Paycheck Protection Program] applications."

To date, the Foundation has distributed over \$7.7 million to Ukrainian diaspora organizations.

The Foundation is funded by the SFCU from its profits; as a not-for-profit organization, the Credit Union supports the institutions that are important to its members: churches, youth groups, cultural and community organizations. In the past two years, the Foundation distributed \$1.7 million, including sizeable donations to churches and other community institutions to help them weather the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following the beginning of Russia's war in Ukraine, the Selfreliance Foundation created the Ukraine Relief Fund, accepting donations from individuals and organizations. Ukraine Relief Fund donations to date have exceeded \$800,000, and donated funds were distributed to non-government organizations providing humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

The Selfreliance Association, which was the "founding organization" of the credit union in 1951 and was reconstituted in 2019, grew in 2022 from one volunteer to a staff of nearly 30 employees working in five



Courtesy of the SFCU Press Office

Members of the Selfreliance Federal Credit Union delegation gathered at the National Credit Union Foundation's Herb Wegner Award ceremony on March 4 in Washington, D.C.

locations, assisting individuals and families, and helping refugees from the war in Ukraine settle in the Ukrainian American community.

In his award acceptance speech, Mr. Wojtychiw said the SFCU jumped into action after Russia launched its full-scale war on Ukraine in February 2022.

"History repeated itself," Mr. Wojtychiw said. "Approximately 7-8 million people had to run from their homeland of Ukraine due to [Russia's war on Ukraine]. By the grace of the U.S. government, tens of thousands of refugees started arriving in the United

States. The Selfreliance Association in Chicago, under the leadership of Walter Tun and Roman Yatskovskyy, activated the community, and I am proud to say that about 15,000 refugees received essential resources, support and assistance to help them integrate into their new communities at no cost to any refugee. The Selfreliance Foundation has financially supported the Association, and Selfreliance Federal Credit Union has accommodated the refugees by providing special financial programs for them."

With that commitment to help has also come growth. Some 15,000 new members

have joined the organization in the past two years, Mr. Kutnyy said.

The increase in membership, not surprisingly, put a strain on the credit union's operations. The SFCU increased staff, introduced a new core operating system, and found innovative ways to provide member services. The credit union made it easier for its members to support their relatives in Ukraine and provide humanitarian aid in Ukraine.

More information on the Herb Wegner Award and the achievements of the SFCU is available on the organization's website at [www.selfreliance.com](http://www.selfreliance.com).

## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 11)

defenses and other hardware would soon be heading to the battlefield. Mr. Austin said that since the Ukraine Defense Contact Group was founded two years ago members have provided Ukraine with more than 70 medium- and long-range air-defense systems and thousands of missiles. The group also sent more than 3,000 armored vehicles, including more than 800 main battle tanks, Mr. Austin said. Despite all of the aid delivered, Mr. Zelenskyy said Russia "managed to seize the initiative on the battlefield" in the six months it took for Congress to pass the large U.S. aid package. But he said it is not too late to stabilize the front and "move toward achieving our

Ukrainian goals in the war." The flow of weaponry could improve Kyiv's chances of averting a major Russian breakthrough in the east, military analysts say. But it is unclear how much pressure Kyiv can apply after months of rationing artillery as its stocks ran low. Kyiv also faces a shortage of troops on the battlefield. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service, with reporting by Reuters and AP)

### Russia captured a village in Donetsk

The Russian Defense Ministry said on April 29 that it has captured a village in Ukraine's eastern region of Donetsk and is advancing westwards as depleted and outgunned Ukrainian forces retreat. "Units of the Center Group of Forces liberated the village of [Semenivka] in ... Donetsk," the ministry said on Telegram. Ukraine has not

commented on the claim, which could not be independently verified. Semenivka is located close to Avdiyivka, which fell to Russian forces in February. Ukraine's top military commander, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy, warned on April 28 that the situation in the east has deteriorated with Russia attacking "along the entire front line." (RFE/RL)

### Pereyaslav Agreement monument dismantled

Kyiv authorities on April 30 started dismantling a monument honoring the Pereyaslav Agreement signed in 1654 at talks organized for the Ukrainian Cossack state's ceremonial pledge of allegiance to the Russian tsar. The monument is located under the so-called Arch of the Ukrainian People (formerly the Arch of Peoples' Friendship). The monument to the Pereyaslav Agreement is the second Soviet-era monument to be dismantled and removed from under the arch. Kyiv officials took down the first one - a monument symbolizing the reunification of Ukraine and Russia - in April 2022, two months after Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

### Russian arrested for killing 2 Ukrainians

Police in Germany said on April 28 that they had arrested a 57-year-old Russian man on suspicion of stabbing two Ukrainian soldiers to death in a shopping center in the Bavarian city of Murnau a day earlier. The soldiers were said to be on rehabilitation in Germany when the incident took place. It is not clear if the alleged attacker and the victims knew each other. The two Ukrainians were 23 and 36 years

## As Telegram's...

(Continued from page 3)

"opaque" and its use by state and local authorities, as well as financial institutions that process personal data, would be prohibited. An exception would be made for the security and defense forces, which would be able to keep using Telegram with the government's permission.

"Not only our society, but also our state institutions and large businesses use a platform that is closely tied to Russia. We need to stop it," Mr. Knyazhyskiy said.

The proposed measures are not the first attempt to cut Ukraine out of the Russian information space. In 2017, President Petro Poroshenko introduced restrictions on the Russian social networks Odnoklassniki and VKontakte, as well as the Yandex search engine and the Mail.ru e-mail service.

To completely block Telegram in Ukraine, Apple and Google would need to remove it from their stores in Ukraine, analyst Mr. Aushev says.

In March, the Ukrainian authorities sent Telegram a list of over 300 "potentially problematic" channels that was compiled by the special services, according to Ukrainian Forbes. Telegram representative

Remi Vaughn said the company would check if they comply with the app's rules.

On April 24, Mr. Durov said that due to a request from Apple - something he bemoaned in the interview with Mr. Carlson - Telegram would restrict access to some war-related channels for users in Ukraine to keep the app in Apple's store.

"If it were solely up to us, we would always provide our users with what they ask for - uncensored access to information and opinions to make their own decisions," he said. "However, it's not always up to us."

A short time later, several chatbots used by Ukraine's security agencies to collect information about Russia's war effort, including about the positions of Russian forces, were temporarily blocked, which sparked angry reactions in Ukraine.

Lawmaker Yaroslav Yurchyshyn, chairman of the Freedom of Speech Committee, attributed the shutdown to "Russian pressure."

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The Ukrainian people were forced to struggle for more than four decades after the end of World War II for their liberation. We remember and honor their sacrifices and their bravery."

The UCC statement said that Ukraine continues to fight for its independence and

old and lived in the southern German region of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. Their names were not released, in line with German law. (RFE/RL)

### Telegram blocked Ukrainian intelligence bots

The Ukrainian Defense Ministry's Main Intelligence Directorate (HUR) says the Telegram messaging platform has blocked a number of official bots, including the chatbot used by Ukrainian intelligence. "Today, the management of the Telegram platform unreasonably blocked a number of official bots that opposed Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, including the 'Main Intelligence Bot,'" HUR announced on Telegram early on April 29, adding that the move contradicted "rules and public statements" made by Telegram's management. "Despite the blocking of our bot, your personal data is safe," HUR said. There was no immediate reaction from Telegram. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

### Bodies of 140 soldiers returned to Ukraine

The bodies of 140 Ukrainian servicemen killed in action have been returned to Ukraine, the Kyiv-based Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War announced in a statement on April 26. They consist of 120 soldiers who were killed in the Donetsk region, with the remainder falling on battlefields in the Luhansk, Sumy, Zaporizhia and Kherson regions," the statement said. The International Committee of the Red Cross assisted in the return of the bodies, it added. On April 12, the bodies of 99 Ukrainian soldiers were returned to Kyiv, while Russia received 23 bodies. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

## Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

freedom from Moscow's subjugation. Ukraine's sons and daughters bravely take up arms in defense of their homeland today, and "with God's help they will be victorious," the UCC said.

*Sources: "Remembrance and Reconciliation Day observed in Ukraine on May 8," and "Victory in Europe Day," (Ukrainian Canadian Congress), The Ukrainian Weekly, May 12, 2019.*

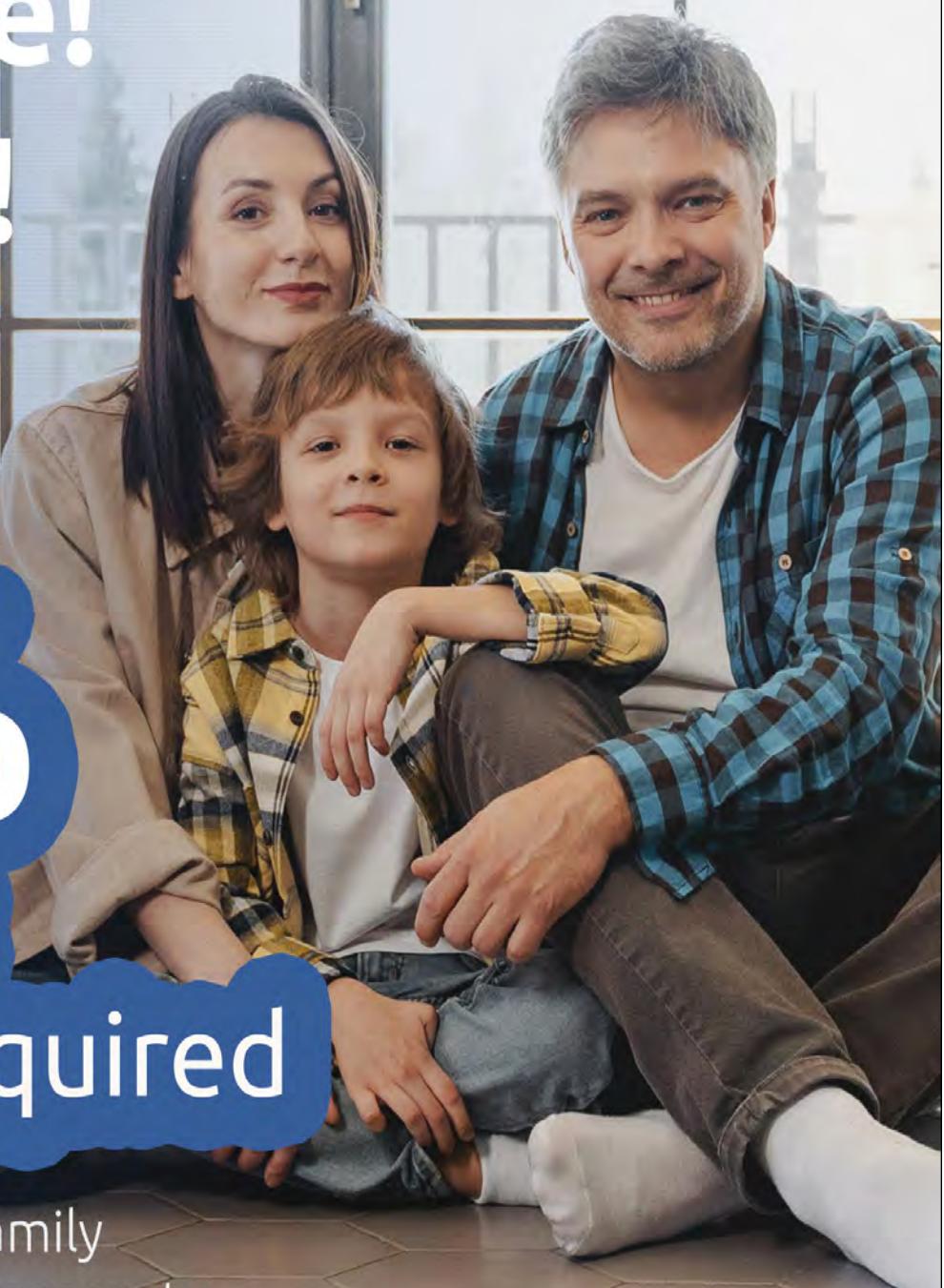


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## Ukrainian pro sports update

by Ihor N. Stelmach

# Ukraine wins 68 medals at 2024 Para Swimming European Championships

Ukrainian Para swimmers captured the most medals at the Madeira 2024 Para Swimming European Open Championships held on Madeira Island, Portugal, on April 21-27. The team won 68 medals, including 21 gold, 26 silver and 21 bronze medals. Italy topped the standings with 26 gold medals (63 total medals).

Additionally, Ukrainian Andrii Trusov set two new world records in men's 100-meter backstroke S7 (also a new European record) with his time of 1:07.60 seconds and in men's 100-meter freestyle S7 with a time of 59.62 seconds. Teammate Dmytro Vanzenko set a new European record in the individual medley SM14 with a time of 2:07.98 seconds.

Multi-gold medalists for Ukraine were Trusov (five), Oleksandr Komarov (three), while Anna Stetsenko and Iryna Poida each won two gold medals.

Trusov finished the competition with seven medals and Danylo Chufarov, Komarov and Poida each won four individual medals. In addition to their four individual medals, Komarov and Poida won team medals in two mixed relay events.

Four-hundred-twenty-five Para swimmers from 35 European countries and 15 open nations competed in Madeira. Team Ukraine consisted of 45 Para athletes.

### Kovtun sets the bar at European Artistic Gymnastics Championships

The 36th European Men's Artistic Gymnastics Championships were held in Rimini, Italy, on April 24-28 with 125 athletes from 35 countries competing. Ukraine's senior and junior gymnasts earned a total of six medals, finishing the competition in second place overall behind Great Britain's eight medals.

Illia Kovtun led the way for Ukraine, winning gold medals in the parallel bars and the horizontal bar. He was also a member of the Ukrainian foursome that won the team event. Oleh Verniaiev added a silver medal in the all-around event, junior gymnast Sviatoslav Shved won silver in the parallel bars and Nazar Chepurnyi captured bronze in the vault competition. Ihor Radivilov and Radomyr Stelmakh joined Kovtun and Chepurnyi on Ukraine's gold medal-winning team.

Ukraine's team title was sealed by Kovtun's 14.4000 on the parallel bars, giving Ukraine 255.762 points, barely squeezing past Great Britain's 255.429 points. With the win, Ukraine regained the team title they last won in Mersin in 2020.

In the individual parallel bars competition, Kovtun put on a flawless display while

completing a routine with a 6.9 difficulty score. He then narrowly edged Lithuanian Robert Tvorogal on the horizontal bar, grabbing two European titles in less than an hour.

### Halai dedicates ascent to Ukraine's female soldiers

Ukrainian Iryna Halai successfully climbed the 26,545-foot Mount Annapurna (8,091 meters) in north-central Nepal on April 12 with her Nepalese guide Mingma. Halai was the first Ukrainian woman to conquer Mount Everest on May 20, 2016. She was not at all intimidated by Annapurna's 22 percent fatality rate over all years of climbers' ascents. Annapurna is considered to be one of the most dangerous 8,000-meter-tall mountains in the world.

There are 14 mountains recognized by the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation as being more than 8,000 meters (26,247 feet) in height above sea level and sufficiently independent of neighboring peaks. All are located in the Himalayan and Karakoram mountain ranges in Asia.

This was Halai's first mountain climbing expedition since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. She dedicated her ascent to the Armed Forces of Ukraine and to the 60,000 Ukrainian women serving in the military. The 35-year-old native of Mukachevo in the Zakarpattia region of Ukraine spent the first several months of the war enlisted in the Mukachevo Territorial Defense Forces.

While serving in the territorial defense forces, she got to know the Ukrainian volunteer project "Arm Women Now" and began collaborating with the organization by creating the first female uniform for Ukraine's Armed Forces. Halai auctioned off her pink ice axe with rhinestones and donated the proceeds of \$5,100 from the sale to the volunteer project.

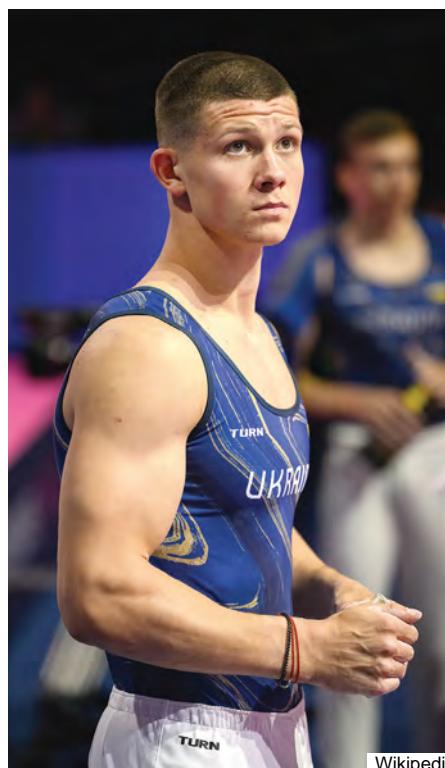
Halai dedicated her ascent of Annapurna to women serving in the Ukrainian Armed Forces, calling them her heroes. "Their courage, beauty, boldness and character" are enchanting, she said, adding that they are "incredible." She also dedicated her climb to Ukraine, a country "currently fighting for its existence."

Using a satellite communication device from base camp before the final stage of her ascent of Annapurna, Halai spoke about a flag she had with her with the Arm Women Now organization logo. She took the flag because Annapurna is what some call a feminine mountain that is also called complex and serious. It is considered to be among the most dangerous mountains in the world. Halai said "it has a character similar to that of Ukrainian military women. They never allow unnecessary people to be near them. They are difficult to subdue and they destroy everyone who approaches them with bad intentions."

### Mykhailo Fomenko dead at 75

Former Dynamo Kyiv and Ukraine national team coach Mykhailo Fomenko passed away at the age of 75, the Ukrainian club said on April 29. Fomenko played with Dynamo Kyiv during the Soviet era and later went on to coach Ukraine at the European Championship. No cause of death was disclosed.

Fomenko was a valuable defender on a Dynamo squad that won the Soviet Union's League title on three occasions and UEFA's 1975 Cup Winners' Cup in Europe. His team defeated Bayern Munich in the UEFA Super



Wikipedia

**Gymnast Illia Kovtun prepares for the parallel bars at the 2022 European Championships in Munich, Germany.**

Cup that same year. Fomenko was also part of the Soviet teams that reached the final of the 1972 European Championship and won a bronze medal at the 1976 Olympics.

During his coaching time with the national team, Fomenko helped Ukraine qualify for Euro 2016 in France. The team lost all three group games in the tournament.

Following Ukraine's split from the Soviet Union, Fomenko coached Dynamo Kyiv to its first Ukrainian League title in the 1992-1993 season.

### Driver Mykhailo Svirgun killed in war

Ukrainian Trophy-Raid Championship driver Mykhailo Svirgun died defending his homeland. Before the Russian invasion in 2022, Svirgun competed as a co-driver during the late 2010s. The Kharkiv, Ukraine, native was a member of the local Bilka off-road team, working alongside drivers such as fellow Kharkiv resident Serhiy Tarasov.

Svirgun and Tarasov raced a Toyota Land Cruiser or a UAZ-469 in the TR2 class. The duo won the 2019 Polissya Trophy, that season's second race in Kyiv.

Svirgun was one of Bilka's more personable and popular faces in the off-road and Jeep community. He left behind a wife and two children.

He joined 2014 Trophy-Raid TR1 Champion Andriy Gusev, TR1 competitor Volodymyr Giba and kart racers Volodymyr Chernysh, Kyrylo Demidov and Mykhailo Kravchenko as members of the Ukrainian motorsport community who have died fighting for their homeland.

### Ukraine wins 49 medals at European Junior Ju-Jitsu Championships

Ukraine finished first with 49 total medals (17 gold, 14 silver and 18 bronze) at the 2024 Ju-Jitsu European Championships on April 4-7 in Pitesti, Romania. The competition for the age groups of U-16 (cadet), U-18 (junior) and U-21 (youth) attracted 1,133 athletes from 28 federations. Ukraine's 17 gold medals were second best, one behind Greece.

Ukrainian women fighters brought home 21 total medals, while the men captured 28 medals. The women won nine gold, five silver and seven bronze, with the men earning

eight gold, nine silver and 11 bronze.

Ukrainian cadets won 21 medals (six gold), juniors captured 18 medals (seven gold) and the youth contingent won 10 medals including four golds.

### Ukrainian juniors a force at European Taekwondo Championships

The International Taekwon-Do Federation's (ITF) European Taekwondo Championships were held in Lublin, Poland, on April 17-21. The competitions included the 38th European Taekwondo Championships, the 29th European Junior Championships and the inaugural European Pre-Junior Championships. Eight-hundred-thirty-nine athletes from 33 European countries competed in Lublin. The senior category saw 383 competitors, while over 300 juniors aged 15-17 battled for medals, and some 142 pre-juniors aged 12-14 made their debut at the event.

Ukraine finished with 14 medals (seven gold, four silver, three bronze) in the junior championships, placing them second behind Poland in gold and total medals. In the pre-junior division, Ukraine dominated with 23 total medals including nine gold, leading all countries in those categories. Ukraine's impressive showings in juniors and pre-juniors ranked it tops among all European countries in Lublin.

### Kostyuk reaches final in Stuttgart

World No. 27 Marta Kostyuk continued her outstanding play at the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in Stuttgart, Germany, on April 15-21, reaching her second final in the last three Women's Tennis Association (WTA) tournaments in which she has played. In the final, Kostyuk lost to Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan in straight sets, 6-2, 6-2, in a quick 1:09 minutes, ending the Ukrainian's impressive run at the tournament.

Before the final, the 21-year-old secured three consecutive victories over top-10 players. She defeated No. 8 Marketa Vondrousova, saved four match points against No. 7 Zheng Qinwen of China and turned around a 3-6, 2-4 deficit against No. 3 Coco Gauff of the United States.

Since the beginning of the year, Kostyuk made it evident that this would be her breakthrough season. She reached the top 50 for the first time in 2021 and has since ranked consistently between No. 30 and 40. She started 2024 by reaching the quarterfinals of the Australian Open, marking the first time in her career that she reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal.

She reached the final of the San Diego Open and made it to the semifinal of the tournament in Indian Wells, Calif. In Stuttgart, she played in the third final of her career, the first on clay.

Rybakina broke Kostyuk twice in the first set and twice more in the second, fighting off three break points to win her eighth career title. Her powerful groundstrokes allowed her to dominate the rallies against her opponent. Kostyuk admitted that fatigue from the week took its toll in her defeat against Rybakina. She won only 50 percent of her service points and only 31 percent of her return points.

### Ukraine well represented at 2024 Euro Championships

Along with world football powers Italy, Spain and France, Ukraine joins Denmark as one of five countries that will compete in

(Continued on page 15)



Venezuelan Kevin Kelsy, formerly of Shakhtar Donetsk, is on loan to FC Cincinnati of Major League Soccer until the end of 2024.

# OUT & ABOUT

Through May 9 Charlotte, NC	Film screening, "Veselka: The Rainbow on the Corner at the Center of the World," Independent Picture House, <a href="https://independentpicturehouse.org">https://independentpicturehouse.org</a>	May 11 Jenkintown, PA	Perelaz fundraiser, Ukrainian Catholic University Foundation, St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church, 415-314-1845 or <a href="mailto:lhaluha@ucufoundation.org">lhaluha@ucufoundation.org</a>
May 9 New York Library),	Panel presentation, "Stand with Ukraine Through Poetry: 'In the Hour of War,'" with Ilya Kaminsky, Yuliya Musakovska and Olena Jennings, Razom for Ukraine, New York Public Library (Stavros Niarchos Foundation <a href="http://www.razomforukraine.org">www.razomforukraine.org</a> )	May 11 Jenkintown, PA	Mother's Day flower sale fundraiser, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Ukrainian American Cultural Center, <a href="https://go.rallyup.com/phillyflowers">https://go.rallyup.com/phillyflowers</a> or 267-415-6580
May 9 New York	Book presentation by Yaroslav Trofimov, "Our Enemies Will Vanish: The Russian Invasion and Ukraine's War of Independence," with Emma Mateo, Ukrainian Institute of America, <a href="http://www.ukrainianinstitute.org">www.ukrainianinstitute.org</a>	May 11 New York	Film screening, "Porcelain War" by Brendan Bellomo and Slava Leontyev, Margaret Mead Film Festival, American Museum of Natural History, LeFrak Theater, <a href="http://www.amnh.org">www.amnh.org</a>
May 10 Toronto	Film screening, "Veselka: The Rainbow on the Corner at the Center of the World," Hot Docs Ted Rogers Cinema, <a href="https://hotdocs.ca/whats-on/veselka">https://hotdocs.ca/whats-on/veselka</a>	May 11 through June 29 Chicago	Exhibit, "Secret Ingredients," featuring works by Bryan Northrup and Ginny Krueger, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, <a href="http://www.uima-chicago.org">www.uima-chicago.org</a>
May 10 Chicago	Book presentation by Volodymyr Mula, "Stolen Art," Ukrainian National Museum, <a href="http://www.ukrainiannationalmuseum.org">www.ukrainiannationalmuseum.org</a>	May 12 Chicago	Young Ukrainian Talent Concert, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, <a href="http://www.uima-chicago.org">www.uima-chicago.org</a>
		May 12 New York	Vocal workshop, "Vocal Polyphony from Chernihiv with Jurij Josyfowych," Ukrainian Village Voices, Playwrights Downtown, <a href="http://www.ukrainianvillagevoices.com">www.ukrainianvillagevoices.com</a> or <a href="https://uvvworkshop.eventbrite.com">https://uvvworkshop.eventbrite.com</a>
		May 17 New York	35th season finale concert, with violist Danny Kim, cellist Jonah Ellsworth and cellist Heng-Jin Park, Ukrainian Institute of America, <a href="http://www.ukrainianinstitute.org">www.ukrainianinstitute.org</a>
		May 19 Jenkintown, PA	Spring concert, Voloshky School of Dance, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, <a href="http://www.voloshkyschool.com">www.voloshkyschool.com</a>
		May 19 Jenkintown, PA	Benefit banquet, celebrating the 50th anniversary of St. Sophia Religious Association of Ukrainian Catholics, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, <a href="http://www.ueccphila.org">www.ueccphila.org</a>
		May 20 Stanford, CA	Presentation by Andriy Kohut, "Archives at War: The SBU Archives During the Russo-Ukrainian War," Stanford University, <a href="https://creees.stanford.edu">https://creees.stanford.edu</a>
		May 29 Stanford, CA	Presentation by Ambassador Kristjan Prikk and Michael McFaul, "Russia's War in Ukraine and its Implication on European Security: Why Should America Care?" Stanford University, <a href="https://creees.stanford.edu">https://creees.stanford.edu</a>

## Ukrainian pro...

(Continued from page 14)

three European championships from May to July. Ukrainian national football teams will play in Euro 2024 as well as in the U-19 and U-17 age categories, making it a leader in terms of representation at the European Championships.

Euro 2024 kicks off on June 14 and will run through July 14 in Germany. The U-19 Euro Championship takes place from July 15 through July 28 in Northern Ireland and the U-17 championship will be held from May 20 through June 5 in Cyprus.

### Kovtun's unparalleled gold medal run ends

Illia Kovtun's World Cup Series winning streak on parallel bars came to an end during a World Cup event held on April 17-20 in Doha, Qatar. The Ukrainian gymnast had won gold on parallel bars at World Cup events in Cairo, Egypt; Cottbus, Germany; and Baku, Azerbaijan. The parallel bars World Cup champion based on his three Cup Series victories in 2024 competed in Osijek, Croatia, at the World Challenge Cup event on April 4-7 where he won gold in the floor exercise and a silver medal in the parallel bars. Kovtun is one member of Ukraine's men's gymnastics team that qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

### FC Cincinnati acquire Shakhtar's Kelsy

Reigning Major League Soccer (MLS) regular season top club FC Cincinnati has acquired Shakhtar Donetsk teenage star Kevin Kelsy in a transfer. The 19-year-old and the MLS club agreed to terms on April 20. It was not known if the transaction was a loan or a full transfer.

The Venezuelan international scored nine goals in 37 matches for the Ukrainian club over two seasons. He has been called the future of his national team and has been touted as a potential breakout player for Venezuela at this summer's Copa America.

Shakhtar signed Kelsy from Boston River on January 31, 2023, negotiating a contract through December 2027. He scored the decisive goal on a penalty shoot-out in a Europa League playoff second-leg match against Rennes that advanced Shakhtar into the round of 16.

### Ukraine's U-19 team draws Northern Ireland, Italy and Norway

The draw for the 2024 European U-19 Championship was held on April 17 in Belfast, Ireland, with Ukraine being placed

in Group A. Their opponents will be Northern Ireland, Italy and Norway. The two top teams from both groups will advance to the semifinal round with the final set for July 28.

Since the event is also a qualifier for the 2025 FIFA U-20 World Cup in Chile and Europe is delegated five representatives to the 2025 World Cup, the winner of the match between the two third-place teams will gain entry to the tournament along with the four semifinalists.

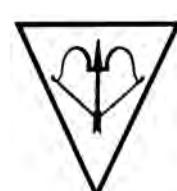
Group play begins on July 15 with matches scheduled to be played in Belfast and Larne.

Ukraine's U-19 national football team went undefeated during qualification with victories over Switzerland (3-0), Latvia (3-0) and North Macedonia (2-0).

(Based on reporting by World Para Swimming, European Gymnastics, Ukrainska Pravda, AP Sports, The Checkered Flag tennisupdate, Yahoo sports via AFP, UAF, International Gymnastics Media, Goal and UEFA.com.)

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