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Ukraine accuses Russia of firing ICBM during 'massive' attack

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service

Russia launched a massive missile attack early on November 21 on Ukraine that caused damage in at least two regions, Ukraine's air force and regional leaders reported, as the whole country was under an air-raid alert for several hours.

The Russian attack, which Kyiv said included the use of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), comes just days after reports that Ukraine used British-supplied Storm Shadow missiles and U.S.-made Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) to strike military targets deeper inside Russia following the long-sought approval by U.S. President Joe Biden.

"On the morning of November 21, 2024 ... Russian troops attacked the city of Dnipro (facilities and critical infrastructure) with missiles of various types. In particular, an intercontinental ballistic missile was launched from the Astrakhan region of the Russian Federation," the Ukrainian Air Force said in its statement on Telegram.

The Kremlin has refused to comment on the alleged firing of the ICBM, which, if proved, would be the first use of such a weapon in war. ICBMs are designed to deliver long-distance nuclear strikes.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Telegram, "Today, our crazy neighbor once again showed what he really is. And how afraid he is."

"All characteristics – speed, altitude – [point to an] intercontinental ballistic missile," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry

walked back the air force's definitive statement, saying Kyiv is still determining what type of missile struck in Dnipro.

"If it is confirmed that specifically an intercontinental ballistic missile was used, then we believe it can be said that Putin's Russia has degraded to the status of North Korea," ministry spokesman Heorhii Tykhyi said.

Military analysts, however, were cautious about labeling the missile as an ICBM, noting that such missiles can also be classified as intermediate-range missiles when their payloads are increased and ranges decreased.

French Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Christophe Lemoine said that, if confirmed, the use of an ICBM would be "extremely serious."

The Pentagon did not immediately return a request for comment.

The main target of the Russian attack was the southeastern region of Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine's most important industrial region, and its capital, the city of Dnipro.

Ukraine's air force said that besides the ICBM Russian aircraft also launched a hypersonic Kh-47M2 Kinzhal missile and seven subsonic Kh-101 cruise missiles.

Ukrainian air defenses shot down six Kh-101 missiles, the air force reported.

Dnipropetrovsk Gov. Serhiy Lysak said his region bore the brunt of the Russian attack.

"Since early in the morning, the aggressor massively attacked our region," Mr. Lysak reported on Telegram, adding that preliminary information showed that an

(Continued on page 16)

U.S. reportedly allows Ukraine to strike Russia with long-range weapons

How Far Into Russia Can Ukraine Strike With Western Weapons?

Ukraine has been asking its partners to lift restrictions on using their weapons to strike targets in Russia. If they do so, here is how far some Western weapons could reach.



RFE/RL

U.S. media have reported that President Joe Biden's administration has lifted restrictions preventing Ukraine from using American-provided weapons to strike deeper inside Russian territory.

Reports on November 17 by The New York Times, The Washington Post, AP, Reuters and others cited sources familiar with the matter.

The White House has not commented on

(Continued on page 7)

Ukrainian Radio marks centennial with tributes and gala celebration

by Roman Tymotsko

LVIV – Ukrainian Radio marked its 100th anniversary with a gala celebration on November 15 at the National Opera of Ukraine, spotlighting its enduring legacy as a voice of resilience and unity.

The event, which featured the unveiling of a commemorative postage stamp and coin alongside tributes from government officials, media leaders and cultural figures, was set against the backdrop of the ongoing full-scale war, which began more than 1,000 days ago.

For many throughout the country, Ukrainian Radio remains a steadfast source of truth and hope, connecting the nation and preserving its unique cultural identity from Russian President Vladimir Putin's attempt to conquer the nation.

On November 16, 1924, at 7 p.m. local time, the first Ukrainian radio program was



Ukrainian Radio marked its 100th anniversary with a gala celebration at the National Opera of Ukraine in Kyiv on November 15.

broadcast from Kharkiv, featuring the now-famous phrase: "Hello, hello, hello! Kharkiv speaking, Kharkiv speaking, Kharkiv speaking!"

That broadcast marked the beginning of Ukrainian radio broadcasting, and it laid the foundation for the country's radio and television industries.

Following that initial move, a radio station was established in Kyiv in 1925, and by 1927 broadcasting expanded to several regional centers across Ukraine.

In his speech at Ukrainian Radio's centennial gala, Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal expressed gratitude to all radio, television and communications workers, emphasizing that Ukrainian Radio works to ensure that trustworthy and accurate news reaches all Ukrainians, including those in the territories currently occupied

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NEWS ANALYSIS

Moscow facing ever greater problems getting troops to fight in Ukraine

by Paul Goble
Eurasia Daily Monitor

Ever since Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his full-scale war on Ukraine in February 2022, Moscow has faced serious problems in filling the ranks of his invasion force. Plans in the fall of 2022 for a partial mobilization sparked a massive emigration from the Russian Federation, forcing the Kremlin to seek other means to fill the ranks. The most prominent has been expanding soldier's eligibility to include older and less physically fit men as well as immigrants and foreigners such as North Koreans (Window on Eurasia October 11, October 12; see Eurasia Daily Monitor, September 13, October 31, 2023, August 7, October 10). The Russian government has additionally been offering increasingly larger signing bonuses to entice potential recruits (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 24). Convicts have been pardoned, and cases are being dropped against the accused if they agree to serve. For the latest and, in some ways, the most disturbing case, Russian officials are suggesting that those not yet charged or convicted in the Dagestan anti-Semitic attacks should be

allowed to serve in Ukraine as an alternative to prison (Echofm.online, November 15).

Until recently, these approaches have allowed Moscow to maintain, if not significantly increase, the number of men in its forces in Ukraine. The Kremlin's tactics, however, have also had negative consequences for unit cohesion and undermined the image of the army as former criminals return home as veterans and commit new crimes (Window on Eurasia, February 4, March 5, June 24; see Eurasia Daily Monitor, September 24; Sovsekretno.ru, November 14). These instances have led Russians to question Putin's much-ballyhooed plan to build a new Russian elite around such veterans (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, July 29).

In recent months, Moscow's problems regarding recruitment have increased as Russian combat losses in Ukraine have risen to 30,000 or more a month. This has made service there less attractive, regardless of how large the bonuses Russian officials are prepared to pay or even the pardons they are willing to offer. Russian officials are not only increasing all three of

(Continued on page 6)

Ukraine targets Russian forces in Africa's Sahel

by Andrew McGregor
Eurasia Daily Monitor

In mid-October, an investigative article by French news outlet Le Monde alleged that Ukraine has been supplying military drones to Tuareg rebels operating in northern Mali. The recipient of these drones is said to be the Tuareg separatist coalition known as CSP-DPA (Cadre Stratégique pour la Défense du Peuple de l'Azawad). The French publication describes this support as "discreet but decisive" (Le Monde, October 13). Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry rejected the article's accusations on October 14 as "false narratives of ... the aggressor state Russia," allegedly going as far as requesting the French government to prevent its publication (Kyiv Independent, October 15; Le Pays [Ouagadougou], October 20). The report also claimed, citing a source close to Ukrainian intelligence, that some Tuareg fighters have been trained in Ukraine while several Ukrainian specialists have trained rebels in the Sahel. Never known for presenting a unified stand, Mali's Tuareg remains divided between separatist, Islamist-Jihadist and pro-government militias. Calling out Ukraine for its alleged support of "international terrorist organizations," Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Maria Zakharova declared that Ukraine's support for Malian separatists was tantamount to "interference in the internal affairs of African countries" (Le Pays [Ouagadougou], October 20). As Russia's military continues to deteriorate due to its war in Ukraine, Kyiv is using a broader strategy to chip away at Russia's armed forces by targeting those beyond the war.

According to Le Monde, light quadcopter drones were used in September and October to drop explosives on Russian camps at Goundam (twice) and Léré, creating casualties before returning to base (Le

Monde, October 13). Mali's army, likely with assistance from their Russian advisors, is also engaging in drone warfare. On the night of October 5-6, Malian drones struck what was described by the army as a column of vehicles bearing "terrorists" in CSP-DPA territory. Local sources instead reported that the strike hit a convoy of civilian vehicles carrying Nigerien gold miners (Kyiv Post, October 9).

During an interview in September, CSP-DPA spokesman Mohamed Elmaouloud Ramadan emphasized the efforts of his group to establish relations with external partners, citing, in particular, a common cause between the peoples of "Azawad" (the Tuareg name for the northern half of Mali) and Ukraine against Russian mercenaries. He stated, "Ukraine sees enemies where the Wagners are, and we in Azawad are [also] facing this organization that is the cause of misfortune and destruction in many countries, in Libya, Syria, the Central African Republic, Sudan, and, of course, in Ukraine" (Contre-Poison, September 9).

Describing cooperation with Ukraine as being "in its first phase," the CSP-DPA spokesman requested arms and military training from Ukraine, placing the struggle of the Azawad separatists in the context of a wider war against Russian imperialism. Mr. Ramadan spoke of a "global fight because Russia is a threat to the entire world. ... The entire international community must get behind us and help us put an end to this Malian and Russian occupation of our territory" (Contre-Poison, September 9).

Even though Russian troops in Africa continue to be called "Wagner" in common parlance, Yevgeny Prigozhin's mercenary forces in Africa were reorganized as the "Africa Corps" after his death, coming under the direct command of the Russian Defense Ministry (see Terrorism Monitor, July 9; see

(Continued on page 11)

NEWSBRIEFS

Dutch deliver last 2 F-16 jets

The United States, Germany, and the Netherlands – three key Ukrainian allies – on November 20 provided details of additional aid to Kyiv as it battles against Russia's full-scale invasion, which passed the 1,000-day mark this week. The Dutch Defense Ministry said the Netherlands had turned over the final two of 18 promised U.S.-made F-16 fighter warplanes to a Romania training base, where Ukrainian pilots and staff are being taught to fly and maintain the jets. The Netherlands has been one of the main players in a coalition of Western partners to supply Ukraine with the sophisticated F-16s to strengthen its defenses against destructive Russian attacks on military and civilian sites. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the past hailed the delivery of the warplanes as he pressed allies to step up aid to his country's stretched military. Separately, the U.S. Defense Department announced an additional security assistance package worth \$275 million under the Presidential Drawdown Authority (PDA) program. It said the package will provide Ukraine with "additional capabilities to meet its most urgent needs, including munitions for rocket systems and artillery and anti-tank weapons." "The United States will continue to work together with some 50 allies and partners through the Ukraine Defense Contact Group and its associated capability coalitions to meet Ukraine's urgently needed battlefield requirements and defend against Russian aggression," it said. President Joe Biden is scrambling to provide Ukraine with assistance in the face of increased Russian military activity ahead of the return to the White House on January 20 of Donald Trump, who has expressed opposition to the massive aid packages of the current administration. The U.S. statement said the Biden administration has provided Ukraine with \$61.3 billion in security assistance, including \$60.7 billion since Russia launched its full-scale invasion in February 2022. The German government said it had sent a package of military aid to Ukraine, including armored vehicles, artillery and drones. Four Panzerhaubitze 2000 howitzers and seven M109 howitzers were included, along with 41,000 rounds of 155-

mm artillery shells. The German government noted that its military assistance is delivered in two different manners – through federal government funds that are used to finance deliveries of military hardware from industry and, separately, from deliveries taken out of current armed forces stocks. Berlin is the second-largest foreign supplier of military aid to Ukraine since February 2022, behind only the United States. Germany in total has provided 28 billion euros (\$29.5 billion) to Kyiv. Meanwhile, multiple media reports have said the United States has given Ukraine permission to launch long-range ATACMS cruise missiles deeper inside Russia, while unconfirmed reports on November 20 said Kyiv had fired British-made Storm Shadow missiles into Russian territory for the first time. Kyiv, Washington and London have not denied the reports but also have not officially confirmed them. Permission for such strikes had been denied in the past by Western allies amid fears of provoking a wider war. Following the ATACMS and Storm Shadow reports, Ukraine criticized Germany for refusing to provide its own long-range weapon, the Taurus cruise missile. (RFE/RL, with reporting by Reuters and dpa)

Scholz blasts soft G-20 statement on Russia

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on November 19 attacked the final declaration of the Group of 20 (G-20) summit in Rio de Janeiro for not plainly stating that Russia was responsible for the war in Ukraine. While Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy – speaking nearly 6,835 miles away in Kyiv – agreed with those sentiments, he also suggested criticism toward Berlin for not providing Taurus long-range cruise missiles to strike deeper inside Russia as it battles against the Kremlin's full-scale invasion. Mr. Scholz told the gathered leaders that Russian President Vladimir Putin has bombed Ukraine for "1,000 days in which people have had to suffer for the blind megalomania, for the intention to simply expand his country by force." "It will be insufficient if these 20 [nations] cannot find clear words on Russia's responsibility in this matter. I would have liked to have

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In Russia's war economy, the warning lights are blinking

by Mike Eckel
RFE/RL

Prices of milk, potatoes and butter are soaring in Russia. Retailers are beefing up security to prevent shoplifting. Mortgage rates are skyrocketing as the sales of new apartments plummet.

More than 1,000 days since Moscow launched its all-out invasion of Ukraine, Russia has transformed its economy, retooling it to fuel the war effort and cope with Western sanctions.

Government spending on things like tank production, missile manufacturing and military uniforms has spurred growth across the country. Extraordinarily high wages paid to volunteer soldiers – and bonuses and benefits paid to widows – have sent a flood of money into poorer regions.

On the flip side, inflation is skyrocketing. Russia's Central Bank has struggled to tame inflation, hiking the key interest rate to 21 percent in October, the highest level in over 20 years.

The warning lights, experts say, are blinking. There are fears of a rising tide of corporate bankruptcies as companies drive up wages, struggling to attract employees from a shrinking labor pool. Mortgage rates, driven up by the Central Bank, meanwhile, are scaring off homebuyers in a growing number of regions.

"The market is dead," a real estate agent who requested anonymity to avoid scrutiny from the authorities told RFE/RL's Current Time. "It's frozen right now, and nothing is happening at all."

Economic growth is "slowing down undeniably," said Laura Solanko, senior

adviser at the Bank of Finland's Institute for Economics in Transition.

"The economy is overheated, and the growth rate has to slow down," she said. "But very slow growth – or no growth at all – does not indicate the economy is about to collapse. What it means is slower investments and cuts in some public spending in the quarters ahead."

Government spending on the war effort drove GDP growth last year to 3.6 percent despite sweeping Western sanctions and efforts to cut off trade with Russia. This year, forecasts predict the economy will grow 3.9 percent.

Unemployment, meanwhile, dropped to 2.4 percent in September, with labor shortages helping to drive up wages.

High interest rates have not only affected the real estate market. Rising corporate debt has made it significantly more expensive for companies to take out loans to expand operations – or to raise wages to compete with workers who choose to sign up to fight in Ukraine. In some regions, men can receive the equivalent of one year's wages just for enlisting.

Among business leaders and corporate executives, discontent with the Central Bank has already bubbled to the surface.

Sergei Chemezov, head of the state-run industrial conglomerate Rostec and an ally of President Vladimir Putin, complained before the most recent hike that high interest rates were "a serious brake on further industrial growth."

"Conservative financial policy can lead to stagflation," Mr. Chemezov added.

"At the current rate, it is more profitable for companies to stop development, [and] even reduce the scale of business and put



Russia Central Bank head Elvira Nabiullina, seen in 2017, said the Russian economy is "at a turning point, and a slowdown in inflation can be expected in the coming months."

its funds on deposit, than to conduct business and bear the associated risks," Aleksei Mordashov, a Kremlin-connected oligarch who heads the largest steel company in Russia, said in October.

Mr. Chemezov and other business leaders have also warned of an uptick in corporate bankruptcies.

The Central Bank itself is anticipating a slowdown because of the rate hikes. In 2025, growth is expected to shrink between 0.5-1.5 percent.

Experts say there is a danger that Central Bank policy drives the economy into stagflation, a combination of slowing growth and stubbornly high inflation. A

government-linked think tank warned as much in a report released on November 13.

"The current high level of the key interest rate and the indicated prospects for further increases have created a risk of economic downturn and a collapse in investments in the near future," the report said.

Central Bank head Elvira Nabiullina appeared to defend some of the institution's fiscal policies and tried to reassure critics. She also dismissed the danger of stagflation.

"The Russian economy is at a turning point, and a slowdown in inflation can be expected in the coming months," she said.

Moscow will not "mind some bankruptcies" said Janis Kluge, an expert on the Russian economy at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs, because they are "needed to bring inflation under control."

Bankruptcies "should also help recruitment" of men to fight in Ukraine, he said, since Russians "who can't pay back their debt are more likely to agree to" enlist.

"Overall, the economic situation will become much more complicated for Russia," Mr. Kluge said.

"For almost three years, it seemed like everybody was getting rich in this war. But now, it becomes clear that this is not going to happen, and there is a price to pay," he said.

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Putin says Russia fired new intermediate missile at Ukraine after ICBM accusations

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service

Russian President Vladimir Putin said his military fired a new intermediate-range missile into Ukraine following accusations by Kyiv that it was an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

In a November 21 video statement to the nation, Putin said the use of the new weapon was a response to the United States and United Kingdom giving permission to Kyiv to fire their long-range missiles into Russia.

"In combat conditions, one of the newest Russian medium-range missile systems was tested," Putin said, adding that it was a hypersonic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead.

Earlier in the day, Kyiv said Russia had fired what appeared to be an ICBM into Ukraine as part of a massive missile attack on Dnipropetrovsk, home to important military-industrial plants. ICBMs, which are designed to deliver long-distance nuclear strikes, have never been used in war before.

"On the morning of November 21, 2024 ... Russian troops attacked the city of Dnipro (facilities and critical infrastructure) with missiles of various types. In particular, an intercontinental ballistic missile was launched from the Astrakhan region of the Russian Federation," the Ukrainian Air Force said in its statement on Telegram.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Telegram that the new Russian weapon had "all characteristics – speed, altitude – [of an] intercontinental ballistic missile."

A U.S. official speaking on the condition of anonymity told Reuters that Russia used

a new intermediate weapon. The U.S. official said Washington had informed Kyiv in recent days that Russia might use it to strike Ukraine.

The U.S. official said Putin was seeking to intimidate Ukraine but added that Moscow only had a few of the "experimental" missiles.

The Russian attack comes just days after reports that Ukraine used British-supplied Storm Shadow missiles and the U.S.-made Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) to strike military targets deeper inside Russia following the long-sought approval by President Joe Biden.

Military analysts said ICBM missiles can be classified as intermediate-range weapons when their payloads are increased and ranges decreased.

French Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Christophe Lemoine said the use of an ICBM would be "extremely serious."

The main target of the Russian attack was the southeastern region of Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine's most important industrial region, and its capital, the city of Dnipro.

Ukraine's air force said that besides the ICBM Russian aircraft also launched a hypersonic Kh-47M2 Kinzhal missile and seven subsonic Kh-101 cruise missiles.

Ukrainian air defenses shot down six Kh-101 missiles, the air force reported.

Dnipropetrovsk Gov. Serhiy Lysak said his region bore the brunt of the Russian attack.

"Since early in the morning, the aggressor massively attacked our region," Mr.

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Kremlin says Washington adding 'fuel to fire' as Biden presses G-20 to support Ukraine

RFE/RL

The Kremlin has accused U.S. President Joe Biden of seeking to escalate the war in Ukraine by lifting restrictions on long-range weapons, while the U.S. leader urged Group of 20 (G-20) states to support Ukraine's sovereignty.

The remarks on November 18 came a day after multiple media reports said that Mr. Biden had granted Ukraine permission to use U.S. weapons to strike deeper into Russia. The White House has not commented officially on the reports.

Mr. Biden, while not mentioning the reported missile agreement, urged leaders at the G-20 summit in Rio de Janeiro – which is being attended by Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergei Lavrov – to step up support for Kyiv.

"The United States strongly supports Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Everyone around this table in my view should as well," Mr. Biden said.

The developments come after months of lobbying by Ukrainian officials, including President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, for Western states to give Kyiv the green light to use donated weapons to their full potential to hit targets currently out of range.

The United States, along with other North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) states, has to this point imposed a limit on the distance U.S. missiles could strike into Russian territory.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said a move to alter that limit would usher in a new round of tensions and deepen U.S. involvement in Russia's war on Ukraine.

"It's obvious that the outgoing administration in Washington intends to take steps in order to continue fueling the fire and provoking further escalation of tensions," Mr. Peskov said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin in September warned the West that Russia could respond with nuclear weapons if it was struck with conventional missiles, and that Moscow would consider any assault supported by a nuclear power to be a joint attack.

Russian lawmaker Leonid Slutsky said such a move would lead to escalation.

"U.S. missile strikes deep into Russian territory will inevitably lead to a major escalation that threatens to have far more serious consequences," said Mr. Slutsky, the chairman of the State Duma's Foreign Affairs Committee, in an interview with the state-run news agency TASS.

The weapons are likely to be used in response to North Korea's decision to send thousands of troops to support Russia in the Kursk region, where Ukraine mounted a military incursion over the summer. Reports have suggested that Ukraine would still be limited to striking the southwestern Russian region.

The move also opens the door for the United Kingdom and France to follow suit, potentially enabling Ukraine to deal Russia a blow at a critical moment in the war. Ukraine is seeking to hold onto territorial gains in Russia's Kursk region that could be crucial to any future negotiation.

Still, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said

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U.S. to give Ukraine anti-personnel mines despite outcry by rights groups

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service

KYIV – The White House said it will provide Ukraine with anti-personnel mines to help it fend off Russia's battlefield advances, despite widespread opposition to such weapons by international rights groups and following heavy usage of similar devices by Russia.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin was quoted on November 20 by news agencies as saying during a visit to Laos that the decision to provide the controversial mines was made because of a change in Russian tactics.

"They don't lead with their mechanized forces anymore," he said "They lead with dismounted forces who are able to close and do things to kind of pave the way for mechanized forces."

Ukraine has a need "for things that can help slow down that effort on the part of the Russians," he added.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) said Russia has used at least 13 types of anti-personnel mines in Ukraine since February 2022.

"Russia has used anti-personnel land mines widely in Ukraine ... causing hundreds of casualties and contaminating vast tracts of agricultural land," it said.

Rights and humanitarian groups have long criticized the use of anti-personnel mines, saying they pose a danger to civilians.

In a statement following the U.S. announcement, HRW said the "decision to transfer antipersonnel land mines risks civilian lives and sets back international efforts to eradicate these indiscriminate



Andriy Dubchak, RadioSvoboda.org via RFE/RL

Rights and humanitarian groups have long criticized the use of anti-personnel mines, saying they pose a danger to civilians.

weapons."

More than 160 nations have agreed to ban the use of anti-personnel mines, although the United States and Russia are not signatories to the convention. Ukraine ratified the convention in December 2005.

When asked in the past about the possible use of such mines, Ukraine said it could not comment on the types of weapons utilized during the current armed conflict "before the end of the war and the restoration of our sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Anti-personnel mines are hidden in the ground and are designed to detonate when enemy troops walk on or near them.

Some reports have said the mines being provided by Washington are "nonpersistent," meaning that after a set period of time they no longer are operational and are rendered harmless.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed the decision on the mines, calling them "very important" weapons in the effort to blunt Russian assaults and saying the move would "totally strengthen" Ukraine's front-line troops.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials said Washington's embassy in Kyiv will likely resume normal operations on November 21 after having closed earlier on November 20 when it received "specific information

about "a potential significant air strike."

Late in the day, State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told a briefing that "I can't go into the details of the threat, but we're always keeping a close eye on it."

"The embassy is expected to return to normal operations tomorrow," he added.

In closing, the embassy urged employees and U.S. citizens in the Ukrainian capital to take immediate shelter if an air-raid alert was announced.

"Out of an abundance of caution, the embassy will be closed, and embassy employees are being instructed to shelter in place," it said in a statement, without giving any details about the possible strike.

The embassies of Italy, Greece and Spain said they had also shut their operations following the unusual U.S. warning. Spain later said it reopened its facility after a temporarily closing.

The Ukrainian military suggested the information the U.S. Embassy was referring to was "fake."

"Messengers and social networks ... are spreading a message about the threat of a 'particularly massive' missile and bomb attack on Ukrainian cities today," the military said.

"This message is a fake. It contains grammatical errors typical of Russian information and psychological operations," it added.

It urged residents not to ignore air-raid sirens but also "not to succumb to panic."

An air-raid alert was issued for several

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Ukrainians in Chicago rally and march to commemorate 1,000th day of full-scale war

by Mark Raczkiewicz

CHICAGO – Several hundred rallygoers attended a downtown commemoration of the 1,000th day of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

They kicked off their call for global attention to the atrocities of the full-blown, genocidal war with a rally at the Wrigley Building along Chicago's main thoroughfare, Michigan Avenue. The commemoration, held on November 19, ended with a march toward the limestone Water Tower building that survived the Great Chicago Fire in 1871.

"Our main message is reliance," said Dr. Mariya Dmytriv-Kapeniak, president of the Illinois Division of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA-III.), who spoke with a correspondent for The

Ukrainian Weekly in a taxi before the event.

"I don't think anyone will give up their freedom at any cost," she said of the war's grim milestone.

Her principal word of resilience resonated with the evening throng that assembled at the 398-foot Wrigley Building and its soaring clock tower on the so-called Magnificent Mile that ends at a bridge over the Chicago River.

Protesters held signs that read "1,000 days of bravery."

Another group held a gigantic blue-and-yellow Ukrainian national flag with the words "Ukraine Above All," written on it in Ukrainian.

One woman held a colored placard that read, "If you stand for freedom, stand with Ukraine." Another held a sign that said "1,000 days of pain."



Courtesy of Ruslana Romayuk

Ihor Diaczun (left), vice president of the Illinois Division of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA-III.), and Dr. Maria Dmytriv-Kapeniak, president of UCCA-III., stand near the Wrigley Building in downtown Chicago on November 19 during a rally marking the 1,000th day of Russia's full-blown war on Ukraine.

UCCA-III. held the event that included several dignitaries, among them UCCA-III Vice President Ihor Diaczun, Ukrainian Consulate General in Chicago Serhiy Koledov and Northwestern University criminology Prof. Joel Levin, who has attended every pro-Ukrainian rally since the all-out war began on February 24, 2022.

"What is at stake here is democracy, freedom, and it's important to all of us whether we are Ukrainian or not," the former federal prosecutor told the



Mark Raczkiewicz

Ukrainian Consulate General Serhiy Koledov speaks during a rally in downtown Chicago on November 19 that marked the 1,000th day of Russia's full-blown war on Ukraine.

Ukrainian supporters.

Speaking before Mr. Levin addressed the crowd, Mr. Koledov said that Russia's bloody war has shown the world the spirit of "resistance" that Ukrainians have and their desire "for a better future" to eventually "join the European and NATO [the North Atlantic Treaty Organization]."

The rally coincided with news that the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden had allowed Ukraine to fire longer-range ballistic Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS) projectiles at targets within a limited geographic area of Russia. Various

(Continued on page 11)



Courtesy of Ruslana Romayuk

The Ukrainian phrase "Ukraine above all" is written on the country's national flag at a rally in downtown Chicago on November 19. The event marked the 1,000th day of Russia's full-blown war on Ukraine.

Prestigious Order of St. Panteleimon awarded for first time in US

by Tatyana Tymkiv

NEW YORK – The prestigious Order of St. Panteleimon Award for Professionalism and Mercy, originally launched in Ukraine in 2009, was awarded for the first time in the United States during a ceremony held at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City on November 1.

Organized by the Foreign Council USA, the historic event brought together distinguished individuals, philanthropists and community leaders to honor remarkable contributions to humanitarian causes, particularly in support of Ukraine during its critical time of need.

The event was prepared and hosted by the nine members of the multidisciplinary Foreign Council for the St. Panteleimon Award in the United States, a nationwide group dedicated to advancing the Order's



Dr. Douglas Jackson (center), chief executive officer of Project C.U.R.E., receives the prestigious Order of St. Panteleimon medal during a ceremony held at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City on November 1.



Renowned plastic surgeon Dr. Manoj Abraham (center) is presented with the prestigious Order of St. Panteleimon medal during a ceremony held at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City on November 1.



Officials of the Order of St. Panteleimon, as well as award and certificate of merit winners, are pictured together during a ceremony held at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City on November 1.

mission in the United States.

Council President Tatyana Tymkiv opened and led the proceedings, emphasizing the role of international solidarity in supporting health and humanitarian efforts worldwide, with a particular focus on Ukraine. Among the honored attendees were distinguished U.S. clinicians, philanthropists and community leaders, all gathered to support the cause.

Among the honored attendees was Prof. Andriy Bazylevych, acting deputy chairman of the Honorable Council overseeing Foreign Councils for the Order of St. Panteleimon, president of the World Federation of Ukrainian Medical Associations (WFUMA), and head of the Department of Propaedeutics of Internal Medicine at Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University.

Representing Honorable Council Chair
Vasyl Knyazevych, Prof. Bazylevych

expressed profound gratitude to the American people for their unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and their contributions to strengthening Ukraine's healthcare system.

The evening's main event was the presentation of the Order of St. Panteleimon Medal to two distinguished recipients selected through an anonymous vote by the council: renowned plastic surgeon Dr. Manoj Abraham, and Project C.U.R.E., which was represented at the event by its chief executive officer, Dr. Douglas Jackson.

Dr. Jackson accepted the award on behalf of the entire Project C.U.R.E. team, recognizing their collective efforts in providing essential humanitarian aid worldwide, especially during this critical period in Ukraine's history. Their work exemplifies

(Continued on page 12)

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STAND WITH UKRAINE

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Sharing our stories

In times of joy and moments of adversity, a connection to our Ukrainian roots has always been a source of strength. Stories like Olia Szkafarowsky Rudyk's journey to find Ukrainians in Tromsø, Norway, remind us of the power of shared heritage to transcend borders and hardships. Her encounters with displaced Ukrainians – featuring stories of resilience, loss and hope – paint a vivid picture of the unwavering spirit of our global community.

Ms. Rudyk's narrative begins with a deeply personal tradition: her late husband, Stephen Rudyk, insisted on seeking out fellow Ukrainians wherever they traveled. From flipping through phone books in pre-digital times to forging connections via social media, their quest became a lifelong bond with the Ukrainian diaspora. This practice is a testament to how seeking out our cultural kin fosters not only solidarity but also a sense of belonging no matter where life takes us.

As readers of The Ukrainian Weekly, we are fortunate to be part of a platform that celebrates and preserves these connections. Ms. Rudyk's story of meeting Albina Mahomedova and other displaced Ukrainians in Tromsø highlights the extraordinary resilience of those who have endured unimaginable hardships. From Mariupol to Kharkiv, from Crimea to Kherson, these stories are filled with pain but also strength and hope – a hope fueled by a shared determination to rebuild lives and communities.

Take, for instance, Valentyn Abramov, a young man who fled Mariupol after narrowly avoiding tragedy at the Azovstal Iron and Steel Works. Or Mustafa Bilialov, a Crimean Tatar who fled forced conscription to find refuge and purpose in Norway. These stories show the indomitable spirit of Ukrainians, their refusal to let circumstances define them, and their commitment to supporting one another.

Such stories also shine a light on the bonds we forge in new communities. From climbing mountains with the Ukrainian flag to organizing fundraisers for Ukraine, these acts of solidarity remind us that our shared heritage is a force of unity and hope. Even in Tromsø, thousands of miles from Ukraine, the connections these individuals foster reflect the enduring strength of our culture and community.

As Ukrainians, we carry the stories of our ancestors, our struggles, and our triumphs. Each narrative adds a thread to the rich tapestry of our shared history, helping us better understand our identity and our place in the world. This is why The Ukrainian Weekly invites you, our readers, to contribute your own stories.

Perhaps you, too, have encountered fellow Ukrainians in unexpected places, or maybe you've witnessed the resilience of our community in times of need. By sharing these stories, we create a repository of experiences that not only document our past but also guide our future. They remind us of the humanity that binds us together, even when forces seek to divide us. In the words of Ms. Rudyk, "Stephen taught me to search for Ukrainians wherever I went – a lesson that continues to draw me closer to my homeland, even in the farthest corners of the world."

We encourage you to follow Ms. Rudyk's example and reach out. Whether you're reconnecting with family traditions, discovering Ukrainians in your community, or witnessing acts of resilience and solidarity, your story matters. By submitting your accounts to The Ukrainian Weekly, you become part of a vital tradition of storytelling that unites Ukrainians across generations and geographies.

Let's celebrate the resilience, strength and unity of Ukrainians everywhere. Let's ensure that our stories – whether of hardship, triumph or connection – are preserved for future generations. Together, we can honor our shared heritage and inspire others to continue building a world where the Ukrainian spirit thrives. Send your stories to The Ukrainian Weekly via email at staff@ukrweekly.com. Let's weave our collective narrative and keep the light of our heritage burning brightly. Slava Ukraini!

Nov.
24
2021

Turning the pages back...

Three years ago, on November 24, 2021, the White House issued a statement focused on the annual commemoration of the Holodomor, the famine-genocide of Ukraine of 1932-1933 that killed millions of Ukrainians.

"Each November we solemnly honor and pay tribute to the millions of innocent Ukrainians who suffered and perished during the Holodomor – 'death by hunger' in 1932 and 1933. The men, women and children who lost their lives during this famine were victims of the brutal policies and deliberate acts of the regime of Joseph Stalin. This month, as we commemorate those whose lives were taken, let us also recommit ourselves to the constant work of preventing such tragedies in the future and lifting up those who are suffering under the yoke of tyranny today.

"The Ukrainian people overcame the horror of the Holodomor, demonstrating their spirit and resilience, and eventually creating a free and democratic society. As we remember the pain and the victims of the Holodomor, the United States also reaffirms our commitment to the people of Ukraine today and our unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine," the statement said.

In the same section of the newspaper, where this quote appeared, two additional quotes from U.S. government officials made statements related to the modern threat posed by Russia against Ukraine, the rest of Europe and the world.

On November 22, Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Va.), chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, issued a statement that identified Vladimir Putin's actions as a major threat to the world.

"Vladimir Putin's aggressive rhetoric and actions are a threat to the peace and stability of Europe and the world. From Russia's continued occupation of eastern Ukraine and Crimea, to its weaponization of gas suppliers to Europe, its ongoing malign campaign of misinformation, disinformation and cybercrime, its support of Belarus' dicta-

(Continued on page 7)

Moscow facing...

(Continued from page 2)

these efforts but also expanding to other more repressive and deceptive tactics to maintain the number of effective people in its ranks (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 10). This is a matter of concern for officials in Moscow, but it is not something on which government media has reported. A growing network of anti-war activists inside the Russian Federation, however, is collecting such data (Window on Eurasia May 10, November 16). Among the most prominent of these groups are Let's Go into the Woods, the Draftees' School, the Soldiers' Mothers of St. Petersburg, the Movement of Committed Refuseniks and Call to Conscience First Line. These groups pooled their findings in a 3,000-word report that the independent Holod news agency posted online a week ago (Holod, November 12).

The compilation reports on the tactics that Moscow is increasingly adopting to try to fill the ranks. These tactics include the use of false advertisements promising one kind of work, but after signing up, the individuals are sent to the front; threatening former convicts with new charges and prison sentences; suggesting evidence will be planted on them to ensure people are convicted unless they agree to join the military; and telling draftees that they will be sent into combat unless they sign up for longer terms of service, and then sending them to the frontlines anyway. These anti-war groups provide information about numerous cases for each deception, changing only the names so as not to land those involved in more trouble. Even though they are not in a position to provide statistics about how widespread these problems are currently, their reporting points to the problems that Moscow is facing in raising men for its invasion force and highlights issues that many observers have been pointing out in recent months. Despite the Russian people's widespread but largely passive support for Putin's war, that support does

not extend as far as volunteering to fight.

An even more immediate problem for Moscow regarding force levels in Ukraine may be the revolt at a Russian military base near Novosibirsk. A group of soldiers who were about to be sent to Ukraine chose to revolt and flee rather than risk service on the frontlines (Sibreal, November 16). This is not the first revolt among soldiers resisting being sent to Ukraine. Similar occurrences took place in December 2022 in Kaliningrad and Murmansk, but, according to the SibReal news portal, what happened on the outskirts of Novosibirsk was "one of the largest after the beginning of the war against Ukraine." According to that portal, Russian military courts have already handed down more than 10,000 sentences against Russian soldiers who have sought to avoid service in Ukraine. As such, the Novosibirsk rising may well be a harbinger of what will happen at other Russian bases if, as in this case, officers try to send soldiers who are near the end of their service times or who may already have served a tour in Ukraine back to the frontlines.

If the past is any indication, the Putin regime will seek to solve this problem by increasing repression, bringing more criminal charges against those who refuse to join the military or follow orders to go to the frontlines. This, however, may not be the solution the Kremlin thinks it is if an increasing number of Russian men would rather go to prison than fight and risk death. Even if such men can be forced to go into the Russian military, it is a virtual certainty that they will be less disciplined and enthusiastic soldiers than the Kremlin and their commanders on the scene want and need. In turn, as long as Russian combat losses remain high, the clock is ticking for Russia, whose military may not be able to sustain recent gains, no matter how many problems the Ukrainian forces arrayed against them now suffer.

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Putin says...

(Continued from page 3)

Lysak reported on Telegram, adding that preliminary information showed that an industrial facility was damaged in the regional capital, Dnipro, where two fires were started by the attack.

Explosions were also reported in Kremenchuk, in the central Poltava region of the country.

Moscow's use of a large number of sophisticated missiles as opposed to the usual drone attacks appears to be a response to Ukraine's gaining approval to use some Western-donated long-range missile systems to strike deeper into Russia.

On November 20, Russian military bloggers and a source cited by Reuters reported that Ukraine had fired up to 12 Franco-British Storm Shadow missiles into Russia's Kursk region, part of which has been under Ukrainian control following a surprise incursion by Ukrainian troops in August.

A spokesman for British Prime Minister Keir Starmer declined to confirm whether the missiles had been used. Previously, London had given Ukraine permission to use the Storm Shadows, which have a 186-mile range, within Ukraine's territory.

Earlier this week, Ukraine reportedly used ATACMS to strike a military facility in Russia's Bryansk region after Mr. Biden was reported to have approved the attack. The White House has not officially confirmed the approval and Ukraine hasn't directly

acknowledged the use of ATACMS on Russian targets.

Russia has long warned that Ukraine's use of Western-supplied long-range weapons to strike inside its territory would mark a serious escalation of the conflict.

On November 21, Moscow said that a new U.S. missile defense base in the Polish town of Redzikowo near the Baltic coast, which was opened on November 13 as part of a broader North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) missile shield, will lead to an increase in the overall level of nuclear danger.

"This is another frankly provocative step in a series of deeply destabilizing actions by the Americans and their allies in the North Atlantic alliance in the strategic sphere," Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

"This leads to undermining strategic stability, increasing strategic risks and, as a result, to an increase in the overall level of nuclear danger," Ms. Zakharova said.

Poland rejected the claim, saying there were no nuclear missiles at the base.

"It is a base that serves the purpose of defense, not attack," Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Pawel Wronski said on November 21.

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Ukraine bolsters missile production to increase defense independence

by John C. K. Daly
Eurasia Daily Monitor

On November 17, Russia launched its largest air strike on Ukraine in almost three months, firing around 120 missiles and 90 drones in a massive combined three-hour air strike on Ukraine's battered energy infrastructure in the onset of what promises to be a cold and dark winter for many Ukrainians (Obozrevatel.com, November 17). The Ukrainian Air Force shot down 144 out of the 210 drones and missiles. According to Ukrainian Energy Minister Herman Halushchenko, Kyiv, Kropyvnytskyi, Rivne, Ivano-Frankivsk, Cherkasy, Dnipro, Vinnytsia, Kryvyi Rih, Odesa, and Zaporizhia were attacked, as well as the Khmelnytskyi and Volyn oblasts (The Kyiv Independent, November 17).

Since Russia began its full-scale invasion in February 2022, Ukraine's government has argued that the limitations placed on Western missile technology imports have unfairly restricted their offensive capabilities against their aggressor. An indigenous government initiative may soon alter that dynamic by reviving Ukraine's ability to create its own ballistic and cruise missiles, which will not be subject to such restrictions (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 24, November 8, 13). Oleksiy Petrov, director of state-owned monopoly SpetsTekhno-Ekhsport (STE), specializing in the export and import of military and dual-purpose products, reported on November 2, "I think that we will receive our own missiles, cruise and ballistic ones, by mid-2025. I observed the tests, so far only flight tests,

but we have seen results" (One.ua, November 3). After the war started, Ukraine stopped exporting weapons, and STE was repurposed to import armaments (Babel, October 7). Ukraine's renewed focus on indigenous missile production, bolstered by Western policy shifts and financial support, represents a significant evolution in its defense strategy amid escalating Russian aggression.

Ukraine's missile production capabilities date from the Cold War, as Soviet Ukraine's heavy industry was integral to the Soviet Union's post-World War II missile and rocket programs. The contribution of Ukrainian Soviet enterprises to the Soviet Union's defense was significant. The Yuzhmash and OKB-586 Yuzhnoe industrial complexes in Dnipropetrovsk were founded on the Dnipropetrovsk Automobile Plant (DAZ) industrial base. Established in 1944, they created the Soviet Union's first-generation missiles capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, the R-12 and R-14. The same enterprises also produced the world's first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the R-16. At the end of the 1980s, shortly before the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Yuzhmash developed the world's most powerful intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the RS-36M (SS-18, "Satan," North Atlantic Treaty Organization classification), capable of carrying 10 warheads, with a 6,338-9,942 mile (10,200-16,000 kilometer) range (Fond Strategicheskoi Kul'tury, January 16, 2022).

The dissolution of the Soviet Union resulted in 15 new countries, all struggling to cope with the rampant political and eco-

nomic dislocation caused by the country's collapse, which led to rampant corruption. The post-Soviet space subsequently experienced a drastic shrinkage of various military-industrial complexes. The new cash-starved governments were unable to purchase expensive new weapons systems, leading the new governments to sell much of their non-nuclear military inventory abroad at fire-sale prices.

Weapons production in Ukraine began to revive in earnest after 2014 when Russia invaded and occupied parts of eastern Ukraine as well as Crimea. Ukraine began actively rebuilding its missile manufacturing infrastructure after Russia's war began. On October 2, Ukrainian Defense Minister Rustem Umerov told participants at the second International Forum of Defense Industries, "We have recently focused on missile and drone programs. Next year – or by the end of the year – you will hear a lot about the fact that there will be a large missile program."

Mr. Umerov earlier remarked that Ukraine had developed a "quite powerful" missile program. According to the defense minister, Ukraine had shared information about its missile programs with its allies, who "have already given us verbal consent that they will finance this, and in the near future, we will receive a final written response from our partners" (Interfax-Ukraine, October 2).

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expanded on the country's renewed missile and rocket efforts in an interview with Ukrainian Radio on November 16, noting, "As for drones, electronic warfare sys-

tems, long-range drones, the fight against [Iranian-made] Shaheds, we have not yet achieved outstanding results, but progress has been made." He elaborated on Ukraine's missile program and the four types of missiles they are developing and testing, and how Ukraine destroyed most of Russia's Black Sea Fleet using naval drones. Ukraine has received significant funding from other countries, and Mr. Zelenskyy highlighted that Ukraine's budget for domestic drone orders is 775 billion hryvnias [\$18.7 billion] for 2025.

"We already have this money ... plus all the other guaranteed finances from partners," Mr. Zelenskyy said (Suspil'ne novini, November 16). According to Ukraine's representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Egor Chernev, the battlefield deployment of the Grim-2 ballistic missile, developed over the past decade with a 1,100-pound (500 kilograms) warhead and a range of up to 310 miles (500 kilometers), is imminent (ITsider.com.ua, November 3).

On November 17, the same day as the massive Russian missile barrage, U.S. policy shifted, brought about by Russia's deployment of North Korean troops last month. U.S. President Joe Biden, for the first time, authorized Ukraine's use of U.S.-supplied long-range missiles. Mr. Biden also altered the previous policy to permit the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS), with a maximum range of about 190 miles, to be used for limited use to strike more deeply inside Russia (Voice of America, November

(Continued on page 12)

U.S. reportedly...

(Continued from page 1)

the reports and did not immediately respond to requests for comment from RFE/RL. The National Security Council (NSC) also declined to comment.

It was not immediately clear how far-reaching such permission would be. Mr. Biden, in remarks made during a trip to the Amazon rainforest in Brazil, did not respond to shouted questions about the matter from journalists.

If confirmed, it would represent a major shift in U.S. policy amid long-standing pleas by Kyiv to allow such actions.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy did not directly confirm the reports but said that one of the main points of his "victory plan" presented to allies included the use of long-range weapons by his military.

"Today, many people in the media are saying that we have received permission for appropriate actions. But [militaries] do not strike with words. Such things are not announced. Rockets will speak for themselves," he said on Telegram.

Reuters, citing its sources, reported that Kyiv had planned to conduct the first of such long-range attacks in a matter of days, but it did not disclose specifics.

Ukraine would likely utilize Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) rockets – which have a range of up to 186 miles – Reuters said, citing three sources familiar with the issue.

The U.S. administration has been seeking ways to shore up support for Ukraine ahead of Mr. Biden's departure on January 20, when President-elect Donald Trump returns to the White House.

Mr. Trump has criticized the strong support that Mr. Biden has given to Kyiv and has said he will seek an end to the war as quickly as possible, but with terms that would likely be unacceptable to Ukraine.

There was no immediate comment from the Trump transition team, but a key adviser attacked the move in a post on X.

"Escalating the wars before he leaves office," Richard Grenell wrote.

However, Ben Hodges, a retired U.S. lieutenant general and former commander of U.S. Army forces in Europe, told RFE/RL that such a move would send "a message to the Kremlin that the [the United States] is not just folding up our tents and waiting for [Mr.] Trump."

Mr. Hodges said it would be a "good thing because this policy would be in effect as the Trump administration takes over and, frankly, it's a good thing for Donald Trump."

He said the priority for Ukraine in the use of the weapons will likely be in Russia's Kursk region, using them to strike command-and-control sites, arms depots and artillery batteries.

The next priority would likely be to target airfields that Russia uses to launch strikes against Ukrainian cities.

Phillips O'Brien, a professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, said he believes the move was long overdue, but that the concern now was whether Mr. Trump would reverse the move once he takes office.

He and other observers said the U.S. move would likely lead other allies – including Britain and France – to make similar moves.

Ukraine's use of Western-supplied long-range weapons has divided many of Kyiv's allies, with some fearing it could provoke Russian counter-responses and lead to a wider European war.

Mr. Biden himself had been reluctant to allow such actions, although the White House in May granted permission for the use of ATACMS for limited hits just across the Russian border to deter imminent strikes against Ukraine.

AP and other outlets cited sources as

saying that the latest decision by Mr. Biden is likely in response to North Korea sending thousands of troops to Russia amid reports that some have already engaged in fighting in Russia's Kursk region.

The Kremlin has warned that the allowance by the United States or other Western allies to use long-range weapons targeting Russia would be seen as a major escalation.

Since its February 2022 full-scale invasion, Russia has used its long-range weapons and warplanes to attack deep inside Ukraine, hitting civilian and infrastructure sites along with military targets.

After Russia launched one of its largest air strikes on the country's energy infrastructure on November 17, Ukraine's energy authority said that all Ukrainian regions would experience temporary restrictions on power consumption on November 18.

The latest Russian attacks were con-

demned by the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and other Western allies.

"NATO strongly condemns Russia's large-scale attack against Ukraine that has killed and terrorized civilians and targeted critical energy infrastructure," a spokeswoman said.

"We stand by Ukraine and allies continue to make unprecedented contributions to Ukraine's defenses," she said.

(With reporting by RFE/RL's Todd Prince in Washington.)

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Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

torship, its crackdown on dissent at home and its latest armed buildup around Ukraine, Russia's government is playing a dangerous game. The Biden administration must work with our allies to demonstrate to ... Putin that further actions to destabilize Europe's security will bring about devastating consequences for Russia's economy and its further isolation from the civilized world."

Russian gas deliveries to Europe via the Nord Stream 2 pipeline were among other areas sanctioned by the U.S., as announced on November 22 by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Mr. Blinken issued a statement, carried in the "For the Record" section of The Weekly, noted how a report by the Department of State to Congress listed two vessels and one Russian entity, Transadria

Ltd., that were to be sanctioned pursuant to the Protecting Europe's Energy Security Act (PEESA).

"With today's action, the [Biden] administration has now sanctioned eight persons and identified 17 of their [Russian] vessels as blocked property pursuant to PEESA in connection with Nord Stream 2. Even as the administration continues to oppose the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, including via our sanctions, we continue to work with Germany and other allies and partners to reduce the risks posed by the pipeline to Ukraine and frontline NATO and E.U. [European Union] countries and to push back against harmful Russian activities, including in the energy sphere."

Sources: "White House issues statement on the Holodomor," "Sen. Warner calls Putin's actions a threat to peace, stability of Europe, world," "Imposition of further sanctions in connection with NS2," *The Ukrainian Weekly*, November 28, 2021.

Ukrainian Radio...

(Continued from page 1)

by Russian forces.

"For people in the occupied territories, your information provides hope and moral support. This is information for Ukrainian soldiers on the front line. It means they have reliable Ukrainian news. Ukrainian Radio has a heroic and historic past and an equally beautiful future. Therefore, I wish you professional achievements and development and, of course, our common victory," Mr. Shmyhal said.

"The start of broadcasting 100 years ago put Ukraine among the first countries to launch regular radio broadcasting on its territory. Ukrainian Radio is a symbol of the resilience of our culture, and it's a voice that transcends borders and epochs. It has become a companion and a driving force for many generations of Ukrainians, informing people about our lives and struggles and announcing every victory," said Mykola Tochytskyi, Ukraine's minister of culture and strategic communications.

To mark the milestone, Oleksiy Shaban, deputy governor of the National Bank of Ukraine, presented a commemorative coin during the gala celebration.

The coin's front depicts the state emblem of Ukraine from which radio waves are spreading with the words "Kyiv is speaking" written on them.

"It means that Kyiv, as the historical and modern center of Ukraine, is engraved on this coin," Mr. Shaban said.

On the reverse of the coin, in addition to a flower that also symbolizes radio waves, is the year of the birth of Ukrainian Radio – 1924.

According to Mr. Shaban, Ukrainian Radio has gone through different periods in its history, but its radio programs were always broadcast in Ukrainian.

"Today, in the face of Russian aggression, Ukrainian Radio is an important component of informing the public, reaching every corner of our country, helping to defend national identity and counteract enemy propaganda," Mr. Shaban said.

The country's national postal service also issued a special stamp – "100 Years of Ukrainian Radio" – in honor of the milestone.

Ukrposhta CEO Ihor Smilyanskyi stressed the importance that Ukrainian Radio broadcasts play throughout the



Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal (right) congratulates an employee of Ukrainian Radio on its 100th anniversary during a gala celebration in Kyiv on November 15.

country, particularly in regions that sit along or near the front lines of the full-scale war.

"It is especially pleasant when you are traveling near the frontline, where mostly enemy radio stations operate, but you hear Ukrainian Radio. And this is essentially a fight for the audience," he said.

Ukrposhta issued some 280,000 stamps to mark the anniversary of Ukrainian Radio, Mr. Smilyanskyi said. The design of the stamp was done by artist Volodymyr Taran.

"One hundred years ago, Ukrainian Radio started broadcasting, and today it is one of the most important assets of public broadcasting. We are really proud of what people do. The most important thing now is that the trust in Ukrainian Radio is growing, and the new century of Ukrainian Radio, as well as the new century of Ukrainian history, will be remarkable," said Mykola Chernotytskyi, chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Public Broadcasting Company of Ukraine.

The gala continued with a concert featuring the Academic Symphony Orchestra of Ukrainian Radio, the Academic Choir of Ukrainian Radio, and the Boys and

Young Men's Choir of the National Music Academy of Ukraine.

On the Day of Radio, Television and Communications Workers, a day celebrated every year in Ukraine on November 16, which was also the anniversary of the first Ukrainian Radio broadcast, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy congratulated the country's media and communications workers.

"Many people who provide our society with information help us all stay in touch and know what is happening and what we all need in any part of Ukraine," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Some of these individuals work on the frontline, under fire, in liberated cities and villages throughout the country, as well as wherever there are Ukrainians, so that the world continues to understand Ukraine and support Ukrainians, the president said.

"We appreciate the work of everyone we see and hear on the air, read online, and everyone who ensures the work of our media and communications," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

On November 16, Public Television Channel One presented the documentary project "100 Years of Ukrainian Radio." The film highlights critical milestones in the history of the first Ukrainian radio station.

"Ukrainian Radio is an audio chronicler of Ukraine because, over these 100 years, together with the Ukrainian people, it has gone through this complicated history. And all this is recorded in our radio format – through the air of Ukrainian Radio," Dmytro Khorkin, a Ukrainian Radio host and member of the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Public Broadcasting Company, said in the film.

In 1991, radio listeners heard the declaration of Ukraine's independence on the air. Before that, there were the turbulent years in the 1920s when Ukrainian voices were the first to be heard on the air. In the 1930s, radio workers were repressed by the Soviet regime, and in the 1970s the melodies of a Ukrainian musical revival, such as the hits "Chervona Ruta" and "Vodohrai," began to be heard on the air.

The film "100 Years of Ukrainian Radio" addresses in greater detail how the first radio broadcast began, and when the first radio concert and radio play were broadcast in Ukraine. The film uses archival audio to highlight the personal stories of people who have worked and continue to work at Ukrainian Radio.



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The author Olia Rudyk (right) meets with another Olia Rudyk in Melbourne, Australia.



Olia Szkarafarsky Rudyk (fifth from the right) and the Duma family of Sydney, Australia, meet while on vacation in Honolulu.

A journey of connection binds Ukrainians around the globe

by Olia Szkarafarsky Rudyk

TROMSO, Norway – For 44 years, my late husband, Stephen Rudyk, and I shared a marriage rich with love, adventure and a profound dedication to our Ukrainian heritage. Together, we built a home, raised a family, devoted countless hours to Ukrainian causes, and fed our passion for exploring the world. Wherever we went, however, one thing stayed constant: Stephen's insistence on finding other Ukrainians.

Traveling in the pre-digital age, Stephen and I had our own unique method. Upon arriving in a new city, our first task was to search the local phone book – a nostalgic relic today. We'd flip through the yellow pages, scanning for "Ukrainian church," "Ukrainian community center," "Ukrainian museum" – anything that could connect us to our roots, even on foreign soil.

As technology advanced, so did our approach. Emails replaced letters, and social media opened new doors. We met Ukrainians as far away as Tallinn, Estonia, and Buenos Aires, Argentina. Social media even led me to another Olia Rudyk in Melbourne, and a surprise reunion with the Duma family from Sydney in Hawaii. Each encounter felt like a tiny thread woven into the fabric of a global Ukrainian network.

One tradition, however, remained unchanged. Since the early days of our marriage, Stephen and I subscribed to The Ukrainian Weekly and Svoboda. These newspapers have been my constant companions, grounding me in the Ukrainian diaspora's stories and struggles. This year, an article in The Ukrainian Weekly by Roman Tymotsko led me to an extraordinary encounter in Tromso, Norway, during my travels there.

The piece by Mr. Tymotsko introduced me to Albina Mahomedova, a remarkable Ukrainian in Tromso. Intrigued, I reached out to her online, and soon we had a meeting planned. Ms. Mahomedova, in turn, introduced me to other Ukrainian refugees whose stories remain etched in my memory.

On the day of my arrival in Tromso, a group of young displaced Ukrainians came to greet me, take me on a tour of the city. We enjoyed coffee and homemade waffles at their Ukrainian community center. I spent hours listening to them recall the days of the Russian invasion and the reasons that brought them to Norway. As we talked, they opened up about their experiences – the pain of leaving home, the impossible choices, the loss of everything they once knew, and the journey that brought them to Tromso. Despite the hardship, their stories were filled with resilience and hope. Listening to them, I felt the weight of their loss but also a powerful sense of determination and solidarity that transcended borders.

Arild Gregor Kharchuk Furtjord, a 23-year-old student born on Norway's



Pictured together with a reindeer in Tromso, Norway, are (from left to right) Olia Szkarafarsky Rudyk, Mustafa Bilialov, Olha Latyntseva, Roman Latyntseva, Valentyn Abramov and Arild Gregor Kharchuk Furtjord.

Senja Island to a Ukrainian mother and Norwegian father, is a lover of history and fluent in five languages. He is passionate about sharing his heritage with tourists and visitors, especially in Tromso, his "Paris of the North," as he calls it. His life today is filled with guiding tours and supporting Ms. Mahomedova in her work for Ukrainian refugees.

Valentyn Abramov hails from Mariupol, a Ukrainian city that was once vibrant with life and culture, but is now reduced to rubble by the relentless bombardments of war. Mariupol, once a symbol of resilience and unity, now stands as a painful reminder of the brutal cost of conflict.

For Mr. Abramov, it is not just a city lost, it is a piece of his soul that has also been taken – his past, his memories and his dreams. His quiet resilience hides the trauma he carries from his homeland, a place that almost became his career's foundation. He suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and has haunting nightmares.

Just a month before Mariupol's devastation, he had declined a job at Azovstal Iron and Steel Works to pursue a graduate degree in metallurgical engineering. His future hopes were shattered by the Russian invasion and his forced evacuation. What had once been a place full of possibility and hope now stood as a distant memory – replaced by the harsh reality of displacement and loss. The road to Tromso was difficult, a path marked by hardship and uncertainty. Today, his hopes are to restart his education and find a way forward in his new life in Norway.

I also met Mustafa Bilialov, a proud 31-year-old Crimean Tatar and committed Ukrainian patriot. His family has lived through the hardships of Russian aggression for generations – his ancestors were displaced in 1944 during Stalin's reign over the Soviet Union. His parents were born in

a resettlement camp in Uzbekistan.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, over 200,000 Crimean Tatars returned to the peninsula during the repatriation in the late 1980s and early 1990s, and Mr. Bilialov's parents were among them. His journey from Crimea, fleeing forced Russian conscription in 2022, took him through Georgia and Turkey. When he learned of a community forming in Norway, he found his way to Tromso on September 20, 2023. He enrolled at the university and has been offered an assistant teaching position.

Anna Lykova, originally from Chapnynka, was living in Kherson at the time of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. In April 2022, along with her sister, brother-in-law and nephew, she fled the invasion, relocating every few months as the fighting, bombardment and Russian Special Forces followed them. After 17 months on the move, enduring harrowing and desperate living conditions in a war zone, they reached the Ukrainian-Polish border. Her sister's family remained there while Ms. Lykova continued on to Norway, arriving in Tromso in June.

I also met Olha Latyntseva, a Donetsk native with a heart-wrenching history. Forced to flee Donetsk in 2014, she met her husband, Roman, while studying at a university in Odessa. They later relocated to Kharkiv – a city that soon fell under siege. Though she managed to escape to Poland and eventually to Tromso, her husband stayed behind to care for an elderly relative. She despises the Russians as she recalls how her great-grandparents were forced off their property in Hulyaipole during Stalin's imposed collectivization.

Many of Ms. Latyntseva's ancestors were shot when they refused to leave or died in concentration camps in Siberia. Yet there are members of her own family in Donetsk who side with the Russians. She is baffled

by the loyalty they show for the Russians, who have taken so much from her family, destroyed their lives and murdered her ancestors.

Finally, after two years of separation, and a perilous journey only made possible by the kindness of many people, husband and wife reunited in Tromso, where they now work together to support their community.

Today, Ms. Mahomedova and Ms. Latyntseva are close friends. They organize weekly meetings at their community center and raise funds for Ukraine through various events. They even climbed Storsteinen Mountain on August 24, unveiling a huge Ukrainian flag on the pinnacle. Ms. Latyntseva has a degree in children's psychology and is currently working with kindergarten children. Her husband is grateful for the compassion he received throughout his journey to Tromso and is repaying such human kindness by helping newly arrived refugees in town. His advice to all Ukrainians throughout the world is simple.

"Do not trust any Russian. The Russian race is cruel. The people are without shame and will rob, betray and even kill any Ukrainian. Russians hate all Ukrainians and the Ukrainian culture," he said.

In the hours I spent with Ukrainians in Tromso, I came to understand not only the tragedy that had brought them to Norway but also the sense of hope, resilience and determination that had sustained them along the way. Despite the fear, despite the distance, there was a quiet strength in their voices – a hope that felt contagious. They were rebuilding. And in their stories, I found a deep and abiding sense of solidarity – one that transcended borders and made the world feel a little smaller. I couldn't help but feel a deep connection to the solidarity that had brought us together, even across such distance.

As I said goodbye to my new friends, a wave of mixed emotions washed over me. I knew I was returning home to my family, my friends and everything familiar and dear to me. But for them, their lives had been irrevocably changed. Each person I met brought Ukraine's resilience to life in unique ways, reminding me of the shared heritage that unites us all.

My husband, Stephen, taught me to search for Ukrainians wherever I went – a lesson that continues to draw me closer to my homeland, even in the farthest corners of the world. I pray for the day when the war will end, and for all those Ukrainians who long to return home, that they may find the peace and freedom they deserve.

Recently, I saved an article from Svoboda written by Lyudmyla Ostrovska about the newly formed Foundation for the Ukrainian Community of Malta. Perhaps one day, I will find myself visiting "The Land of Honey" and connecting with Ukrainians once again. God bless Ukraine. God bless the soldiers who are fighting for peace. God bless Ukraine's heroes.

NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

seen something different," the chancellor said at the end of the summit of the 20 leading industrialized nations and emerging economies. But Mr. Scholz also restated his decision not to send long-range German Taurus cruise missiles to Ukraine, saying Germany is Kyiv's largest supporter in Europe and will remain so but that it was important "to do everything we do with prudence." "In my view, supplying cruise missiles would be a mistake for many reasons," he added, including the danger that it would bring Germany closer to direct conflict with Russia. According to multiple U.S. media reports, the United States has granted Ukraine permission after months of pleading to use ATACMS long-range cruise missiles to strike deeper inside Russia. The White House has not denied the widespread reports, but it also has not confirmed them. Meanwhile, Mr. Zelenskyy, speaking at a Kyiv news conference, also blasted the G-20 leaders for failing to act after Putin signed a decree easing Russia's benchmarks for using nuclear weapons. "Today, G-20 countries are sitting in Brazil. Did they say something? Nothing," Mr.

Zelenskyy told reporters, adding that they failed to develop a "strong strategy." Following a meeting with Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen in Kyiv, Mr. Zelenskyy also said, "I think after statements about nuclear weapons, it is also time for Germany to support corresponding decisions," referring to the reports of the U.S. decision to allow use of long-range missiles. (RFE/RL, with reporting by dpa and Reuters)

Ukraine sets emergency power cuts

Ukraine's energy authority said that all Ukrainian regions would experience temporary restrictions on power consumption on November 18 after Russia launched one of its largest air strikes on the country's energy infrastructure. Ukrenergo on November 17 said the power cuts would run from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. as crews worked to repair damage from the attacks "as quickly as possible." "All regions will be required to apply consumption-restriction measures. The temporary restrictions are due to the damage to power facilities during today's massive missile and drone attack," the Energy Ministry said. Ukrenergo also said that two employees of a substation it operates were killed as a result of the Russian attacks early on

November 17. Separately, in one of the bloodiest attacks of recent months, at least eight people, including two children, were killed and some 20 injured in a Russian missile strike on a residential building in the northeastern Ukrainian city of Sumy late on November 17, Internal Affairs Minister Ihor Klymenko said. Overnight, Russia launched massive aerial attacks on Ukraine, Kyiv's foreign affairs minister said on November 17, with drones and missiles targeting energy infrastructure and other civilian sites in cities across the country, prompting neighboring Poland to scramble fighter jets. "Russia launched one of the largest air attacks: drones and missiles against peaceful cities, sleeping civilians, critical infrastructure. This is war criminal [President Vladimir] Putin's true response to all those who called and visited him recently. We need peace through strength, not appeasement," Ukrainian Foreign Affairs Minister Andriy Sybiha wrote on X. Later, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia had launched around 120 missiles and 90 drones in what he described as a "massive" combined air strike on Ukraine's energy infrastructure. "The enemy's target was our energy infrastructure throughout Ukraine. Unfortunately, there is damage to objects from strikes and falling debris," he said in a statement on social media. Explosions were reported early on November 17 in the capital, Kyiv, as well as other cities across the country, including Odesa on the Black Sea coast and

the southeastern city of Zaporizhia. Russia's missile attacks targeted power infrastructure across Ukraine, forcing the launch of preventive outages, Ukrainian Energy Minister Herman Halushchenko said. The massive attack comes as Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine ground to its 1,000th day. Russia is expending huge amounts of weaponry and human life to make small but steady territorial gains to the nearly one-fifth of Ukraine it already controls. Ukraine, meanwhile, is struggling to minimize losses, maintain morale and convince allies that, with more military aid, it can turn the tide. U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has said he could quickly end the war, though it is unclear how. On November 16, the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrialized countries reiterated its members' "unwavering support for Ukraine for as long as it takes" in its struggle against invading Russian forces. Russia's attack on Ukraine on November 17 prompted neighboring Poland to scramble jets. "Due to the massive attack by the Russian Federation using cruise missiles, ballistic missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles on objects located, among others, in western Ukraine, Polish and allied aircraft have started operating in our airspace," the operational command of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) member Poland's armed forces posted on X. It said it had "activated all available forces and resources at his disposal, the on-duty fighter pairs

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Kremlin says...

(Continued from page 3)

at the G-20 summit that Berlin was "sticking with" his decision not to send Ukraine long-range Taurus cruise missiles, one of the most powerful weapons in its arsenal.

However, Mr. Zelenskyy's reaction to the news was somewhat reserved.

"Today, much is being said in the media about us receiving permission for the relevant actions. But strikes are not made with words. Such things are not announced. The missiles will speak for themselves," Mr. Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address.

David Silbey, a Cornell University professor specializing in military history, defense policy, and battlefield analysis, told RFE/RL that the White House was likely attempting to give Ukraine everything it can before the administration changes from Mr. Biden to Donald Trump, who has criticized the level of U.S. aid to Kyiv.

He cautioned, however, that the move might not be a major game-changer.

Allowing Ukraine to use long-range missiles "now will mean that Ukraine can hit targets deeper in Russia, both military and civilian, and will likely do some damage and force the Russians to pull military assets out of range."

"In larger terms of the war, however, it's unlikely to have much effect, just like the previous weapons systems – the Abrams tank, the F-16 fighter jets – that the U.S. hesitated and then finally sent. There's no magical war-winning weapon that will reverse the tide, which has been in Russia's favor for a while, he said.

"The war's being decided in the east of Ukraine. It's being decided by firepower and human capital," Mr. Silbey said. "On both of those, Ukraine is at a disadvantage – giving them the ability to strike deeper into Russia is not going to help against mass attacks in the east."

Meanwhile, Kyiv's European allies have been more upbeat in their reaction to the news.

Polish President Andrzej Duda said that Mr. Biden's action could be a decisive moment in the war.

"This decision was very necessary. ... Russia sees that Ukraine enjoys strong sup-

port and that the West's position is unyielding and determined. It's a very important, potentially decisive moment in this war," Mr. Duda told journalists.

German Foreign Affairs Minister Annalena Baerbock said Washington's move was important in terms of military support for Ukraine but stressed it did not signal a shift in strategy by the West.

"The decision from the American side, and I would like to emphasize that this is not a rethink but an intensification of what has already been delivered by other partners, is so important at this moment," Ms. Baerbock said in Brussels ahead of a meeting of European Union foreign affairs ministers.

Germany's top diplomat also issued a warning to supporters of Russian President Putin, and said the European Union was preparing new sanctions against Iran as well as looking at the issue of Chinese drone support.

Also speaking in Brussels, E.U. foreign policy chief Josep Borrell expressed hope that the bloc's members would follow Washington's lead.

"I've been saying once and again that Ukraine should be able to use the arms we provided to them, in order to not only stop the arrows but also to be able to hit the archers," Mr. Borrell said.

Also speaking ahead of the meeting, Dutch Foreign Affairs Minister Caspar Veldkamp said he thought Mr. Biden's decision was an "adequate response" to Russia deploying North Korean troops.

However, Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico – who has criticized Western policies on Ukraine and has opposed E.U. sanctions on Russia – denounced the reported U.S. decision, saying it would endanger any potential talks.

"This is an unprecedented escalation of tensions, a decision that thwarts hopes for the start of any peace talks and an end to the mutual killing of Slavs in Ukraine," Mr. Fico said.

(With reporting by Reuters and AFP)

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NEWSBRIEFS

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were scrambled, and the ground-based air defense and radar reconnaissance systems reached the highest state of readiness." The Polish prime minister, Donald Tusk, wrote on X that the Kremlin's war against Ukraine won't be stopped through phone calls – remarks coming days after German Chancellor Olaf Scholz spoke by phone with Putin. "No one will stop Putin with phone calls. The attack last night – one of the biggest in this war – has proved that telephone diplomacy cannot replace real support from the whole West for Ukraine," Mr. Tusk wrote. In his social media post, Mr. Zelenskyy said Russia deployed various types of drones, including Shaheds, as well as cruise, ballistic and aircraft-launched ballistic missiles. Ukrainian defense forces shot down 140 air targets, he said. The missile attack followed an overnight drone

strike on Ukraine's capital. The roof of a residential building caught fire in Kyiv due to falling debris and at least one person was injured, city officials said on the Telegram messaging app. "Emergency services were dispatched to the scene," Kyiv's Mayor Vitali Klitschko said. The combined drone and missile attack was the most powerful in three months, according to the head of Kyiv's military administration, Serhiy Popko. (RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service)

Russian actor sentenced for supporting war

A Ukrainian court has sentenced prominent Russian actor Vladimir Mashkov in absentia to 10 years in prison, according to the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU). Mr. Mashkov was found guilty of undermining Ukraine's territorial integrity and promoting war propaganda. Additionally, the court ordered the confiscation of Mr. Mashkov's apartment in Odesa, reportedly gifted to him by fans for his role in the television series Liquidation, which is set in post-war

Odesa. The SBU highlighted Mr. Mashkov's participation in pro-Kremlin events, including "concert rallies" advocating aggression against Ukraine, some of which took place in Russian-occupied territories. Mr. Mashkov was a trusted ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin and served as a senior member of Putin's election campaign team this year. (RFE/RL's Russian Service)

Vietnam extradites Belarus opposition figure

Vietnam has extradited a Belarusian national who fought as a volunteer in Ukraine on Kyiv's side to Minsk, Belarusian media reported on November 20. The

opposition-led Coordination Council said Vasyl Verameychyk, who is a member of the council, was detained and turned over to Belarus on November 14. Mr. Verameychyk served in the Belarusian Army for seven years but participated in 2020 anti-government protests. After the threat of arrest, he fled to Ukraine, where he participated in battles in Ukraine against Russian forces, suffering wounds in April 2022. Nasha Niva news reported that Mr. Verameychyk moved to Vietnam after he was denied permission to settle in Lithuania because of his former Belarusian Army service. (RFE/RL's Belarus Service)

Ukrainians...

(Continued from page 4)

U.S. media reports also reported that Britain gave the green light for Ukraine to fire Storm Shadow rockets into Russia, and France also allowed Ukraine to fire its SCALP projectiles at targets inside Russia.

Later, on November 19, Kremlin tyrant Vladimir Putin lowered the threshold Moscow uses for justifying the use of nuclear weapons to include any attack from a

non-nuclear country supported by a nuclear ally.

The U.S., Britain and France have nuclear arsenals.

Kyiv has already launched ATACMS rockets into Russian territory since Washington lifted the restriction, reportedly striking a military facility in the neighboring region of Bryansk.

Russia's Defense Ministry claimed it had shot down five of the projectiles and damaged one ATACMS rocket, which has a range of up to 186 miles.

Ukraine targets...

(Continued from page 2)

Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 9, November 14). Accusing the Russians of participation in extrajudicial executions of civilians, population displacement, theft of all-important livestock and the destruction of infrastructure, the rebel spokesman warned that the changing status of Russian troops in Mali would have "legal consequences." Mr. Ramadane said, "It should be noted that, since Wagner's mercenaries have been dependent on the Russian Ministry of Defense, Moscow is directly and legally responsible for their actions, unlike when Prigozhin was alive" (Contre-Poison, September 9).

Col. Hamad-Rhissa Ag Hamad-Assalah, who led CSP-DPA fighters in the successful attack on Malian regulars and Russian mercenaries at Tinzawatène, has been more reticent on the issue of Ukrainian military assistance (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, September 11). He stated, "We are not aware of any assistance from Ukraine in terms of intelligence and drone support." The colonel has, however, called for help from France, which, at the time of independence in 1960, imposed Azawad's narrow link to southern Mali and its much larger population, which is culturally and linguistically very different from the pastoral and semi-nomadic communities of Tuareg, Arabs, Fulani (Peul) and Songhay (Ayneha) in the arid north. Mr. Hamad-Assalah additionally stated, "If there is one African country whose sovereignty must be recognized by France, it is Azawad. It is France that brought us together with Mali in the past, and today, it is France that must separate us from Mali" (Contre-Poison, August 16).

Some Malians see a reciprocal connection between French support for Ukraine and Ukrainian intervention in the former French colonies. They also consider this a potential effort from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to punitively destabilize West Africa after a recent decline in Western influence (Burkina24, com, October 19). Experts on Russian influ-

ence in the Sahel actively promote these views.

During peacetime, Russia could realistically muster the troops and weapons needed to support a decisive push by the Malian junta. The situation is so dire for Russia in Ukraine, however, that North Korean troops have been called to feed the manpower-starved Russian military in its effort to reverse Ukraine's Kursk incursion (see Eurasia Daily Monitor, October 30).

If Le Monde's report is to be believed, Ukraine is making good on a promise to bring the war to Russian forces – official and unofficial – wherever they are deployed, in this instance in Syria, Sudan or Mali (Kyiv Post, October 9). Ironically, it is the Malian junta's invitation to the Russians that has brought the Tuareg separatists aerial power in the form of drones that they need to defeat government forces and their allies on the battlefield.

For the Tuareg separatists, receiving diplomatic support from the United States or the European Union would be a much more significant development than what would be, in the grand scheme of things, notional military assistance from Ukraine. To this point, the separatists have been crafty in their attempts to seduce European governments, offering to act as roaming "border guards" along the Sahel corridor; capable of controlling the flow of migrants trafficking through the region were they to gain independence (Contre-Poison, September 9). Until then, however, observers must not underestimate the potential impact for the separatists of receiving advanced, combat-bred drone technology from the Ukrainians, especially when operating in an open terrain like the Sahel. Nonetheless, the longevity and extent of Ukraine's commitment remain to be seen. Although clever moves to undermine Russia's African proxies will be sure to annoy Moscow, Ukraine's military intelligence will likely be prudent to avoid overextension at this crucial juncture of the war.

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U.S. to give...

(Continued from page 4)

Ukrainian regions, including Kyiv, early on November 20 due to the imminence of Russian drone strikes.

The U.S. warning came one day after Moscow said Ukraine had used U.S.-made long-range missile systems to strike a weapons depot in Russia's Bryansk region following U.S. President Joe Biden's reported authorization of their use.

The White House has not officially confirmed the decision.

In another move by the current U.S. administration aimed at aiding Ukraine, Mr. Biden has informed Congress that he intends to cancel \$4.65 billion in loans to Ukraine, a State Department spokesman said.

Mr. Zelenskyy did not confirm or deny the use of ATACMS in the attack on Bryansk, saying during a news conference that "Ukraine has long-range capabilities. ... We now have a long 'Neptune' [Ukrainian-made cruise missile] and not just one. And now we have ATACMS. And we will use all of this."

On November 20, Ukraine's military intelligence agency said a Russian military

command post had been "successfully struck" in the town of Gubkin in Russia's Belgorod region, some 104 miles from the Ukrainian border. It did not say what kind of missiles had been used in the attack.

Meanwhile, Bloomberg News reported that the Ukrainian military had also fired a British-supplied Storm Shadow into Russia for the first time, citing an unnamed Western official.

Separately, the Ukrainian Air Force said Russian troops attacked Ukraine early on November 20 with 122 drones, 56 of which were shot down over 14 regions – Kyiv, Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Poltava, Kirovohrad, Zhytomyr, Khmelnytskyi, Sumy, Mykolayiv, Kherson, Zaporizhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Kharkiv.

The mayor of Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odesa, Hennadiy Trukhanov, said the death toll after a Russian strike on the city on November 18 had risen to 11.

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Ukrainian American Bar Association holds annual conference in Miami Beach, Fla.

by Christina Tershakovec

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. – The 2024 Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) annual conference took place on November 7-10 at the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach, Fla.

This year's conference brought together an international group of presenters and attendees from the United States, Canada, Ukraine and elsewhere in Europe.

UABA Vice-President Greg Popadiuk served as emcee for the conference, welcoming the nearly 50 attorneys in attendance.

The conference began with an informal meet and greet at the Fontainebleau's famous Bleu Bar on Thursday evening. Attendees were able to catch up with old friends and make new friends among the group.

Formal presentations began on Friday and continued on Saturday.

Kyiv-based attorney Kateryna Manetska and Toronto-based attorney Daniel Dochylo engaged in a dynamic dialogue titled "Mastering Mediation: Legal Practice, Dispute Resolution and Cultural Dynamics."

This was followed by a presentation by Glenn Kolleeny, senior counsel at Dentons Europe, on the "Reconstruction of Ukraine." Mr. Kolleeny specializes in international trade and commodities finance, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, and pri-

vate equity and, thus, was uniquely experienced to provide a framework for Ukraine's reconstruction and financing.

Saturday's presentations began with Prof. Svitlana Khyliuk, director of the Ukrainian Catholic University School of Law in Lviv. Ms. Khyliuk's presentation described "How to Win the Future: Legal Framework for Rebuilding of Ukraine Post-Victory and the Role of Universities."

The day continued with an immigration panel that included Honorary Consul of Ukraine in Philadelphia Iryna Mazur and New York City-based attorney Vitalia Yurchak.

Ms. Mazur and Ms. Yurchak described the potential impact of the recent U.S. elections on U.S. immigration policy and programs, including the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program, U4U (Uniting for Ukraine), re-parole, asylum and consular issues.

Concluding the educational portion of the conference was Toronto attorney Andy Semotiuk, who spoke on "The Art of Advocacy in the Courtroom and in the Boardroom." Mr. Semotiuk offered practical tips on effective advocacy and presentation, honed from his years of practice.

In addition to presentations on legal topics, UABA welcomed representatives from Revived Soldiers Ukraine and the Borderlands Foundation. They described the vital work done by those organizations to help wounded veterans.

SUMA Federal Credit Union representative George Switnicki addressed the attendees to describe its programs. SUMA FCU generously assisted with the cost of Saturday's breakfast buffet.

The conference was capped off by a Saturday evening cocktail reception and banquet.

Keynote speaker that evening was Marianna Tretiak, chair of the Board of the American Coalition for Ukraine (ACU), an alliance of over 100 U.S.-based organizations (including UABA) that have joined efforts to support Ukraine in its defense of the universal values of freedom and human dignity.

The ACU guides and coordinates effective nationwide advocacy efforts to support Ukraine's freedom, independence and peaceful future.



Christina Tershakovec

Attendees of the 2024 Ukrainian American Bar Association (UABA) annual conference gathered for a group photo at the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach, Fla.

Ms. Tretiak not only described the critical work of the ACU in advocating for Ukraine on Capitol Hill and across the U.S., but also highlighted the unique talents and skills of attorneys who are needed in successful advocacy.

UABA challenged each of the attendees of this year's conference to bring a colleague to next year's conference in

Philadelphia.

By means of this challenge, UABA hopes to engage with more Ukrainian American attorneys and show them the benefits of UABA membership.

More information about the UABA (including on membership in the group) can be found on the organization's website at www.uaba.org.



Christina Tershakovec

The Ukrainian American Bar Association held its 2024 annual conference at the Fontainebleau Hotel in Miami Beach, Fla.

School of Ukrainian Studies in New Haven, Conn., holds Halloween masquerade



NEW HAVEN, Conn. – The School of Ukrainian Studies (Ridna Shkola) of New Haven, Conn., held a Halloween masquerade for schoolchildren on October 26. School director and teacher Halia Jurczak-Lodynsky organized the annual activity, during which students played musical chairs, as well as other games, and did the Limbo.

U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) also attended the event. Afterward, she spoke with students and visited teacher Ihor Yuziuk's music class, where she listened to students play music. Other school teachers who helped with the event were Lyudmyla Tupalo, Oleksandra Liubachivska and Iryna Lonchyna.

– by Halia Jurczak-Lodynsky

Prestigious...

(Continued from page 5)

the compassion and dedication celebrated by the Order of St. Panteleimon.

In addition to the two main awards, 14 Certificates of Merit of the Order of St. Panteleimon were presented to other organizations and individuals for their exceptional contributions to humanitarian efforts, support for Ukrainian medical professionals, and assistance to the Ukrainian people.

Prof. Bazylevych also presented the first WFUMA Gratitude Awards in the United States, recognizing steadfast dedication to

promoting health in Ukraine amid challenging conditions.

Heartfeltly thanking all present, Prof. Bazylevych praised the spirit of international collaboration and highlighted the significance of such humanitarian initiatives, saying, "Every act of compassion and solidarity with Ukraine is a step toward our shared goal of peace and resilience. Your support strengthens us in our fight for freedom and honors the spirit of this award."

More information about the Order of St. Panteleimon can be found online at www.Facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556001176697 or by emailing sp.order.usa@gmail.com.



Courtesy of Tatyana Tymkiv

Guests, award winners and officials of the Order of St. Panteleimon are seen at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City on November 1.

Ukraine bolsters...

(Continued from page 7)

17). Earlier this year, when Mr. Biden authorized ATACMS shipments to Ukraine, he restricted their deployment within Ukraine's own territory, which would permit them to strike Russian forces in Crimea but not Russia proper (Kyiv Post, November 17, 18). This decision was presumably spurred by the re-election of Donald Trump as U.S. president, which will probably lead to far less support for Ukraine.

At this stage in Russia's war against Ukraine, the only certainty is that the missile race will continue, as missiles offer capabilities beyond the immediate tactical front. By revitalizing its Cold War-era mis-

sile manufacturing capabilities, Ukraine is poised to mitigate reliance on restricted Western technology and enhance its long-range strike capacity. This development not only changes the dynamics of the ongoing war but also signals a broader missile race that will likely shape regional and global security considerations in the years to come. Western relaxation of ballistic restrictions combined with growing Ukrainian rocket and missile production to curb Russia's aggression is a new tactical and strategic consideration that will become increasingly prominent in the future.

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

Ukrainian pro sports update

by Ihor N. Stelmach

Ukraine first in world powerlifting championships

Ukraine finished first in total medals (12) and gold medals (five) at the 51st annual World Open Equipped Powerlifting Championships in Reykjavik, Iceland, on November 11-16. Ukrainian competitors also won four silver and three bronze medals. The competition featured athletes of various ages who were graded on squat, bench press and deadlift.

Ukrainian gold medalists included Mykola Barannik (83 kilograms, who lifted 932.5 kilograms), Volodymyr Rysiev (93 kilograms, who lifted 1,040 kilograms), Andrii Shevchenko (over 120 kilograms, who lifted 1,147.5 kilograms), Zuzanna Kula (52 kilograms, who lifted 560 kilograms) and Larysa Soloviyova (63 kilograms, who lifted 610 kilograms).

Ukraine wins 11 medals in Greco-Roman wrestling

Ukraine's 11 competitors all won medals at the Bill Farrell Memorial International wrestling tournament held on November 8-9 in New York City. Ukraine competed only in Greco-Roman wrestling, bypassing men's and women's freestyle wrestling.

Ukrainian gold medalists included Viktor Petryk (63 kilograms), Maksym Liu (67 kilograms), Parvis Nasibov (72 kilograms), Irfan Mirzoev (77 kilograms) and Artur Ovsepyan (87 kilograms). Ukrainian wrestlers won four silver and two bronze medals along with their five gold medals.

Ukrainian firefighters win 12 medals

Euromaidan Press reported that the Ukrainian Emergency Services team impressed at the Firefighter Challenge World Championship in Nashville, Tenn., on October 21-26, winning 12 medals (10 gold, two silver) and setting four new world records.

Among Ukraine's gold medal victories were the men's relay team (fire departments under 40, setting a new world record), national mixed relay team (under-40), and women's relay team (under-40, world record). Outstanding individual performers included Oleksandr Baran, Roman Silchuk, Ihor Polishchuk, Mariia Lebedyn-

ska, Oksana Chekhmestrenko and Svitlana Marusenko.

Ukrainians excel in chess

Nine Ukrainians participated in the International Physically Disabled Chess Association's European Individual Chess Championship in Torrevieja, Spain, on October 16-26, with five players winning a total of 14 medals, including six gold, five silver and three bronze medals. Svitlana Solomna and Artem Andrienko each won three gold medals. Matches were played in classic chess categories of open, rapid and blitz.

Ukrainian Anastasia Osadchuk won the 2024 World Amateur Chess Championship rating category U-1700 in Rhodes, Greece, on October 26 through November 5.

Svitlana Honchar won gold at the European Deaf Chess Championships in Seville, Spain, on October 28 through November 2.

Shevchenko inducted into Italian Football Hall of Fame

Soccer legend Andriy Shevchenko has been inducted into the Foreign Players category of the Italian Football Hall of Fame, as reported by the Italian Football Federation on November 12. At the ceremony in Coverciano, Italy, Shevchenko read an emotional letter of thanks addressed to Italy and football club AC Milan, reminiscing on how he dreamed of playing for the celebrated Italian franchise when he was a young child.

The current president of the Ukrainian Football Association said that entering the Italian Hall of Fame was a huge privilege and he thanked all of his AC Milan teammates, club management and the team's fans.

Following five years with Dynamo Kyiv, AC Milan paid \$25 million for his services in the summer of 1999. He played in Serie A until 2006, leading the league in goal scoring his first season and winning the Ballon d'Or in 2004.

Ukraine defeats Austria in Billie Jean King Cup playoffs

Elina Svitolina made the journey to McKinney, Texas, for her country's "home" matchup with Austria in the 2024 Billie Jean King Cup Playoffs on November 17. Recovering from ankle surgery, Svitolina would have loved to represent her homeland in the matches. But instead, it was world No. 118 Lesia Tsurenko headlining Ukraine's squad.

On the courts, captain Illya Marchenko's Ukrainian team successfully overcame a 2-1 deficit to defeat their Austrian opponents 3-2 thanks to a clutch singles match win by Katarina Zavatska and a clinching doubles victory by the duo of Zavatska and Nadiia Kichenok.

Tsurenko won the first singles match, 6-3, 7-5 over Tamira Paszek. Zavatska went down to Sinja Kraus, 3-6, 7-5, 5-7, and Kraus bested Tsurenko, 1-6, 1-6 before Zavatska took down Julia Grabher, 6-2, 7-5. In the tie-breaking deciding doubles match, the Kichenok and Zavatska pairing outplayed Austrians Kraus and Paszek, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4, coming back from being down a set to get the win. The 3-2 triumph advanced Ukraine to the Billie Jean King Cup Qualifiers in April 2025 with a chance to play for a spot in the tournament's final stage.

A portion of the proceeds from the com-



Facebook.com/olympicua

Ukraine's Greco-Roman wrestlers – among them, 11 medalists – at the Bill Farrell Memorial International wrestling tournament on November 8-9 in New York.

petition went to the Elina Svitolina Foundation that supports Ukrainian athletes and children. The foundation currently oversees Ukraine's Billie Jean King Cup team.

NOC of Ukraine honors Mahuchikh and Saladukha

Winners of the 2024 National Olympic Committee of Ukraine's "Women in Sports" competition were Olympic gold medalist and record-breaking high jumper Yaroslava Mahuchikh in the "Harmony of Success" category and Olha Saladukha in the "Power of Support" category. Saladukha is currently the president of the Athletics Federation of Ukraine. It was a banner year in 2024 for Mahuchikh, as European Athletics earlier recognized her as the best female athlete of the year for the continent. She received over \$242,000 for auctioning off her gold-medal-winning saber to raise funds for Ukraine's Armed Forces.

Ukraine draws 1-1 with Georgia in UEFA Nations League

The UEFA Nations League match between the national football teams of Ukraine and Georgia on November 16 ended in a 1-1 draw. The fifth round of the group stage took place in Batumi, Georgia. The home club conceded an own goal in the seventh minute when defender Solomon Kverkvelia accidentally directed the ball into his own net after a pass from Mykhailo Mudryk. Georgia's Georgi Mikautadze equalized in the 76th minute.

Georgia enjoyed advantages in possession time (57 percent to 43 percent), shots (18-7) and fouls committed (8-17). Prior to the match, it started to rain and the field was covered with a special film, forcing stadium workers to rake water off the turf.

Following the match, Ukraine sat in fourth place in Group 1, Division B with five points, behind Georgia, the Czech Republic (7 points each) and Albania (6 points).

Ukraine then won its sixth and final match against Albania 2-1 on November 19. With the victory, Ukraine moved into second place with 8 points, three behind group leader Czechia. It sits one point ahead of Georgia and Albania.

Filewich siblings hooping it up

Ukrainian Keon Filewich and wife Arlyn both played basketball for the University of Manitoba Bisons from 1988-1993. It is no surprise that older daughter Keylyn and son Kyler followed their parents into the sport of basketball, a common subject when the family hangs out together. It also helps the children improve their hoop skills. Kyler Filewich, a 6-foot-9, 250-pound center for Wofford University, has dreams of playing in the pros, hoping to emulate 6-1 Keylyn Filewich, who re-signed with German 2 Bundesliga club Bochum for two years in late September.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, native Kyler led two different high schools, one in Manitoba, the other a prep school in Ontario, to provincial titles while earning No. 1 player status in Manitoba by the Winnipeg Sun in 2018 and 2019.

Kyler attended Southern Illinois University his freshman and sophomore years and was named to the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) All-Freshman team in 2020-2021. He also earned a spot on the MVC Academic Honor Roll. In his first two years at Wofford, he improved his scoring from 6.7 points to 9.4 points and his rebounding from 4.8 boards to 8.8 rebounds per game. Last season, he was tied for first on the team with 108 assists.

In his first four games of the current 2024-2025 campaign, Filewich is averaging 28 minutes, 10.3 points and 10.3 rebounds per game for the 1-3 Wofford Warriors.

VFL Viactiv-Astroladies Bochum confirmed that 26-year-old Ukrainian-Canadian center Keylyn Filewich was re-

(Continued on page 14)



Wikipedia

Katarina Zavatska, seen during the first round of the 2023 U.S. Open qualifiers, won her singles match and doubles match (with Nadiia Kichenok) against Austria at the 2024 Billie Jean King playoffs on November 17 in McKinney, Texas. Ukraine won 3-2 and advanced to the 2025 Billie Jean Cup qualifiers.

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Hryhorenko family pursuing daughter's Olympic dream as refugees in Oregon

by Ihor N. Stelmach

Not surprisingly, when Russia launched its full-scale war on Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the lives of Oleksandr Hryhorenko, his wife, Yulia, and kids Anhelina and Ivan drastically changed. Up to that fateful day, they were having a normal week. Anhelina was participating in a cross-country ski competition in western Ukraine, Ivan was in school, Yulia was teaching physical education at a school and Oleksandr was doing carpentry work.

The invasion changed everything.

Young Anhelina and her fellow cross-country ski competitors were safely evacuated to Poland. Her parents and little brother found themselves trapped in their home's root cellar for two weeks. When they finally emerged, Yulia decided to take her son and join Anhelina in Poland. They remained there for three months until Kyiv set in place anti-missile systems to protect the city.

Upon returning home to Ukraine, they were forced to adapt to a new way of life. Daytime saw them trying to keep a normal routine while nighttime meant sleeping in the root cellar. Anhelina returned to her athletic boarding school to continue training.

Finding consistency was difficult since life had become a constant trepidation. Danger could come at any moment; overhead, planes could drop bombs. The sound of air-raid sirens implied safety was a hopeless delusion. Hearing explosions created anxiety and the root cellars were not bomb or bulletproof.

The family persisted for nine months until a fateful day in October 2022 when Anhelina got caught in a massive air raid



Courtesy of Mt. Bachelor Sports Education Foundation

The Hryhorenko family is seen at the Mt. Bachelor Nordic Center in Bend, Ore., in late May. The family (clockwise, from the top left) includes Yulia, Anhelina, Oleksandr and Ivan.

while commuting to her school. The time had come to flee Ukraine and the Hryhorenkos sought out a sponsor for them, beginning an application process that would take a year.

Anhelina's mother is convinced that her daughter was put on this earth to be a cross-country skier. She references her daughter's dedicated training habits and love for the sport.

When the family finally arrived in Salem, Ore., on December 13, 2023, Yulia was on a mission to find a way for Anhelina to continue her passion for skiing. She wrote and

sent out letters of appeal to every cross-country skiing program she could find in the Pacific Northwest.

The only response she received was from the desk of Reitler Hodgert, program director for the Mt. Bachelor Sports Education Foundation, which is based in the western Oregon city of Bend. The competitive education nonprofit organization specializes in mountain sports and Hodgert saw a potential opportunity to provide humanitarian aid. He decided to bring Anhelina onto the cross-country ski program tuition-free.

Hodgert made the generous commitment to support the aspiring skier and her family to the best of his foundation's ability, believing Anhelina deserved an opportunity. Almost two months into working with her, Hodgert has been impressed, especially with how the youngster handles the many difficult challenges she has faced. He has spoken of her resilience as a human being, her responses to constant changes in life and how she proved capable of leaping into an established group of peers, even though she had a language barrier. She somehow managed to fit in.

Believe it or not, getting Anhelina into a cross-country ski program was simple compared to Yulia's quest for a permanent residence for her family in the U.S. She needed to develop an apartment rental history, and she needed to get references and build a decent credit score.

As of early March, the family was shuttling between Bend and Salem, Ore. Oleksandr managed to get carpentry work in Salem while Yulia and the children were temporarily staying in a spare room offered to them by a person at the Mt. Bachelor Nordic Ski Center. The eventual goal is for Anhelina to attend Summit High School and Ivan will go to William E. Miller Elementary School, both in Bend.

A translator friend of the Hryhorenkos, Mila Shelehoff, is trying to land Oleksandr employment in Bend and has made formal written appeals to local rental agencies asking them to consider the family's housing application.

It has been hard on the family living in a strange land without a permanent home and with no friends, but there is peace of

(Continued on page 16)

Ukrainian pro...

(Continued from page 13)

signed for two more years. The 2024-2025 season will be her third year with the club.

At the conclusion of the 2021-2022 season, Keylyn won the U Sports (national sport governing body for Canadian universities) women's basketball player of the year award after averaging 17.3 points, 10.5 rebounds and 1.1 blocks per game for the University of Winnipeg Wesmen. She played her first four seasons for the University of British Columbia (UBC) Thunderbirds before transferring to Winnipeg for her final year of eligibility. Filewich is also a two-time Canada West player of the year. She averaged 15.8 points and 8.8 rebounds while shooting 58 percent from the field in 72 games over her four seasons at UBC.

When Keylyn was 4 years old, she told her parents that one day she was going to be a professional athlete. Her dream came true on August 23, 2022, when she signed her first contract in the second division of Germany's women's professional league with the VFL Astroladies in the city of Bochum.

Thus far in the 2024-2025 season, Keylyn is second on the team in scoring (15.3 points) and first in rebounding (9.1) through the team's first eight games.

Sport Shorts

- Ukrainian triathlete Nataliia Matsupko finished 10th overall and first among amateur women with a time of 9:19:51 at the Ironman Florida portion of the Vinfast Ironman North America Series in Panama City Beach, Fla., on October 30 through November 3. She competed in the triath-



<https://woffordterriers.com>

Kyler Filewich of Winnipeg, Manitoba, plays center with the Wofford University Terriers basketball team and is in his senior year. His sister plays basketball professionally in Germany, and his parents also played basketball in college.

lon's three components – a 3.8 kilometer swim, a 180-kilometer bicycle ride and a 42.2-kilometer run.

- Iryna Pidgaina and Artem Koval teamed up to win the gold medal at the ISU Junior Grand Prix of Figure Skating in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on October 5.

- Seventeen-year-old Zakhar Baumann received a Ukrainian passport and will be able to represent Ukraine on soccer's international stage. The son of immigrants from Kolomiya, he trained at the Manchester United academy, signed a professional contract with United in July 2023 and currently plays for Manchester United in the U18 Premier League, where in six games he has scored one goal.

- Gymnast Illia Kovtun won the Memorial Arturo Gander gymnastics competition in Balerna, Switzerland, on November 7. Kovtun competed in the floor exercise

(14.450 points), pommel horse (12.650 points), vault (14.500 points) and parallel bars (15.500 points). His total score of 57.100 points won the overall competition.

- Ten-year-old Leonid Dzubenko won the gold medal at the European Kids Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2024 in Lisbon, Portugal, in the 36-kilogram class.

- Goalkeeper Andriy Lunin has been excused from international duty for the Ukrainian national football team during the November international break due to family reasons. He also missed the October window because of health issues.

- Lesia Tsurenko made it to the semifinals of the Dow Tennis Classic played in Midland, Mo., on November 4-10 before losing to Rebecca Marino, 2-6, 5-7.

- Elizaveta Topchaniuk won a gold medal in the cross-country discipline at the Deaf Olympic Mountainbiking World

Championships held in Satoraljauihely, Hungary, on November 1-10.

- Ukraine won the third overall place out of 35 competing nations with 21 medals (13 gold, two silver and six bronze) at the ITF Taekwondo World Cup 2024 in Mar del Plata, Argentina, on October 28 through November 2.

- Ukraine won first place at the 2024 European Kickboxing Championships in Athens, Greece, on November 1-10 with their 36 medals (12 gold, 11 silver, 13 bronze). Ukraine earned four licenses to participate in the sport's World Championships.

- Kyrylo Marsak won the gold medal at the 53rd Volvo Open Cup held in Riga, Latvia, on October 31 through November 3 in men's single figure skating with 221.87 points.

- Ukraine finished third out of 19 countries at the Rome European Judo Championships held in Rome on November 9-10, winning three medals including two golds and one silver medal. Ukrainian gold medalists were Artem Lesiuk (60 kilograms) and Ruslana Bulavina (over-78 kilograms).

- Ukrainian youngsters captured 12 medals (three gold, five silver and four bronze) at the 2024 IFBB European Children Fitness Championships held on November 8-10 in Kielce, Poland. The Ukrainian team finished third overall out of seven competing countries with 113 points.

- New Jersey Devils fourth-line center Curtis Lazar will be out a few months after undergoing a procedure on his left knee.


(Based on reporting by UNN, Ukrainska Pravda, Ukrinform, Rubryka, TSN, Billie Jean King Cup, Winnipeg Free Press and Wofford University.)

Ihor Stelmach may be reached at ihorhenia@sbglobal.net.

OUT & ABOUT

Through December 12 New York	Exhibit, "Children of the War" by Marina Temkina and Michel Gerard, Columbia University, https://harriman.columbia.edu	December 6 Ottawa	Christmas Party, Ukrainian National Federation - Ottawa-Gatineau branch, Qaisar Restaurant, vkarpalak@rogers.com
November 26 Cambridge, MA	Presentation by Hanna Perekhoda, "Borders in Revolution: The 1917 Struggle Over the Russian-Ukrainian Divide," Harvard University, https://huri.harvard.edu	December 6-7 New York	International Holiday Boutique, Ukrainian Institute of America, www.ukrainianinstitute.org
November 26 Online	Webinar, "Ukrainian Women of Ravensbrück Concentration Camp," by Lydia Replansky and Kalyna Bezchlibnyk-Butler, Ukrainian Genealogy Group, https://meet/zoho.com/TCEYeg7XpJ	December 7 Washington	Concert, "Ukraine Lives!" Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, Ukrainian Catholic Shrine of the Holy Family, www.bandura.org/events
November 27 Online	Presentation by Ieva Gudaityte, "Listening to Alternative Histories Through Independent Music Radio in Ukraine," Columbia University, https://harriman.columbia.edu	December 7 Miami, FL	Ukrainian Christmas Traditions, food, crafts and more, with concert "Carol of the Bells" and visitation by St. Nicholas, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, https://ukrainianmiami.org
November 29 Chicago	Book presentation, "The Dark Night of the Soul" by Daniel Hryhorczuk, Ukrainian National Museum, www.ukrainiannationalmuseum.org	December 8 New Haven, CT	Charity concert, featuring Iryna Lonchyna, Igor Yuziuk, Liubomyr Chermak and Ridna Shkola's Singing Group "Ukrainian Hearts," St. Mary the Protectress Ukrainian Orthodox Church, 203-494-6278 or halial@aol.com
November 30 Chicago	75th anniversary banquet, Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization (Chicago), Ukrainian Cultural Center, https://ticketstripe.com/PlastovaStanycia-75th	December 8 Jenkintown, PA	Petrykivka workshop and ornament decoration, Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, www.ueccphila.org
December 2 New York	Panel discussion, "EU Enlargement in the Shadow of Russia's War on Ukraine," with Adam Reichart, Laurynas Vaiciunas and Alexandra Karppi, Columbia University, https://harriman.columbia.edu	December 10 Cambridge, MA	Presentation by Kateryna Ruban, Harvard University, https://huri.harvard.edu
December 3 New York	Presentation by Mark Temnycky, "A Spark of Light: Ukraine's Energy Sector During the Russian Invasion," Columbia University, https://harriman.columbia.edu	December 14 Jenkintown, PA	Christmas Bazaar and Food Fest, Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, www.ueccphila.org
December 4 Cambridge, MA	Presentation by Dafna Rachok, Harvard University, https://huri.harvard.edu	December 14 New York	Yalynka celebration, Ukrainian Engineers' Society of America and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, Ukrainian Institute of America, www.ukrainianinstitute.org
December 6 Glenside, PA	Concert, "Ukrainian Christmas," Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, www.bandura.org/events	December 14-15 Chicago	Winter Makers Market, Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, www.uima-chicago.org

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



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Hryhorenko...

(Continued from page 14)

mind going to sleep at night without threats of air raids.

Anhelina's Olympic dream

Anhelina was among the competitors at the annual Oregon High School cross-country skiing's 5-kilometer (5k) state championship race on February 23. She was dressed in a blue-and-yellow athletic suit with a headband displaying only the word Ukraine. At the start of the race, the 14-year-old accelerated forward at a fast speed, more than holding her own against a group of skiers who raced in the Junior Olympics.

In retrospect, given the family's refugee story, reaching the starting line for the 5k race was its own achievement. Anhelina's dream is to become an Olympic cross-country skier. She has somehow managed to overcome a couple of years filled with apprehension and uncertainty. Along with her family members, she has prevailed over a language barrier, housing challenges and adjusting to a new culture in the U.S. Fortunately, the Hryhorenkos found people who believed in her dream just as much as she did.

Back in Ukraine, prior to the Russian invasion, Anhelina had a clear path to the Olympics. Her father, Oleksandr, won national titles in Ukraine and her aunt, Kateryna Hryhorenko, represented Ukraine at three Olympic Games as a cross-country skier.

The Hryhorenkos knew how to get to the Olympics while living in their native Ukraine. They do not know how to get to the Olympics while living in the United States. Fortunately for them, there are people in Bend, Ore., who are willing and able to help them figure it out.

Anhelina finished sixth in that individual freestyle race on February 23 with a time of 14:51.5, only one minute and 13 seconds slower than the winner.

(Based on reporting by Oregon Live, The Oregonian.)

Ukraine accuses...

(Continued from page 1)

industrial facility was damaged in the regional capital, Dnipro, where two fires were started by the attack.

Explosions were also reported in Kremenchuk, in the central Poltava region.

Moscow's use of a large number of sophisticated missiles as opposed to the usual drone attacks appears to be in response to Ukraine's gaining approval to use some Western-donated long-range missile systems to strike deeper into Russia.

On November 20, Russian military bloggers and a source cited by Reuters reported that Ukraine had fired up to 12 Franco-British Storm Shadow missiles into Russia's Kursk region, part of which has been under Ukrainian control following a surprise incursion by Ukrainian troops in August.

A spokesman for British Prime Minister Keir Starmer declined to confirm whether the missiles had been used. Previously, London had given permission to use the Storm Shadows, which have a 155-mile range, within Ukraine's territory.

Earlier this week, Ukraine reportedly used ATACMS to strike a military facility in Russia's Bryansk region after Mr. Biden was reported to give his approval for Kyiv to conduct the attack. The White House has not officially confirmed the approval and Ukraine hasn't directly acknowledged the use of ATACMS on Russian targets.

Russia has long warned that Ukraine's use of Western-supplied long-range weapons to strike inside its territory would mark a serious escalation of the war.

On November 21, Moscow said a new U.S. missile defense base in the Polish town of Redzikowo near the Baltic coast, which was opened on November 13 as part of a broader North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) missile shield, will lead to an increase in the overall level of nuclear danger.

"This is another frankly provocative step in a series of deeply destabilizing actions by the Americans and their allies in the North Atlantic alliance in the strategic sphere," Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

"This leads to undermining strategic stability, increasing strategic risks and, as a result, to an increase in the overall level of nuclear danger," Ms. Zakharova said.

Poland rejected the claim, saying there were no nuclear missiles at the base.

"It is a base that serves the purpose of defense, not attack," Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman Pawel Wronski said on November 21.

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THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION SEEKS CANDIDATES FOR AN OPEN SEAT ON ITS CORPORATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pursuant to the provisions found in Article VI, Section 10 of its By-Laws, the Ukrainian National Association is undertaking the process of filling a one-seat vacancy on its Corporate Board of Directors. At their meeting on December 10, 2024, Board members will elect the most qualified candidate to serve on the Board, until the next Convention in 2026.

Candidates should possess proven governance and executive leadership skills and experience. Desired qualities and talents include executive leadership, experience in business management and an ability to think across all disciplines relevant to the UNA.

All candidates must be UNA members in good standing. A full position profile and instructions for applying are on-line at <https://unainc.org/una/leadership-position-openings/>.

The completed forms, a copy of the nominee's detailed Resume and a short statement as to why the nominee would be an excellent candidate must be sent via certified mail on or before November 30, 2024 to:

Ukrainian National Association, Inc.
Attn: Mr. Andriy Cade, Chairman
2200 Route 10
PO Box 280
Parsippany, NJ 07054