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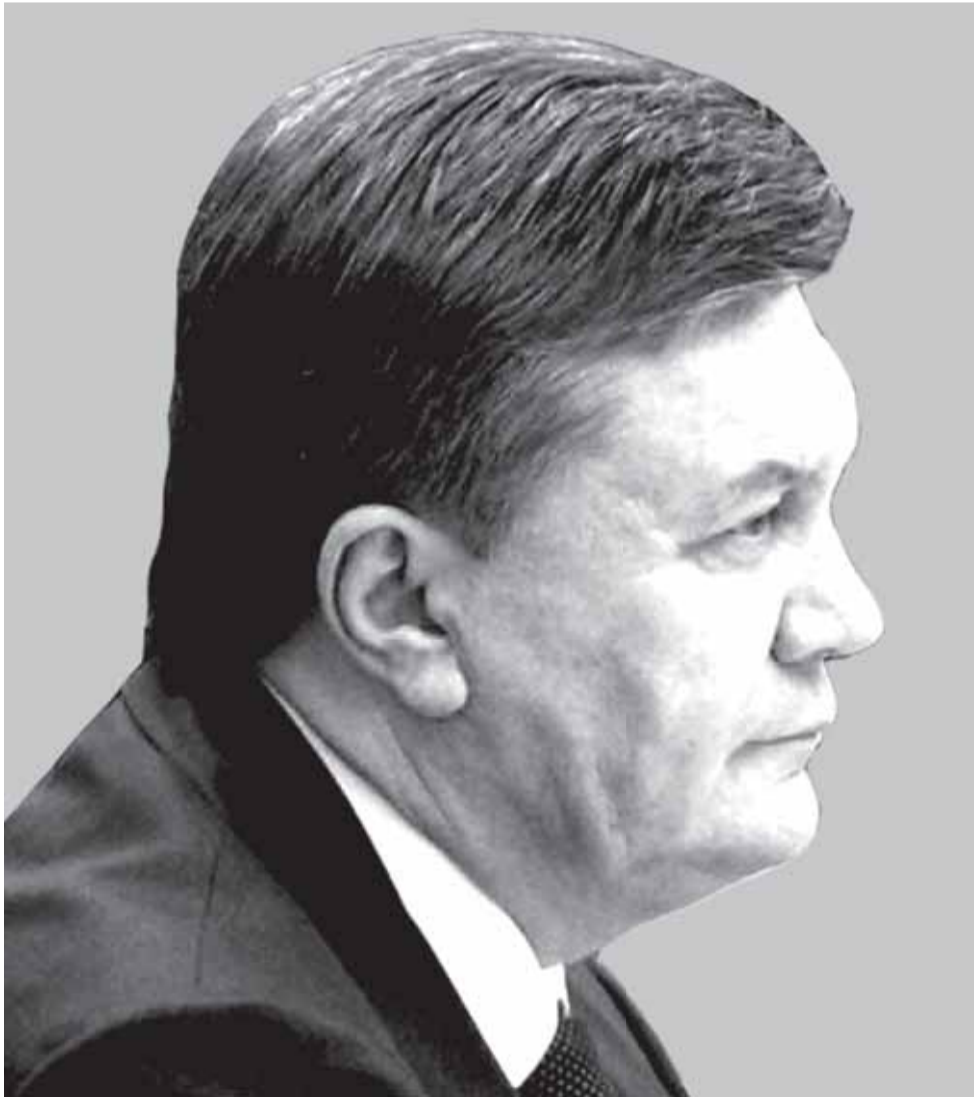
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February 28, 2014

Wanted For Mass Murder



Viktor Yanukovich

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From Prison To President To Prison Again?

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Ukraine's government, old vs. new

Before his nomination as prime minister on Feb. 27, Arseniy Yatseniuk said he was going to lead a "kamikaze government." His Cabinet has 21 members, a mix of veteran politicians, EuroMaidan activists and a few people who could make a big difference.

Head of state



Viktor Yanukovich, 63, on Feb. 25 could have celebrated four years in office.

Instead, on that day parliament voted to try him for mass murder in the International Court of Justice. Yanukovich fled Kyiv on Feb. 21.



Oleksandr Turchynov, 49, Lawmaker with Batkivshchyna Party.

Turchynov was elected on Feb. 22 as parliament speaker and became acting president until a new presidential election on May 25.

First deputy prime minister



Sergiy Arbuzov, 37, was believed to be close to Yanukovich's elder son

Oleksandr, which seems to be backed by a photo found in Mezhyhirya. Working as acting Prime Minister since late January, Arbuzov, took a sick leave after Yanukovich disappeared but reported that he "was trying to run the government."



Vitaly Yarema, 50, is a highly respected former general and ex-Kyiv city police chief. A member of anti-corruption committee in parliament, he will be responsible for coordinating law enforcers and restoring peace in the nation, a task that Arseniy Yatseniuk said was No. 1 for the new government.

Prosecutor general



Viktor Pshonka, 60, close ally and friend of Yanukovich. Along with his boss,

Pshonka is accused of mass murder and is wanted and on the run.



Oleg Makhnytsky, 44, was lawmaker of Svoboda Party before his nomination as chief of prosecution. Born in Lviv, he worked as a prosecutor there for a number of years.

Security Services of Ukraine chief



Oleksandr Yakymenko, 49, born in Russia, he was in the military service before

starting work in the Security Services of Ukraine. He headed the SBU in Sevastopol and Donetsk before moving to Kyiv in 2012. His name is among six top officials on the wanted list for mass murder. He is on the run.



Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, 47, headed the Security Services of Ukraine in

2009-2010 under President Viktor Yushchenko. He was again appointed to this office by 346 lawmakers. Speaking in parliament, he pledged to "protect people's lives" and apply the law fairly.

Presidential chief of staff



Andriy Klyuyev, 49, is also wanted for mass murder. Klyuyev resigned on

Feb. 23 and was shot at on the same day, his spokesman reported.



Oleg Rafalsky, 54. His nomination sparked criticism because

Rafalsky worked at the secretariat of Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions and worked in the administration in 2010, the year when Yanukovich became president.

Deputy prime ministers



Oleksandr Vilkul, 39, started work as vice-prime minister on infrastruc-

ture since December 2012, where he governed over Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. Vilkul's swift rise sparked speculations that he could replace Azarov as prime minister. Vilkul continued to perform his duties until he was dismissed by parliament on Feb. 27, according to his press service.



Oleksandr Sych, 49. This Svoboda Party member from Ivano-

Frankivsk Oblast had a swift rise since his party made it to parliament and has made some highly controversial moves since his election. One of his legal initiatives was an attempt to ban all abortions, an idea that caused a massive outcry among human rights groups.



Yury Boiko, 55, has been in energy business for his entire business and political

career. He was in charge of Naftogaz Ukraine state energy company, and twice worked as minister of fuel and energy in 2006 and 2010.



Borys Tarasiuk, 65, will be in charge of European integration.

A career diplomat, Tarasiuk have been foreign minister in four different governments in independent Ukraine. But he is disliked by many local diplomats for his arrogance.



Kostyantyn Gryshchenko, 60, was in charge of humanitarian issues in

Mykola Azarov's government since December 2012, after being dismissed as foreign minister. Gryshchenko used to be ambassador to the United States and Russia, and also led the foreign ministry under President Leonid Kuchma. After Yanukovich fled, Gryshchenko tweeted that he is in Kyiv, with no plans to leave.



Volodymyr Hroisman, 36, will be responsible for regional policy. He comes

from the city of Vinnytsia where he has been mayor since 2006. Elected at the age of 28, he is credited for transforming the city's bureaucracy into one of the nation's friendliest – a deed that earned him a record-breaking number of votes during re-election in 2010, when 77.8 percent of the city residents supported him.

Prime minister



Mykola Azarov, 66, worked as prime minister since 2010 and resigned on

Jan. 28. Soon after, Azarov reportedly left for Austria, where his son, also a lawmaker, has a luxury mansion. On Feb. 26, the prosecutor general launched a probe into crimes committed by Azarov and his government.



Arseniy Yatseniuk, 39. A career politician and former business-

man, Yatseniuk has held a number of top offices before: head of the National Bank of Ukraine, foreign minister and Verkhovna Rada speaker, among them. Yatseniuk is notoriously difficult to get along with.

Interior minister



Vitaly Zakharchenko, 51, was a part of Yanukovich's inner circle.

Protesters on Maidan say he is responsible for violence and police excesses since the beginning of the EuroMaidan protests on Nov. 21. Zakharchenko remained in his job until Yanukovich's ousting. Some media reported he fled to Belarus.



Arsen Avakov, 50, was appointed interior minister on Feb. 27. A former head

of the Kharkiv Oblast council, he was accused of illegal privatization of land and abuse of power and was under criminal investigation by the previous government, which forced him to flee to Italy. His fellow party members said the case was politically motivated.

Defense minister



Pavlo Lebedev, 51, was a nondescript Defense Minister in Yanukovich's

government, yet he had to flee to Crimea on Feb. 22. He still insisted he was performing his duties all the way up to Feb.



Ihor Teniukh 55, a navy admiral, was appointed the new acting defense minister. He

had previously led Ukraine's fleet in 2006-2010, but quit the job in March 2010, soon after the election of Viktor Yanukovich as president, citing moral reasons.

Finance minister



Yury Kolobov, 40, worked as minister of finance as of February 2012.

Despite his close ties with Yanukovich's inner circle, the so-called "family," Kolobov stayed in Kyiv and was in touch with the opposition as it formed the new government.



Oleksandr Shlapak, 54. The finance minister is Russian-born and Lviv-

educated. A former deputy head of PrivatBank, he represents billionaire Igor Kolomoisky's group in the Cabinet. He served as President Leonid Kuchma's economy minister and aide to President Viktor Yushchenko.

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Russia believed to be harboring Yanukovych

BY CHRISTOPHER J. MILLER AND
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Overthrown Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych, wanted for mass murder and stealing as much as \$70 billion from Ukraine in the last three years, remains defiant as a fugitive from justice.

According to RIA Novosti and other Russian news agencies, Yanukovych is planning to hold a 5 p.m. Feb. 28 press conference in Rostov-on-Don, a southern Russian city near the Azov Sea.

However, Ukrainian authorities showed their own determination, promising to catch Yanukovych and put him on trial for his alleged crimes.

First Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Vitaliy Yarema said "we'll do everything possible to submit all the documents necessary to ensure Yanukovych, (ex-Interior Minister Vitaliy) Zakharchenko and (ex-Prosecutor General Viktor) Pshonka are searched for by Interpol. We'll ensure that Yanukovych is returned to Ukraine as soon as possible and is brought to criminal account."

Yarema, when asked about reports that Yanukovych is still issuing presidential decrees, said: "These are just convulsions. Yanukovych is politically dead, and all these decisions have no judicial power."

According to a written statement to the Ukrainian people, obtained and published by several news agencies in Russia, Yanukovych claims to be the legitimate president of Ukraine — despite being removed from office by parliament on Feb. 22 after he fled his palatial estate 20 kilometers north of Kyiv as well as his presidential duties.

At the same time, Russian news agencies reported he was in Moscow, where the government was providing him safe haven.

Meanwhile, in what is widely seen as a related issue, tensions have escalated in the Crimean capital of Simferopol as armed separatists stormed the autonomous republic's government buildings — including its parliament and administration buildings. Two people were killed and up to 30 injured in clashes on Feb. 26, officials reported.

"I, Viktor Fedorovich Yanukovych, am addressing the people of Ukraine. I still believe myself to be the legitimate head of the Ukrainian state elected in a free vote by Ukrainian citizens," said Yanukovych's address, according to Interfax news service on Feb. 27.

The Kyiv Post could not independently confirm the authenticity of the statement.

Yanukovych, impeached for dereliction of duty and gross human rights violations, said he has asked the Russian authorities to ensure his personal security. He is wanted on an arrest warrant charging him with mass murder in the slayings of more than 90 EuroMaidan demonstrators since Nov. 21, with most of the deaths taking place on Feb. 20.

Newly confirmed Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk also alleged that Yanukovych committed massive financial crimes. Yatseniuk estimated the former president siphoned as much as \$70 billion out of Ukraine in the last three years.

Yanukovych's statement, far from acknowledging any wrongdoing, complained of threats against him and allies.



Then-Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych winks at Russian President Vladimir Putin during a signing ceremony at the Kremlin in Moscow on Dec. 17, announcing a \$15 billion Kremlin bailout and discount on Russian natural gas. After EuroMaidan protesters succeeded in ousting Yanukovych on Feb. 22, the Russian bailout is on hold as Ukraine's new interim government seeks Western financial assistance to stabilize the nation's economy. (AFP)

"Threats of reprisals are coming to me and my associates. I have to ask the authorities of the Russian Federation to ensure my personal security from extremists' actions," his statement said.

Yanukovych described the latest decisions adopted by the country's parliament as illegitimate.

"I officially declare my determination to fight until the end for the implementation of the important compromise agreements concerning the Ukrainian recovery from the profound political crisis," he wrote.

Yatseniuk reacted to the former president's statement on Feb. 27 by reaffirming that Yanukovych "is no longer the president. He is a wanted person who is suspected of mass murder, committing a crime against humanity."

Interim Prosecutor General Oleh Makhnitsky said at a briefing in Kyiv on Feb. 26 that the ex-president and ex-Interior Minister Vitaliy Zakharchenko had been put on the international wanted list, among other former officials.

The manhunt for them, however, got off to a slow start. "The general prosecutor's office ordered police to find Yanukovych on Sunday (Feb. 23)," First Deputy Prosecutor General Mykola Holomsha said on Feb. 26.

But as of nightfall on Feb. 27, the ex-president had not been posted to the Interior Ministry's online fugitive database or on Interpol's international wanted list. At a Feb. 26 press conference, Avakov said the police "didn't have time to put the names on the database yet."

Oleh Tyahnybok, leader of the Svoboda Party, said that Yanukovych "should have been" on all international and national wanted lists.

Asked by the Kyiv Post about progress made in the search, Holomsha said that "enough people" have been interrogated, including some of his former Party of Regions allies. However, Yanukovych's wife Liudmyla Yanukovych had not yet been questioned as of Feb. 27.

The manhunt involves an investigative group of about 100 people that includes some 40 police officers, according to Avakov. But he was short on details when pressed about what specifically the group was doing to track down the toppled leader.

In his Feb. 24 statement, Avakov said Yanukovych had flown a helicopter to Kharkiv on Feb. 21, and then made his

way to Donetsk the next day. There he attempted to flee Ukraine by plane, but was stopped by border service guards for not having proper documentation. He later went by car to the coastal Crimean city of Balaclava, near Russia's naval base in Sevastopol, before cutting communication and disappearing.

Crimea is where Avakov went looking for him on Feb. 23-24, along with Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, the newly appointed head of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU). But the two called off their search in a bid to reduce regional tensions, Avakov told journalists on Feb. 26.

"I believe that we should not allow any military confrontation or conflict there (in Crimea)," he said.

Pro- and anti-Russian protesters faced off in the autonomous republic's capital of Simferopol on Feb. 25-27, over the newly appointed government in Kyiv. At about 4 a.m. on Feb. 27, armed pro-Russian gunmen stormed and took control of the regional government headquarters and parliament and raised the Russian flag atop the building.

Rumors as to Yanukovych's whereabouts ran the gamut.

As of the Kyiv Post's deadline late on Feb. 27, Yanukovych's exact location remained a mystery, but his statement, along with unconfirmed Russian news reports that he had already purchased a home in Moscow for \$52 million, led many to believe that he plans to live in Russia.

Meanwhile, as tempers flared in Crimea, where supporters of Ukraine's new government clashed with pro-Russian demonstrators. Two died and more than 30 were injured during confrontations there, officials said.

Zair Akadyrov, an editor for Crimean newspaper Argumenty Nedeli in Simferopol, said journalists were not allowed inside the Crimean Parliament for a closed emergency session during which a referendum on greater autonomy will be held on May 25, the same day the country's early presidential elections will take place.

Akadyrov said hundreds of Berkut riot police patrolled the building during the session, despite the group having been disbanded by Avakov, the nation's top cop, on Feb. 24.

A high-ranking Ukrainian Foreign Ministry source believes that the gunmen who took over the Crimean government buildings are Russians.

"They (the Russians) are going to legitimize Yanukovych, and the situation in the country is going to sharpen in the next days because of the stand-off in Crimea and the unclear situation in Crimean parliament," Akadyrov said.

In his statement, Yanukovych called for all lawmakers who still support him to gather in Sevastopol on March 3.

A Ukrainian government source said on Feb. 27 that Russia has been warned against interfering in Crimea.

The source said that the Foreign Ministry warned the Russian Federation against unauthorized movement of military vehicles on the peninsula. The note said that these moves would violate the bilateral agreement allowing the Russian military base in Crimea.

Earlier in the day, there were reports of Russian armored personnel vehicles moving on the southern coast and jets scrambling to the Ukrainian border.

Ukraine is hoping to solve the problem internally, but is prepared to engage third parties to find a diplomatic solution to the conflict.

"If we don't solve it ourselves, we will try to use the Budapest Memorandum (on Security Assurances)," the Foreign Ministry source said. Under the 1994 accord agreed to when Ukraine gave up its Soviet-era nuclear arsenal, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States serve as guarantors of

Ukraine's borders.

Ukraine might also address the United Nation's Security Council and invite the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to intervene.

Besides arrest warrants against Yanukovych, other former top officials remain under investigation in his administration. Those include ex-Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, who is suspected of financial crimes.

Others charged with complicity in the mass murders of demonstrators include: former presidential chief of staff Andriy Klyuyev; ex-Prosecutor General Viktor Pshonka; ex-head of the Security Services of Ukraine (SBU) Oleksandr Yakymenko; and ex-Interior Ministry troops commander Stanislav Shuliak.

Makhnitsky, Ukraine's new top prosecutor, said "this is not the final list. The investigations go on and new names are going to be added soon."

If Yanukovych is convicted of murder and financial crimes, he faces the third prison sentence of his life. He served two prison terms in his youth, in 1967 and 1970, for assault and theft.

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Editorial

Robbed blind

Viktor Yanukovich has triggered both of Ukraine's two revolutions in the last decade. In the first peaceful one, the 2004 Orange Revolution, the public stopped him from claiming the presidency in a rigged presidential election. Neither he nor his accomplices were ever punished.

The second one, the ongoing 2013-14 EuroMaidan Revolution, was much bloodier but succeeded in overthrowing Yanukovich on Feb. 22. However, it's still not clear whether he will be punished for any crimes as he remains a fugitive from justice, promising a press conference in exile from Rostov-on-Don, Russia, on Feb. 28 to reassert that he is president.

Ukraine, still reeling from the shock of having nearly 100 people killed in violence that Yanukovich allegedly orchestrated with other top officials, got more shocks on Feb. 27. That's when newly minted Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk announced that Yanukovich and his cronies had fleeced the nation for up to \$70 billion in the last three years, in one scheme after another. That averages to be more than 10 percent of the nation's annual gross domestic product in each of those three years.

No wonder this is a nation of Mercedes and mansions for 1 percent of the population and grinding poverty for most of the remaining 45 million people.

Amid the horror from the violence and the outrage at Yanukovich's over-the-top corruption, Ukrainians and their friends abroad need to keep in mind that he was only the figurehead of a deeply corrupt oligarch system of crony capitalism. Ukrainians need to uproot and dislodge this entire system.

There's more. For whatever reason, no matter who has been in charge they have not been able to create a fair and effective judicial system.

There are early signs also that parliament and the new interim government, while understandably having to take emergency action to confront the nation's political and economic crisis, are in danger of trampling on democratic principles in their rush for new laws. If nothing changes in Ukraine except for the faces in power, then the EuroMaidan Revolution will be as disappointing as the Orange Revolution of a decade ago.

The first order of business is to find Yanukovich and other wanted officials from his administration and prosecute them for murder and/or financial crimes. We are glad to hear that the alleged financial crimes of ex-Prime Minister Mykola Azarov may finally get investigated.

The next order of business is to elect a new parliament, soon after the early presidential election on May 25. A parliament with the likes of ex-speakers Volodymyr Lytvyn and Volodymyr Rybak, among hundreds of other holdovers, many with highly tainted pasts, will not lead Ukraine into a bright future. EuroMaidan created numerous heroes among new faces who could well be good political leaders if elected.

The world has seen Ukraine's many strengths and deep weaknesses on display as never before. As gratifying as catching and prosecuting Yanukovich may be, along with chronicling his excesses, now is no time to celebrate. Ukraine has many other ills to cure as it ponders how it elected such a monster in 2010 and why nobody stopped his pillaging before now.

Crimea explodes

The dirty fingerprints of Russian President Vladimir Putin appear to be all over the tension and violence gripping the Crimean peninsula. Early on Feb. 27, armed gunmen took over two governmental buildings and hoisted a Russian flag on top of the buildings. The autonomous republic's parliament met in an emergency session to approve a May 25 referendum to give the peninsula – a majority of whose residents are ethnic Russians – a chance for greater autonomy from Ukraine's central government.

The separatism card must be stopped. We find it hard to believe that a majority of Crimean residents want to create their own nation or join Russia.

Putin continues to play a destructive role in all that's happening, first by conducting military exercises on Ukraine's borders and then by remaining silent on Feb. 27 during the violent takeovers amid reports that he is harboring the fugitive ex-President Viktor Yanukovich in his midst. During the entire EuroMaidan Revolution, his propaganda machine was condescending and dismissive.

Ukraine's new government has enough challenges without having to contend with a neighbor who is only starting fires. New Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk revealed a bare treasury and heavy debts.

Foreign lenders, whether from the West or Russia, would have to think hard before lending money to a nation whose leaders wallowed in such large-scale corruption during the four years of Yanukovich's administration.

Ukraine not only would not have needed any foreign money, it would be much richer today, if not for the scale of the financial corruption that Yatseniuk alleges – some \$70 billion in the last three years.

It's troubling that Yanukovich's cronies went along with this thievery, and would continue doing so but not for the EuroMaidan revolution. As for Putin, his actions in stoking Ukraine's crisis and exploiting its weaknesses shows that the faster that Ukraine's government can strike a deal with the European Union and the United States, the better.



Yuri Zhuravel, a Ukrainian artist and member of the OtVinta band, drew a portrait of Ukraine's slain heroes, known as the "Heavenly Hundred," overlooking their nation from clouds on a platform of tires. By the latest count of EuroMaidan SOS, 95 protesters and police officers have been killed in clashes between Jan. 22 and Feb. 20. Zhuravel is creating a series of drawings on the theme and even exhibited them on Hrushevskoho Street.

The 95 people killed in EuroMaidan protests

List of police and protester casualties during EuroMaidan violence as of Feb. 25 compiled by EuroMaidanSOS, an organization that helps the victims.

1. Heorhiy Arutunian, 53, Rivne
2. Serhiy Baidovsky, 22, Lutsk
3. Ivan Bliok, 40, Horodok, Lviv Oblast
4. Volodymyr Boikov, 58, Kyiv
5. Sergiy Bondarev, 33, Kramatorsk
6. Serhiy Bondarchuk, 53, Starokostyantyniv, Khmelnytskyi Oblast
7. Oleksiy Bratushka, 38, Sumy
8. Valeriy Brezdenyuk, 50, Zhmerynka, Vinnitsa Oblast
9. Bogdan Vaida, 58, Letnya, Lviv Oblast
9. Vitaliy Vasylytsov, 37, Bila Tserkva, Kyiv Oblast
6. Roman Varenysia, 35, Yavoriv Rayon, Lviv Oblast
7. Vyacheslav Veremiy, 32, Kyiv
8. Nazar Voytovych, 17, Travnava, Ternopil region
9. Ustym Holodniuk, 20, Zbarazh, Ternopil Oblast
10. Ivan Horodnuk, 29, Berezne, Rivne Oblast
11. Maxym Horoshyn, Grushkivka, Cherkaska Oblast
12. Roman Tochyn, 45, Khodoriv, Lviv Oblast
13. Roman Huryk, 18, Ivano-Frankivsk
14. Eduard Hrynevych, 29, Volyn Oblast
15. Andriy Dygdalovych, 40, Sokilniki, Lviv Oblast
16. Igor Dmitriv, 30, Kopanki, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast
17. Anatoliy Zhalovaha, 34, Lviv
18. Volodymyr Zakharov, 57, Kyiv
19. Andriy Zhanovachy, 50
20. Antonina Dvorianets, 62, Brovary, Kyiv Oblast
21. Serhiy Didych, 44, Horodenka, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast
22. Mykola Dziavylsky, 56, Shepetivka, Khmelnytskyi Oblast
23. Oleksandr Kapinos, 29, Kremenets, Ternopil Oblast
24. Serhiy Kemsy, 34, Kerch, Crimea
25. Volodymyr Kishchuk, 58, Zaporizhia Oblast
26. Andriy Korchak, 49, Stryj, Lviv Oblast
27. Ihor Kostenko, 22, Lviv
28. Vitaliy Kotsiuba, 32, Voroblyachin, Lviv Oblast
29. Ivan Kreman, Kremenchuk, Poltava Oblast
30. Volodymyr Kulchytsky, 65, Kyiv
31. Vasyl Moisey, 21, Kivertsi, Volyn Oblast
32. Andriy Movchan, 34, Kyiv
33. Volodymyr Naumov, 43, Dobropillia Rayon, Donetsk Oblast
34. Valeriy Opanasiuk, 42, Rivne
35. Yuriy Parashchuk, 48, Kharkiv
36. Yuriy Paskhalin, 30, Cherkasy Oblast
37. Oleksandr Plekhanov, 23, Kyiv
38. Andriy Sayenko, 52, Fastiv, Kyiv Oblast
39. Ihor Serdiuk, 42, Kremenchuk, Poltava Oblast
40. Viktor Chmilenko, 53, Bobrynets Rayon, Kirovohrad Oblast
41. Vitaliy Smolynsky, 30, Furmanivka, Cherkasy Oblast
42. Bohdan Solchanyk, 29, Staryi Sambir, Lviv Oblast
43. Igor Tkachuk, 39, (Russia?) Znamianka, Ivano-Frankivska Oblast
44. Ivan Bliok, 40, Horodok, Lviv Oblast
45. Oleh Ushnevych, 32, Drohobych, Lviv Oblast
46. Zurab Khurtsiya, 54, Georgia and Kirovohrad
47. Volodymyr Chaplynsky, 43, Obukhiv, Kyiv Oblast
48. Andriy Chernenko, 35, Kyiv
49. Oleksandr Tsariok, 25, Kalinivka Vasylykiv Rayon, Kyiv Oblast
50. Serhiy Shapoval, 44, Kyiv
51. Yosyp Shylyng, 61, Drohobych, Lviv Oblast
52. Volodymyr Zhrebny, 28, Vyshnia, Lviv Oblast
53. Volodymyr Zakharov, 66, Kyiv
54. Bohdan Ilkiv, 52, Schirets, Lviv Oblast
55. Davyd Kipiani, Georgia
56. Anatoliy Kornev, 53, Gavriliivtsi Kamianets – Podilskiy Oblast
57. Evgen Kotlyar, 34, Kharkiv
58. Dmytro Maksimov, 19, Cherkaska region
59. Volodymyr Melnychuk, 40, Kyiv
60. Dmytro Pagor, 21, Khmelnytskyi
61. Ivan Panteleev, 33, Kramatorsk
62. Mikola Pankiv, 39, Lapayivka, Lviv Oblast
63. Igor Peheenko, 43, Vishgorod, Kyiv Oblast
64. Leonid Polyansky, 28, Zhmerynka, Vinnitska Oblast
65. Vasyl Prohorsky, 33, Chernivtsi
66. Viktor Prokhorchuk, 28
67. Mykola Semesnyuk, 28, Khmelnytskyi
68. Ivan Tarasyuk, 20, Zalisoche, Volynska Oblast
69. Oleksandr Hrapachenko, 26, Rivne
70. Andriy Tsepun, 25, Kyiv
71. Viktor Chernets, 36, Podibna Cherkasy Oblast
72. Viktor Shvets, 63, Gatnoye Kyiv Oblast
73. Lyudmila Sheremet, 75, Khmelnytskyi
74. Yosip Shiling, 61, Drohobich Lvivska Oblast
77. Maxim Shimko, 34, Vinnitsa
78. Oleksandr Scherbanyuk, 45, Chernivtsi
79. Vasil Bulitka, 27, Kosachivka Chernihivska Oblast
80. Dmytro Vlasenko, 33, Crimea
81. Vitaliy Goncharov, 24, Crimea
82. Volodymyr Yevtushok, 43, Kyiv
83. Volodymyr Zubok, 28, Chernigivska Oblast
84. Oleksiy Ivanenko, 36, Kharkiv
85. Petro Savitsky, 44, Kyiv
87. Ivan Teplyuk, 20, Chernigiv
88. Maxim Tretiak, 20, Chernigiv
89. Andriy Fedyukin, 43, Crimea
90. Sergiy Tsvigun, 23, Zaporizhya
91. Serhiy Nihoyan, 20, Dnipropetrovsk
92. Roman Senyk, 45, Lviv Oblast
93. Mykhailo Zhiznevsky, 25, Bila Tserkva
94. Yuriy Verbytsky, 50, Lviv
95. Bohdan Kalynyak, 52, Kolomyia



Flowers and a cross rest atop a helmet worn by a protester slain during clashes with police in Kyiv on Feb. 18-20. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

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Some of EuroMaidan Revolution's fallen



Davyd Kipiani, 21. Native Georgian and member of Mikheil Saakashvili's party, Kipiani lived in Kyiv for the last year. He died in an ambulance of two gunshot wounds he suffered on Maidan Nezalezhnosti on Feb. 20. Kipiani had a one-year-old son.



Roman Huryk, 19. A student from Ivano-Frankivsk, he was shot in the head in Kyiv on Feb. 20. His group mates describe him as a patriot and say "something was calling him" to the Kyiv protest. Friends say Huryk was always optimistic and ready to fight for his ideas and beliefs. "If not me, then who," he said to his mom when leaving to Kyiv. Huryk was still alive when his comrades brought him to the medical aid unit, but died later in a hospital.



Oleksandr Kapinos, 29. Native of Ternopil Oblast, Kapinos was a farmer and a civic activist, former member of Svoboda Party. He died in the hospital on Feb. 19 from a serious head injury that came either from a grenade explosion or from a rubber bullet shot at close range. Kapinos was a part of the Volyn Sich self-defense unit. He came to EuroMaidan with his girlfriend.



Serhii Bondarev, 32. A Donetsk Oblast-native but Kyiv resident, Bondarev was one of the leading programmers at Global Logic IT company. Bondarev and his wife Svitlana got married around two years ago and their first child is about to be born in one month. Both were passionate Maidan supporters. His family lost connection with Serhii on the night of Feb. 18. After two days of searching, the family identified his body. Bondarev was shot four times.



Ustym Holodniuk, 19. A member of Democratic Alliance, Holodniuk came to Kyiv from Zbarazh in Ternopil Oblast. Holodniuk's friends say he was a courageous young man. Once he shared food and a heater with a police officer near the barricades. He was about to meet his father in Kyiv on Feb. 20 to go back home for several days to rest. But before that could happen, the young man was shot in the head by a sniper at Maidan Nezalezhnosti. His blue helmet was found by his father covered with blood with a bullet hole in it.



Serhiy Bondarchuk, 52. Svoboda Party member and native of Starokostiantyniv in Khmelnytskyi Oblast, Bondarchuk taught physics at a local school for 21 years. He was shot dead on Maidan Nezalezhnosti on Feb. 20. "He was shot by a sniper while he was trying to take away injured people, he didn't have either a helmet or a bullet-proof vest, he wasn't armed... I lived with him for many happy years and I will be waiting for him to come back home forever," Bondarchuk's wife told Channel 5.



Andriy Movchan, 34. A member of Democratic Alliance, Movchan worked as a lighting technician at Ivan Franko National Academic Drama Theatre in Kyiv. Oksana Pidubna, Movchan's party fellow, recalls that he was "amazingly kind." Other party members said Movchan was always ready to help. He was shot in the head at Maidan in the late morning on Feb. 20.



Bohdan Solchanyk, 29. Solchanyk, a lecturer in modern history at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, was an active participant of Orange Revolution in 2004 and of EuroMaidan protests in Kyiv. Solchanyk was shot on Maidan Nezalezhnosti in Kyiv on Feb. 20. "He could have become a renowned scientist," said his student Uliana Yasynovska.



Yakiv Zaiko, 73. Zaiko was born in Belarus but lived in Zhytomyr. He was a member of first Ukrainian parliament, a journalist and the chief editor of Holos Hromadyanyina newspaper. Zaiko died from a heart attack in Kyiv on Feb. 18, when Berkut chased protesters on Instytutska Street in downtown Kyiv.



Valeriy Bresdeniuk, 50. Bresdeniuk ran a computer club in Zhmerynka, Vynnytsya Oblast and had interest in the art of paper marbling. With this talent, he once participated in a popular TV show "Ukraine Has Talent," which made him a celebrity in his town. Fellow protesters say he didn't belong to any self-defense units, but helped construct the barricades. He died protecting the barricades in Kyiv on Feb. 19.



Dmytro Pahor, 21. Pahor was born in Khropotov village in Khmelnytskyi Oblast. He was shot dead in Khmelnytskyi during the storming of the local State Security Service headquarters. He was a student in Khmelnytskyi University and worked at a car wash in the city. He was kind, energetic and loved technical devices and cars, said his childhood friend and neighbor Oleksandr Bohdan. Pahor was shot in the forehead, reportedly with a Kalashnikov rifle.



Dmytro Maksymov, 19. Maksymov was a deaf Judo athlete from Kyiv, a winner of silver and bronze medals in the Deaf Olympics. On Feb. 18 Maksymov lost a hand to a grenade explosion and was delivered to medical aid unit, where he died from a blood loss. His body stayed in St. Michael's Cathedral for two days until he was identified by his family.



Nazar Voitovych, 17. Voitovych was shot dead on Feb. 20. Voitovych was a third-year student of Ternopil Cooperative College, a future designer and artist. On Feb. 19 Voitovych was still in Ternopil and planned to catch the late night bus back home to send warm clothes to his friends at EuroMaidan in Kyiv. For some reason, he changed his mind. On the morning of Feb. 20, around 11 a.m. his teacher called the boy, but a medical volunteer picked up and said he was dead. Voitovych was the only child in the family.



Eduard Grynevych, 30. Grynevych was shot in the head on Feb. 20. It was his third trip to EuroMaidan. A native of a village in Volyn Oblast, he always said that EuroMaidan was "a matter of dignity." A day before his death, he posted an internet joke to his V Kontakte page. The joke said: "Boys, thank you for the night. It was incredible. Love, Ukraine."



Vitaliy Vasylytsv, 37. Vasylytsv lived in Havrylytsi village in Khmelnytskyi Oblast and worked as a landscaper. He was shot dead on Feb. 18 in Kyiv. Vasylytsv was married and had two daughters. "He was a very talented designer, always optimistic and helpful, but first of all he was a patriot that lost his life because he believed that he could change his country," his friends wrote in online blog.



Bohdan Vaida, 58. Vaida came to Maidan from Letnya village in Lviv Oblast. He wasn't married and lived with his mother. After he arrived in Kyiv on Feb. 19 he called his sister. "Lyuba, this is a real war, they are shooting," he said and the connection failed. On Feb. 20 someone called the village administration to say that Vaida had died from a sniper's bullet.



Serhii Baidovskiy, 23. Baidovskiy lived in Lutsk and worked at a pipeline company. He was shot in his lungs in Kyiv on Feb. 20. When he arrived to Kyiv, Baidovskiy spent just a couple of hours at Maidan and then went to the front line without any protection. Baidovskiy's girlfriend says they planned to get married. His body was brought home on Feb. 23 and several thousand people came to say their last goodbyes. "Forgive us that we were only talking about freedom and you died for it," his sister Olena Ostapiuk wrote on her V Kontakte page.



Andriy Chernenko, 35. Chernenko was shot in the chest on Feb. 18 when riot police stormed Maidan. He was still conscious in the ambulance on the way to the hospital, but died in the hospital on the same day. He lived in Kyiv and had an eight-month-old daughter. "On that day he left only after he helped me to lull our daughter. I can never... could never do it without him," his wife Olena Vlasenko said. He promised his wife he wouldn't go to the front line. "But most likely he did. Seems like he was bringing tires. His hands were black," she said.



Ihor Serdiuk, 40. Serdiuk was an entrepreneur, was married and had a daughter. He was shot right into his face on Feb. 18 on Hrushevskoho Street. He was armed when Berkut and hired thugs attacked, he was building a barricade. Serdiuk had taken part in protests in the Kyiv since Nov. 30, only paying short visits to his home in Kremenchuk in Poltava Oblast.



Serhii Kemsyky, 33. Kemsyky was a civic activist and a blogger. He died of a bullet wound to his neck on Feb. 20. "Be proud of him Ukraine, he died for your freedom," his friend Sveta Adhriyuk wrote on his Facebook page.



Ihor Kostenko, 22. Kostenko was a student of Lviv Ivan Franko National University and a reporter for a sports website Sportanalitika. On Feb. 20 his body was found near October Palace, his both legs broken, with bullets to his head and chest. Kostenko was an active Wikipedia editor. He alone created over 280 articles and made more than 1,600 edits. After he died, his friends created a Wikipedia page about him.



Yevhen Kotlyar, 33. A Kharkiv resident, Kotlyar was an active participant of Green Front civic organization. He trained children in alpinism and tourism. An experienced tourist, Kotlyar was a volunteer at Crimea Rescue Service and once rescued a group of ten children who got lost without food or water.



Vasyl Moisey, 22. A student from Ternopil Oblast, Moisey died on Feb. 20 in a Kyiv hospital after he was shot in the chest. He was a nationalist and Svoboda party member. In one of his last Facebook posts he wrote, "It is better to die a wolf than to live like a dog." His comrade Anatoliy Pushkin says Moisey was conscious when friends were carrying him to a medical unit. "I forgive everyone, I forgive my killers," he reportedly said.



Oleksandr Plekhanov, 22. A student of Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture, Plekhanov was shot in the head on Feb. 18. "He didn't like to be involved in conflicts, but he always tried to defend his friends," his friend Maria Polovynkina said. Plekhanov, she said, was a good dancer, and was fond of cycling. On Feb. 26 Plekhanov was supposed to get a bachelor's degree in architecture.



Oleh Ushnevych, 32. Ushnevych came to Kyiv from Drogobych in Lviv Oblast. He was a passionate Maidan supporter since November. Ushnevych didn't support any party. "We fight for the future, not for Europe, not for or against someone in particular," he wrote on his V Kontakte page. Ushnevych's brother Roman keeps his page going in his honor.



Andriy Dygdalovych, 41. A construction worker from Lviv Oblast, Dygdalovych was married and had two daughters. He died from two gunshots on Instytutska Street while trying to save the life of an injured young man. He wasn't armed and didn't wear a bulletproof vest. He was one of the EuroMaidan defenders on the night of Dec. 11, when police tried to break up the camp. He also suffered an eye injury from a rubber bullet on Hrushevskoho Street. Shortly before he died he called his wife and said "You know what to do. You are strong, I know."



Volodymyr Melnychuk, 40. An AutoMaidan participant, Melnychuk was shot in the neck when he was standing near October Palace with his wife Maria on the afternoon of Feb. 20. Melnychuk had no children and worked as a repairman. His friend Valentyna Varava remembers Melnychuk dreamed to move to a small country house. Melnychuk was buried on Feb. 23.



Valeriy Opanasiuk, 42. Rivne citizen Opanasiuk was shot on Feb. 20. Opanasiuk was married and had four children, the youngest one being a two-year old. "All the Rivne people at Maidan knew him. He was smart and cheerfull. He was building the barricades and helping newcomers," friend Oleksandr Lashchuk said. In any temperature he would wear nothing but his grey sweater, Lashchuk recalled.



Roman Tochyn, 43. Tochyn came to Kyiv from Khodoriv in Lviv Oblast on Dec. 1. He was a commander of the EuroMaidan self-defense team that patrolled the first barricade on Instytutska Street. He was shot in the head on Feb. 20, his body was taken to Ukraina Hotel and identified. His widow Lilia is left with two daughters.



Ivan Bliok, 40. A businessman and Svoboda Party supporter, Bliok came to Kyiv from Gorodok in Lviv Oblast. He had three children, two daughters and a son. A sniper's bullet killed him on Feb. 20. He was at EuroMaidan for all its key moments. He was buried on Feb. 23 in his native town.



Mykola Dziavulsky, 55. Dziavulsky came to Kyiv from Shepetivka in Khmelnytskyi Oblast. He was shot in the head by a sniper on Feb. 20. An active EuroMaidan supporter, Dziavulsky taught geography and biology and worked as an assistant for lawmaker Ihor Sabiy. "I couldn't help crying. The best people are gone first. He was a great patriot and fought for a free and independent Ukraine," one of his friends Nataliya Rakhova wrote on Facebook.

Find more about the victims in 'The stories of EuroMaidan's slain 'heroes' photo gallery, available online at www.kyivpost.com/multimedia/photo.



World in Ukraine

Editor's Note: World in Ukraine takes a look at Ukraine's bilateral relations with different nations. To sponsor this news feature, please contact the Kyiv Post's sales team at advertising@kyivpost.com or call 591-7788.

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Estonian entrepreneurs persist in tough market

BY ANASTASIA FORINA
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While Estonia remains the nation's biggest investor among Baltic countries, with more than \$171 million, doing business here is a challenge. Ukraine has made some progress in easing the regulatory environment as it jumped 25 positions in the 2014 World Bank's ease of doing business report, but it still ranks 112st while Estonia is 22nd.

"Unfortunately Estonian entrepreneurs are somewhat less active in the Ukrainian market today than they were a few years ago," said Mait Palts, general director of the Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "This is due to the fact that the main problems that they face are related to the shortcomings of the economic and legal environment. This has made them more cautious and reluctant to take on unreasonable risks."

Just several dozen Estonian companies and more than a hundred with Estonian capital are operating in Ukraine now, according to Denis Priimagi, board member of the Estonian Business Association in Ukraine that unites around ten Estonian businesses. Major Estonian businessmen are investing in real estate while many are involved in trade of Estonia-made food products, clothes, bathroom fittings and dye coatings.

One of the most successful is Estonian Hilar Teder, who is among



As Kyiv's third largest shopping center, Sky Mall's net profits have grown despite Estonian property developer Hilar Teder's protracted dispute with partner Andrey Adamovsky over control of the shopping center. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Estonia at a glance:

Area: 45,228 square kilometers
Population: 1.3 million
Government type: Parliamentary republic
Head of government: Prime Minister Andrus Ansip (since 2005)
GDP (PPP): \$29 billion (2012)
GDP (PPP) per capita: \$21,700 (2012)
Main industries: engineering, electronics, wood and wood products, textiles, information technology, telecommunications

Ukrainian-Estonian relations:

Trade: \$96.1 million (first half of 2013)
Exports from Estonia to Ukraine: industrial chemical products, wooden products, textiles, electric machinery and equipment
Exports from Ukraine to Estonia: metals and metal products, wood and wooden products, industrial chemical products, animal products
Estonian investment in Ukraine: \$171.4 million (as of July 2013)
Ukraine's investment in Estonia: \$75.2 million (as of October 2013)
Source: State Statistics Service, Ukrainian Embassy in Estonia, Estonian Embassy in Ukraine, CIA Factbook

the shareholders of a leading real estate developer in Ukraine – London-listed Arricano Group, whose market capitalization was valued at \$241 million in 2013. Established in 2008, the group already commissioned five shopping malls with a total area of 190,000 square meters – Rayon and Sky Mall in Kyiv, Southern Gallery in Simferopol, City Mall in Zaporizhya and Sunny Gallery in Kryvyi Rih. It has plans to open at one more in Kyiv this year. In 2013 the company was the first real estate developer in Ukraine to do an initial public offering since the 2008-2009 financial crisis.

While Teder admits that the real estate development business is not "the most profitable one," estimating a profit margin as 10-15 percent, he says "development of cities matters for real estate business more than development of the country."

"If we look at India – only 30 percent of its population is urban while in Europe it's 80 percent. And those who live in urban areas or are moving there need shopping centers," Teder says.

In Ukraine around 70 percent of the population lives in cities. Around 10 percent live in Kyiv. With a shopping stock of 728,700 square meters, the city lags behind many European cities, while its retail space per capita remains one of the lowest in

Europe – 258 square meters per thousand people, according to recent survey by Jones Lang Lassale, a real estate services firm. By comparison – Warsaw and Prague have more than 600 square meters per thousand residents.

This gap determines how attractive the capital's retail market is both for local and foreign investors, according to Inna Chubotina, head of shopping stock department at Jones Lang Lassale. Chubotina expects Kyiv's shopping stock to increase by 1.5 times by year-end and reach 1 million square meters. Teder forecasts Ukraine to be well-supplied with shopping malls in 15-20 years.

Nowadays, Teder admits that the overall climate in the country has a big impact on people involved in trade. The political crisis accompanied with the economic challenges Ukraine has been facing since the end of 2013 has already led to the hryvnia trading at more than Hr 10 to the dollar, a record since 2008. Meanwhile, the consumer confidence has fallen to its lowest level since 2011 in January, according to a recent survey of GFK Ukraine.

"Of course devaluation has a direct impact on business. But it's happening everywhere – in Russia, Turkey and other countries," Teder says. "It will be right to let the currency devalue instead of backing it up at the expense

of foreign reserves but it will be better to do it gradually."

Teder also names a corrupt judicial system and raider attacks as major problems. "It's total lawlessness that wasn't here before but arose in the last three years," he says.

In the meantime, no new Estonian investors are seen venturing into the Ukrainian market, according to Priimagi of the Estonian Business Association. He even says there are rumors that some are going to leave. Palts of the Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is, though, more optimistic.

"Estonian entrepreneurs have always seen great potential and significance in the Ukrainian market," Palts says. "Therefore they expect Ukrainian entrepreneurship and the investment climate to become more favorable for Estonian entrepreneurs than it is today because both can only gain from it."

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Estonian commercial real estate developer Hilar Teder (Courtesy)

Estonian ambassador sees Ukraine as key neighbor despite absence of common border

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
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Since presenting his diplomatic credentials on Sept. 10, 2012, Estonian Ambassador Sulev Kannike whimsically admitted that "it hasn't been the most fruitful of periods."

His tenure has coincided with the spread of corruption reaching cancerous levels under ex-President Viktor Yanukovich as the nation struggled to climb out of a recession. The Estonian Business Association in Ukraine continued losing members, going from 18 in 2009 to around 10 today. He then witnessed Ukraine in November shun a far-reaching political and trade deal with the European Union. But the last month in Kyiv has been the toughest physically for Kannike, and on other levels as well.

"The past several weeks have been difficult for everybody, for residents, your own concerns, and political concerns...you have the European Union," said Kannike of the turmoil that engulfed Kyiv and left as many as 100 people dead, Yanukovich and other top ex-officials placed on wanted lists, and an interim government scramble to maintain control over a still volatile country.

A diplomat of 19 years, Kannike forecasted that a "national resistance would appear" before the prior scheduled 2015 presidential elections. "It was clear that the previous regime was going to regress ahead of the elections... I expected this and told my people to cancel their vacations because things would get hot... and it happened a year before the elections, so here we are," summarized Kannike.

Now the Estonian embassy, as other diplomatic missions, is mobilizing to provide immediate aid to the government and victims of the violence on EuroMaidan. It recently provided €50,000 via the International Renaissance Foundation and pledged to provide medical care in Estonia to a limited number who require more serious treatment. The Baltic country of 1.3 million has also earmarked an additional €50,000 for a new foundation that lawmaker Petro Poroshenko started for the injured.

On a bilateral level, Kannike said Estonia supports Ukraine no matter which government or president is in power. Most important, according to him, is to have a "stable and democratic (nation), and prosperous Ukrainian people," otherwise, "if you have poor countries in your neighborhood, those problems will come to you."

Although Ukraine isn't a direct neighbor of Estonia, Kannike noted



Estonian Ambassador to Ukraine Sulev Kannike in an embassy meeting room on Feb. 26 emphasizes Ukraine's importance as a foreign policy priority. (Pavlo Podufalov)

Ukraine's geopolitical importance of being literally at the crossroads between Russia and Poland, and "the biggest country along the historic route from the Gulf of Finland to the Black Sea."

Given Estonia's national interest in each capital city of Moscow, Brussels and

new government what its priorities are and in which sectors and areas money is needed."

Kannike estimated there were up to 400 Estonian firms

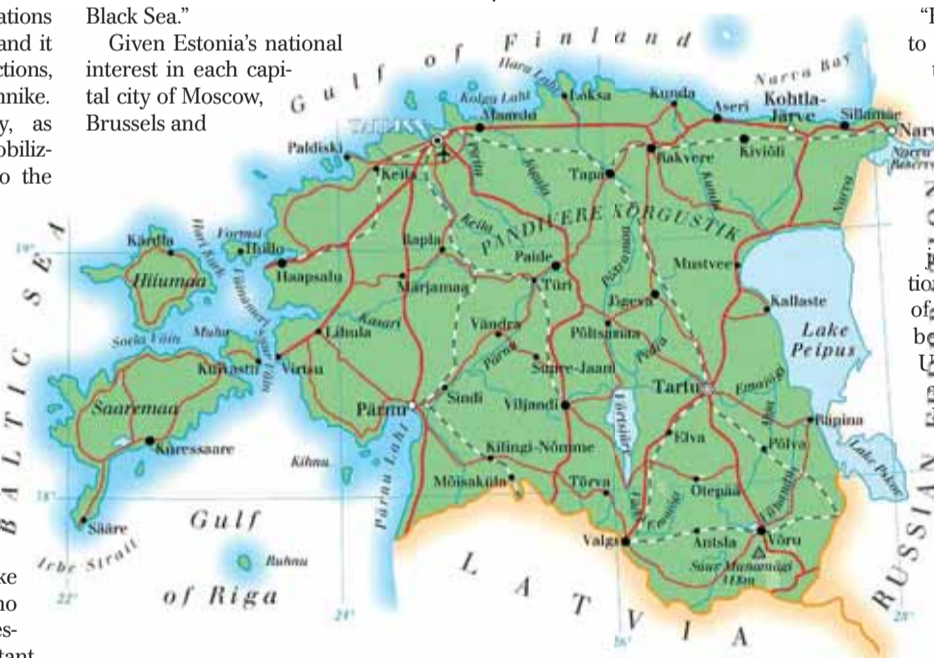
has enough IT potential to implement its own e-solutions. Kannike said several ministries, the customs office and the administrative court have good electronic registries.

"But what is needed... is a platform to link all these (database) systems together because as time passes it will be difficult to link them... we simply wish that Ukraine doesn't reach a point of no return when it won't be able to inter-link them."

Education is another field of joint efforts. Academic cooperation exists between the University of Tartu and the Lviv University, between the Estonian and Ukrainian Agricultural Universities, and between the Tallinn Technical University and Kyiv Polytechnical University, among others. Records show that Ukrainians have studied at the University of Tartu since the 18th century.

"The personal and cultural links are always important and very strong," noted Kannike. Today there are some 30,000 Ukrainians living in Estonia, the nation's second largest ethnic minority after Russians. Meanwhile, Ukraine is home to some 2,600 Estonians, of whom up to 600 live in Crimea since settling there in 1861.

Even before the Bolshevik Revolution, during which Estonia



Washington, D.C., "many of these interests cross in Kyiv," continued Kannike.

Estonia's financial assistance is a noteworthy part of diplomatic relations between the two nations. Providing up to €500,000 a year in development aid, Kannike said, "Estonia will ask the

operating in Ukraine, whose numbers most likely have halved because of the economic downturn and problems with raiders, or hostile takeovers.

Coming from the birth place of Skype, and perhaps the most electronically governed nation, he said Ukraine

Estonians in Crimea

Two events triggered the migration of Estonian families to Crimea in the mid-19th century. Serfdom had been abolished some 45 years earlier in what is now northern Estonia than the rest of the Russian Empire that it took over after a war with Sweden. By the time proper Russia abolished serfdom in 1861, many freed Estonians were still landless, so they petitioned Czar Alexander II to settle elsewhere. He granted them permission to settle the steppe areas of Crimea which required development after the Crimean War. Many Tatars who used to live there had fled to Turkey. Today some 600 ethnic Estonians live in Crimea, numbering some 54 families, according to Mary Nikoliskaya, chairman of the Estonian Society of Culture in Simferopol. They are concentrated in several villages in the Krasnogvardeysky district, including Novoestonia and Krasnodarka villages. Small communities also exist in Beregovee village, Bakhchisarai district and in Pervomaiskoe village.

An Estonian regularly teaches the language in a high school in the village of Aleksandrovka, Krasnogvardeysky district, where Ukrainian, Tatar and Russian are also taught.

"But only a handful can speak the language fluently," admits Nikoliskaya, adding that after the Bolshevik Revolution, many Estonian schools and churches were destroyed or abolished.

Perhaps the best known artistic work in Crimea by an Estonian, said Nikoliskaya, is Amandus Adamson's sculpture "Boats Lost at Sea" in Sevastopol, dedicated to the 50th anniversary of The Crimean War in 1904. — Mark Rachkevych Cordially

became independent and most of Ukraine entered the Soviet Union, Ukrainian and Estonian cultural actors met in many European capitals, including in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

The Estonian embassy on Pushkinska Street itself is a cultural contribution. Situated inside an early 20th-century landmark building, Estonia bought the four apartments inside it and converted it into one entity while preserving the integrity of its façade during renovation, which now houses a sauna, a favorite Estonian tradition.

A former ambassador to NATO and the European Council, Kannike enjoys *salo* (salted pork fat) — "even before I came to Ukraine" — and the park culture in Kyiv, a rarity in his homeland since 40 percent of land is covered with forests, and both botanical gardens in the city.

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Commercial group profits big with outsourcing deal

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
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This year, Ukraine Football International turns 20 as the main benefactor of the most popular sport in the nation – football. The organization has been the exclusive commercial partner of the Football Federation of Ukraine, the nation's non-profit soccer governing body, since 1994. But not even its patron knows or will say who ultimately owns Ukraine Football International.

The relationship is undeniably lucrative for whoever does run UFI. It carries out television, advertising and other commercial rights worth millions of dollars each year. It is the license holder of the football federation's logo and has the rights to the national soccer team's logo until Nov. 30, 2021. Its history of partnerships and sponsorships includes such powerhouse brands as Coca-Cola, Samsung, JVC, Mazda, Lotto, Puma and McDonalds. It currently lists Adidas as a partner along with EpiCenter, Chernihivske beer, Winner automotive, Borys medical clinic and Love Cyprus, the official site of the Cyprus Tourism Organization.

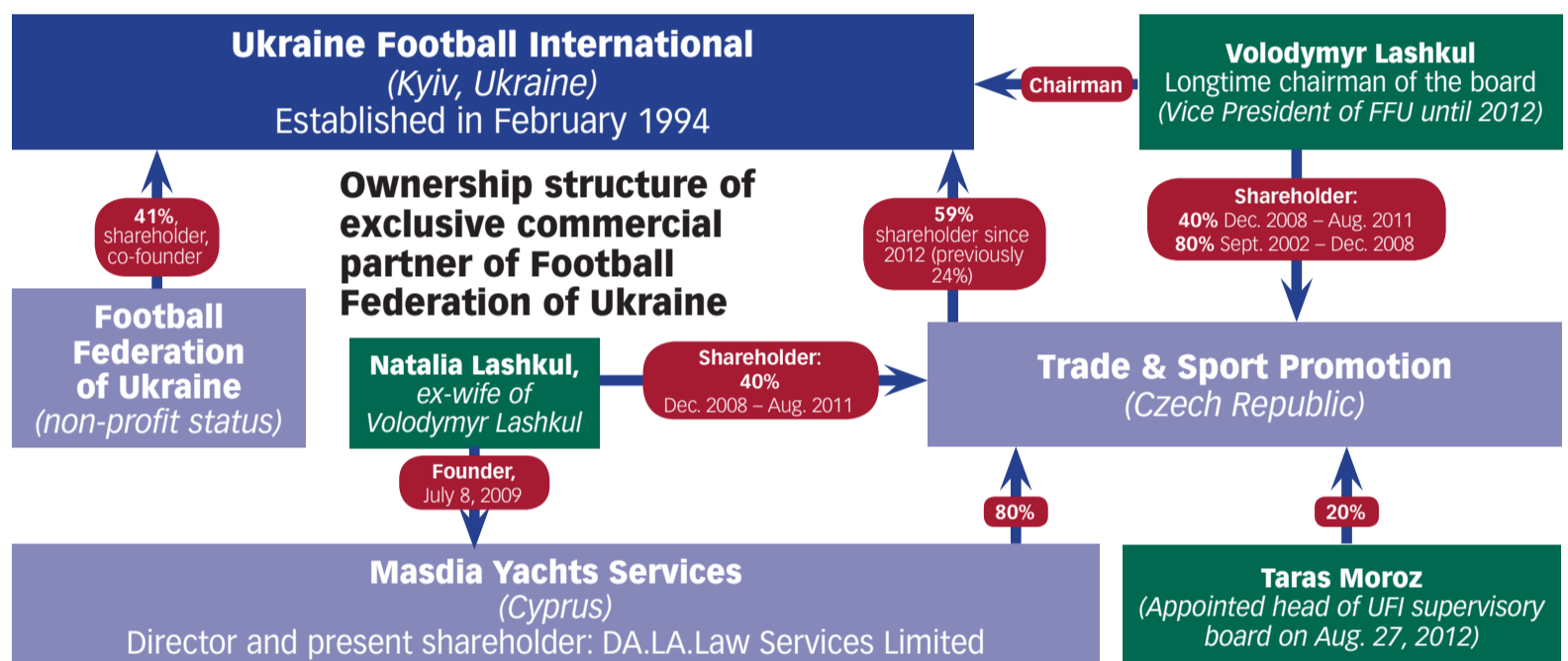
In 2012, UFI alone financed more than \$6.25 million in soccer-related projects, according to a letter from Football Federation of Ukraine executive director Maksym Bondarev addressed to the Kyiv Post. In the letter, Bondarev boasted that throughout UFI's existence, it never paid out dividends and instead always "reinvested profits for the development of Ukrainian soccer."

But the Kyiv Post discovered a murkier side in the relationship between the two entities.

Conflicts of interest appear to be rife, but are denied.

Getting a clear picture is hard because of Ukraine Football International's opaque ownership structure, which leads to a Cyprus-based company established by the ex-wife of UFI's longstanding chairman.

The Football Federation of Ukraine, which co-founded and owns 41 percent of UFI, said that it doesn't know who ultimately controls the exclusive commercial partner's majority stake. UFI's



Ukraine Football International has been the only exclusive commercial partner of the nation's soccer governing body, a non-profit entity called the Football Federation of Ukraine. Yet the FFU has only held a minority stake in the company which has had exclusive television, advertising and other commercial rights worth millions of dollars each year. The remainder for many years was partially controlled by the firm's chairman, Volodymyr Lashkul, and for a time his ex-wife, Natalia Lashkul. Volodymyr Lashkul was also until 2012 a vice president of FFU. A Cyprus company founded by Natalia Lashkul ultimately currently controls the commercial partner.

longstanding chairman since its founding. Volodymyr Lashkul, also denied knowing who the ultimate owner is, despite the fact that on July 8, 2009, his ex-wife founded the Cyprus company that today controls a 59 percent stake in the exclusive commercial agent through 80 percent ownership of a Czech firm.

"I don't know who the beneficiary (owner) of UFI (is), I'm just the chairman of the board," Lashkul told the Kyiv Post.

Lashkul also served in 1996-2012 as a vice president of the soccer governing body while serving as the commercial partner's chairman – an arrangement that looks like a textbook case of conflict of interest.

Additionally, he and his ex-wife each held 40 percent shares from December 2008 to August 2011 in Czech firm Trade & Sport Promotion at a time when it owned 24 percent of UFI. From September 2002 to December 2008, Volodymyr Lashkul had an 80

percent stake in the Czech firm.

Trade & Sport Promotion became the majority owner of UFI in August 2012 when it acquired 35 percent of additional shares from Vienna-based Trading Consulting Factoring, just five days before a changing of the guard took place at FFU. This was when Anatoliy Konkov replaced Hryhoriy Surkis as president of the soccer governing body. Surkis went on to become one of the five vice presidents of UEFA, Europe's top soccer governing body.

Lashkul's ex-wife in June 2011 transferred her shares in the Czech firm to Masdia Yachts Services Ltd registered in Cyprus, the same company she established two years earlier. It is currently owned by DA.LA.Law Services Limited, a registration agency on the island that acts as a nominee director, according to the documents obtained by Washington-based Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, a Kyiv Post partner.

The remaining 20 percent of the Czech

firm belongs to lawyer Taras Moroz who on Aug. 27, 2012 was appointed to the supervisory board of UFI.

Lashkul didn't address the issue of conflict of interest.

Bondarev of FFU for his part said: "UFI was founded when Lashkul didn't work at the Football Federation of Ukraine. He was elected as vice president in August 1996 (four years after its founding). Currently, Lashkul isn't a vice president of FFU. Therefore, I believe there is no reason to discuss this topic."

Still, the murky ownership structure of UFI and the conflict of interests that it embodied for much of its existence raise a number of suspicions.

"It is evident that Mr. Lashkul over the years has worked with a deep conflict of interest," said Jens Sejer Andersen, the international director of Play the Game, a Danish organization devoted to strengthening ethics in sports. "By any international standard

it is impossible to defend the best interest of Ukrainian football as the FFU vice president at the same time as being the major shareholder of a company that makes its earnings through contracts signed with FFU."

Simon Kuper, a leading writer on soccer who has written books about the financial side of the game, including co-authoring Soccerconomics, told the Kyiv Post: "If the vice president of the football association is also the chairman and shareholder of the commercial partner, that's an obvious conflict of interest. Then it's in the football association vice president's interests for the commercial partner to take a large chunk of the income – and that's not in the FA's interest."

Lashkul dismissed such an assumption.

"We (UFI) have done nothing but devote money toward developing soccer in Ukraine. We've never taken dividend payments from UFI," he said.

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Kozyatyn-tailored clothing finds demand in Europe

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Numerous fashion houses and apparel makers from Europe outsource their production to Ukraine. Lured by lower manufacturing costs that yield relatively high quality end-products, the first deals within this business model were inked in the early 1990s.

Kozyatyn Garment Factory (KGF) in Vinnytsya Oblast has been making clothes for Western clients since 2004 when it was acquired by Oleksandr Martynchuk, a businessman from Kyiv.

Depending on the type of product, up to 90 percent of Ukraine's sewing output is based on orders from foreign companies, says Valentyna Izovit, president of Ukrlegprom, the sewing industry's association. German clothing manufacturers, such as Hugo Boss and Triumph, occupy about half of this market. "Outsourcing provides jobs for the people," adds KGF's owner who employs 130 at his factory.

Martynchuk, 47, has been in the sewing business since 1994 when he bought a small state-run tailor workshop with a number of partners. In 2000, Martynchuk, became the chief commercial officer of Kashtan, one of Kyiv's biggest garment factories, and eventually bought it. He then altered the factory's business model by adding foreign orders in the production cycle, thus adding value to the asset.

In 2004, Martynchuk sold Kashtan, and for \$100,000 bought 86 percent of KGF. The factory's employees own the remaining 14 percent.

KGF's production line includes blouses, jackets, shirts, skirts and trousers with prices varying from \$25 to \$400 per item. The company turned a \$100,000 net profit in 2013, surpassing the previous year's result by 60 percent with \$60,000 coming from outsourcing. However, outsourcing deals offer narrower profit margins than local production orders. A shirt tailored for a foreign company brings less income than one tailored for the Ukrainian market.

The company's clientele list includes Hunter Apparel Solutions and Davern Workwear from the UK, Joseph Hickey & Sons from Ireland, Wevotex from the Netherlands and Ruwi AB from Sweden.

**Kozyatyn Garment Factory
founder and owner
Oleksandr
Martynchuk. (Courtesy)**



Workers sew inside the Kozyatyn Garment Factory in Vinnytsya Oblast where the company completes orders for United Kingdom-based Hunter Apparel Solution and Davern Workwear, Ireland's Joseph Hickey & Sons, Wevotex of the Netherlands and Sweden's Ruwi AB. (Courtesy)



→ Lower costs, quality products, lure European clothing makers

European partners usually supply cloth and other materials, while KGF produces shirts, pants, overalls and uniforms out of them.

"When you do outsourcing, there is the chance of becoming an appendage of a Western firm instead of being an independent business," Martynchuk says when speaking of some of the negative aspects of an outsourcing model. However, he adds, the relationship brings beneficial Western standards to Ukraine that allow for more creativity in clothing design and usher in a

higher level of corporate social responsibility.

In turn, Ukrainian garment factories attract foreign companies with their relatively low labor costs and fast speed of production. Since Ukraine is at the door step of the European Union, logistical costs for Ukraine-produced clothing are substantially lower than, say, in China or Pakistan, both very large clothing outsourcing destinations.

However, there are several outsourcing disadvantages in Ukraine, Martynchuk stated. If a foreign client doesn't pay for an outsourced product within 90 days after delivery – not a rare scenario – the Ukrainian service provider must pay a fine.

On a general level, receiving timely value-added tax (VAT) refunds is a constant problem that affects all exporters. In theory, an exporter pays the VAT, and in turn the Ministry of Revenues and Duties reimburses the amount paid after the goods cross the Ukrainian border. In practice, though, the VAT-refund procedure is overcomplicated and companies experience long delays in getting their money back.

Additionally, the volume of paperwork that needs to be submitted to the customs service for any export is cumbersome. "To prepare them, I

have to employ an entire department of accountants and brokers," explains Martynchuk.

This makes the production process costlier.

Despite his success, business conditions remain obtrusive, laments KGF's owner. "My foolish optimism makes me

stay in this business," Martynchuk says.

"We fight with bureaucracy all the time," adds Izovit of Ukrlegprom. "But we've been quite successful in our struggle."

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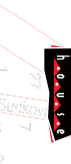
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Yanukovych's documents reveal many dark secrets



KATYA
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Early on Feb. 23, a handful of journalists and activists hastily picked up soggy folders stuffed full of documents that contained some of the most guarded secrets in Ukraine during Viktor Yanukovych's rule as president since 2010. They had been fished out from the Kyiv reservoir leading to the Dnipro River.

Under protection from guards of the EuroMaidan revolution, who now control Yanukovych's 140-hectare luxury compound 20 kilometers north of Kyiv, the journalists gathered the documents and created the online database yanukovychleaks.org.

The documents were found in Mezhyhirya, the former president's now-nationalized multimillion-dollar estate, which had been guarded like a fortress until Yanukovych fled in a hurry late on Feb. 21. The next day, he was impeached as president by parliament. Some 160 folders of his files were dumped hastily in the water on his way out, but were recovered quickly by divers.

Journalists are now looking for evidence of embezzlement and excess by Yanukovych and his cronies, corruption that, according to new Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk on Feb. 27, cost Ukraine as much as \$70 billion over the last three years.

For many of the investigative journalists involved in the project, the findings are particularly precious because they had spent years digging for scraps

of information about Mezhyhirya. Now they hit the jackpot: not only did they get to camp out in the estate, they were able to start assembling proof of illegal activities by a president who declared earnings of just \$2.5 million in 2012.

The disgraced ex-president spared no expense to equip his house. Just one set of silverware, purchased in May 2012, cost Hr 923,000, including fish forks worth Hr 102,000. One set of curtains was purchased for 290,000 euros. A set of chandeliers was purchased for a whopping 39 million euros.

His extravagant expenses included multiple houses, spa salons, gilded taps, antique icons and books, some of which looked to be pilfered from national collections, including Ukraine's first printed book that dates to 1564, the Apostle.

One gardening bill alone from November 2010 was Hr 2.9 million, just for labor and equipment. The bills for the trees, supplied by Dominant Limited company in London, were worth hundreds of thousands of euros and featured exotic types such as Spanish platanus and the redwood *Metasequoia Glyptostroboidea*. A total of 16 platanus were bought at the cost of \$1,890 each, while each of the six redwoods cost €3,200.

Yanukovych was fond of hunting and weapons. Extensive arsenals and ammunition were found both dumped in the river and in storage rooms. Pricey hunting gear was found in a special room.

Documents also revealed he liked to keep hunting trophies. One bill showed that Hr 9,336 was spent to preserve a deer skull, a moose skull and to make rugs out of wolf skin. He had living animals, too, including ostriches, deer, rabbits and rare breeds of award-winning



From left, journalists Natalie Sedletska, Anna Babinets, Roman Vintoniv and Oleksandr Akymenko sort through Mezhyhirya files in the early hours of Feb. 23. An estimated 10,000 documents were recovered from the Kyiv reservoir near the deposed president's residence in Mezhyhirya, just outside of Kyiv. Thousands of documents were later found in a storage room. Copies of most of them will be posted on yanukovychleaks.org, a project sponsored by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project. (Katya Gorchinskaya)

dogs. According to some estimates, he had some 5,000 animals on the estate – if thousands of crayfish in ponds are included.

Yanukovych was extremely security-conscious. Apart from a five-meter high perimeter fence, and a wrought-iron inner fence to protect his main residence, he had thousands of well-equipped guards and his company, Tantalit, spent top bucks to finance and equip them.

There is plenty of evidence as to where the money came from.

Many incoming cash orders from people and companies were found, and well as a meticulous record of

cash donations. Deciphering them will take time. They included abbreviations, names, locations and dates when the money arrived. Sponsors were identified as Ser. Nik, Pav. Vlad. or simply Lena or Diana. Sometimes names were omitted altogether, with only dates and sums kept. Often, donations are indicated as coming from Pavlo Litovchenko, the director of Tantalit, and UBB (or UkrBusinessBank), which belongs to the ex-president's elder son, Oleksandr Yanukovych.

Between September 2006 and December 2008, "incoming cash from investors" in one record stood at Hr

155 million, \$8.66 million and over €1 million.

Tantalit and UBB gave and received lots of cash "donations," according to the documents. On July 6, 2010, \$400,000 in cash was received from an unknown man, with only one signature of the donor.

Yanukovych's companies also seemed to pay good salaries to top managers.

For example, a cash order was recovered that indicated Anatoliy Mykolayovych Kobylinskiy of DELLIT Ltd, another one of the ex-president's companies, received Hr 701,924 in wages in September, and then another one worth \$202,150. In October, he made \$205,950. There are also many suspicious documents that suggest massive money-laundering schemes.

By the second day of the "Yanukovych leaks" project, the records fished out of the river were being cared for by Kyiv librarians. By day three, professional scanners were lent to the project to make high-resolution copies. A day later, similar documents filling a room were found.

The documents are now kept in one of the residences in Mezhyhirya and heavily guarded. The scanned originals are being passed on to the prosecutor's office for investigation.

When Yanukovych was elected as president in 2010, he celebrated on Feb. 9 by uncorking six \$700 bottles of Louis Roederer Cristal. If the general prosecutor investigates and prosecutes the crimes alleged by the Mezhyhirya files – not to mention the alleged mass murders of EuroMaidan demonstrators – Yanukovych will be sipping only tea in prison for many years to come.

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Lviv man takes gains fame as EuroMaidan hero with his timely threat to Yanukovych

BY DARYNA SHEVCHENKO
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Many believe that it was a young man from Lviv, Volodymyr Parasiuk, who prompted Viktor Yanukovych to cut and run as Ukraine's president.

Parasiuk, who participated in the EuroMaidan protests as a commander of one of the people's self-defense units, ran on to the stage of Kyiv's Independence Square on Feb. 21. He interrupted speeches of opposition leaders Vitali Klitschko, Oleh Tyahnybok and Arseniy Yatseniuk, who came to the main square to announce that Yanukovych has agreed to early presidential elections – but only in December.

The crowd booed and Parasiuk seized the moment.

"There is no way! No way that Yanukovych will rule Ukraine for the whole year. Tomorrow at 10 a.m. he must go," Parasiuk said. He threatened that he and his unit would attack with weapons if the opposition leaders did not demand Yanukovych's resignation as president by 10 a.m. on Feb. 22.

Yanukovych might have been watching and listening to the live video stream, because he fled his palatial Mezhyhirya palace late on Feb. 21.

Russian news agencies say that Yanukovych now plans to hold a press conference on Feb. 28 in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, where he has evaded an arrest warrant and evidently sought political asylum, while still claiming that he's Ukraine's president.

Parasiuk addressed "our politicians that are standing behind my back," he said. "My brother-in-arms from Yavoriv, Lviv Oblast, were shot dead. His wife and a little child lost a father. And our leaders shake hands with this murderer? What a shame! We all have reached this crucial moment. We have given politicians the chance to become ministers, presidents and they don't want to fulfill our only demand: Out with the criminal!"

Parasiuk said people are tired of talking and do not want any more negotiations.

"Seventy seven people died and they keep negotiating. I beg you! Support this suggestion. I tell you from my unit, where my father is with me. If by 10 a.m. tomorrow, opposition leaders

do not officially demand Yanukovych to resign, we will take weapons and attack! This I swear," he said and left the stage.

It only took a few hours for Parasiuk to become a celebrity hero of the EuroMaidan revolution that toppled Yanukovych.

Men started coming up to the Music Academy building on Maidan Nezalezhnosti, where his civilian defense unit was located, to shake his hand. Women sought pictures with him and his autograph.

He gave some interviews to journalists before becoming overwhelmed with the attention.

"I couldn't even imagine that something like this would start, I just did what I felt I should have done," he told Observer newspaper. "But do not assign any achievements to me. I am not a hero! Heroes are those who died, our heavenly hundred. I am just a tiny grain of sand compared to them."

Parasiuk is 25, unmarried and works as a cameraman, despite his master's degree in economics.

His whole family is with him in Kyiv. "My mother, my dad, my sister, her husband and their 4-month-old daughter

and 5-year-old son. We all live in an apartment of a Kyiv professor in the city center, she just let us in so that kids would be fine," he said. "I am a simple man, nothing outstanding," he smiled shyly and looked down, while being interviewed on Hromadske TV.

He refused interviews because they take "too much time," he told Observer newspaper on Feb. 26. "I understood that half of the time I just talk about 'how it was,' while the situation in the country is still very complicated and we have to continue fighting."

He told journalists, however, that he and the rest of EuroMaidan will hold Ukraine's new government accountable. He complained on Feb. 26 on Independence

Square, for instance, that the new Interior Minister Arsen Avakov "should have been getting criminals in prison from the first day, but hasn't. My unit and I say: 'Tomorrow there should be a different interior minister.'"

But this time, Parasiuk's words had no effect. On Feb. 27, parliament approved Avakov as the nation's top cop. He posted his reaction on his Facebook page: "If five days is not enough for a minister to arrest criminals that do not even hide, five years would not also be enough for him," he wrote.

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Volodymyr
Parasiuk

Moskal: Yanukovich was planning bigger bloodbath

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
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The top law enforcement official for ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, who is now a fugitive fleeing mass murder charges, had planned an even greater bloodbath to suppress the EuroMaidan anti-government protests, according to Batkivshchyna Party lawmaker Hennadii Moskal, who said he has documents to prove his allegations.

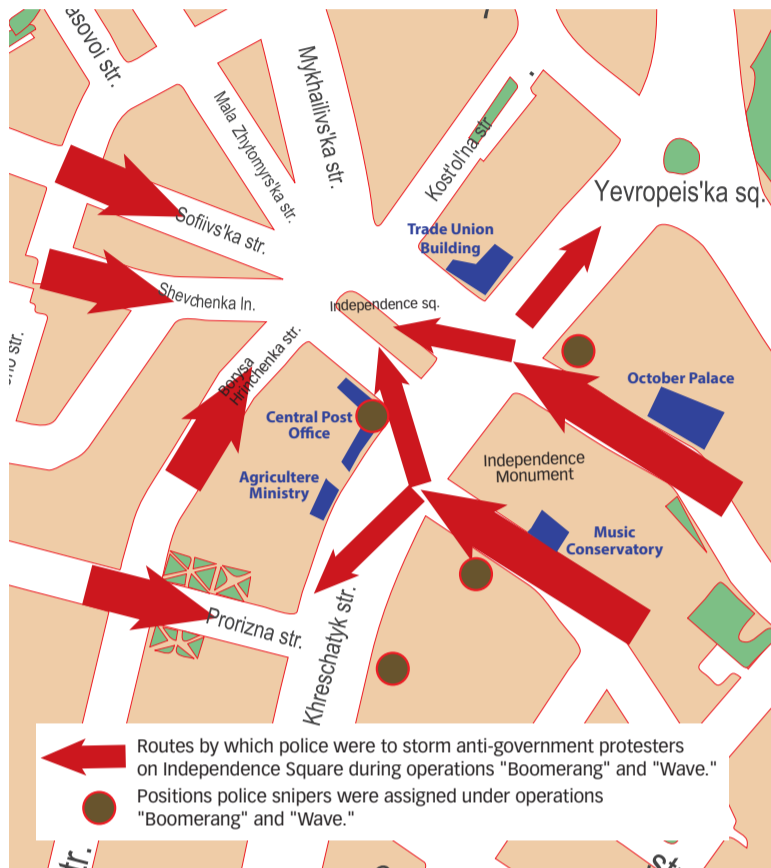
Had the plans been fully executed for what was code named operation Boomerang and operation Wave, more lives would have been lost than the nearly 100 people who died during clashes between protesters and police since the start of EuroMaidan on Nov. 21. Most of the deaths came on Feb. 20 when sniper fire shot from behind police lines or riot-control police killed many protesters.

According to Moskal, ex-Interior Minister Valeriy Zakharchenko was aware of the operations and gave orders to shoot at protesters.

On Feb. 20, Zakharchenko said that police were authorized to use firearms to defend themselves. He is now a wanted man, along with other top officials, including Yanukovich, who may have escaped to Russia.

Released this week, Moskal insists the materials are just a small portion of the plan's scope. They suggest that a joint-task force had been created at an operational headquarters that consisted of the Security Services of Ukraine (SBU), Interior Ministry and military personnel. Members of the Foreign Ministry, Kyiv city government, secret service, penitentiary service, railway service, and transport ministry also were part of the operational headquarters.

The alleged plan called for the deployment of 22,000 police officers, including 2,000 Berkut riot police, and 224 SBU anti-terrorist Alpha Group officers, including seven snipers. In addition, 17 SBU agent-provocateurs were supposed to infiltrate the protester encampment on Independence Square, and four groups of two to three SBU officers were to be engaged in the center of Kyiv to attack residents, damage property and engage in other



Batkivshchyna Party lawmaker Hennadii Moskal released a map, along with documents, alleging that ousted ex-President Viktor Yanukovich planned to kill even more EuroMaidan demonstrators by deploying snipers on rooftops surrounding Kyiv's Independence Square to shoot and disperse protesters.

subversive activities designed to undermine the protest movement.

SBU spokesperson Lada Safranova wasn't available for comment. Numerous calls placed with the SBU's press service number went unanswered.

Moskal also said, according to the documents, that the former first deputy head of the general staff of the Russian Armed Forces' Main Intelligence Directorate played a major role in planning the operations. He was stationed in a Ukraina Hotel room for which the SBU allegedly paid.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesperson Dmitri Pevkov said his office won't comment on the matter.

Russian advice was needed, Moskal said, because former Security Services head Oleksandr Yakymenko

and Zakharchenko were not qualified to plan an anti-terrorist operation. Yakymenko was a trained pilot and Zakharchenko had an economic crimes background.

Operations Boomerang and Wave

In addition to more than 22,000 law enforcement personnel, operations Boomerang and Wave foresaw the use of armored vehicles, various types of grenades, and auxiliary units such as bomb squads, emergency services, communication personnel and traffic police.

Many of the operations' plans coincide with the actual events that took place during the police raid of Feb. 18-19.

The raid began at 8 p.m. on Feb. 18 and left 26 people dead, including 10 police officers and more than 1,000

injured. At least 60 people died on Feb. 20, mostly from deadly sniper fire. Three police officers died on the same day. In all, nearly 100 people (90 according to EuroMaidan SOS, 82 according to the Health Ministry) have been killed in EuroMaidan protests since January.

At least some of the murderous plan outlined in the documents mirrors what happened.

For example, operatives used the roof of an adjacent building to access the House of Trade Unions, EuroMaidan's then-headquarters on Kyiv's Independence Square. Police attacked the House of Trade Unions sometime after midnight on Feb. 19. During the chaos, the building caught fire and burned throughout the night and into the morning.

The new perimeters that security and police forces set up after their raid resemble one of the proposed plan's objectives.

The plan called for electricity to be cut off as it was on Feb. 18. KyivEnergo, the electricity utility owned by billionaire Rinat Akhmetov – a major backer of Yanukovich – would have been responsible for electricity to the building.

Channel 5 – a TV channel that was critical of the authorities – was actually cut off as per the plan.

Also, plans called for the metro entrances and exits of Maidan Nezalezhnosti and Khreshchatyk to be shut, as they were.

Road access to the center was to be tightly controlled or blocked, as it was on Feb. 18-20, with traffic police armed with Kalashnikov rifles.

Also, an armored vehicle was used to storm the barricade as per the police plan, but protesters set the vehicle ablaze with numerous Molotov cocktails.

Another event that adds legitimacy to Moskal's claims and the documents' authenticity is the use of snipers. In the operations' plans, seven Security Service of Ukraine Alpha Group snipers were to be used and stationed atop four buildings on Khreshchatyk.

On Feb. 20, sniper fire killed dozens of protesters from positions along Institutka Street that runs perpendicular to Khreshchatyk Street. The most

senior sniper listed was Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. Bychkivsky whose code name listed is "Myron."

Bychkivsky denied firing on protesters in an interview he gave to TVi.

SBU black operations

Part of the anti-terrorist plan was to infiltrate the EuroMaidan encampment with 17 recruited SBU agents from within the ranks of political parties and self-organized groups there. The three major oppositional parties at the time, Svoboda, UDAR and Batkivshchyna, as well as the Afghan and Cossack groups were to be penetrated from within to sow discontent, demoralization and cause infighting.

Svoboda spokesperson Yuri Syrotiuk said the party won't comment until they receive confirmation from the SBU that such a plan existed "because it is illegal to recruit political party members." UDAR wouldn't comment over the phone and didn't immediately respond to an e-mailed inquiry. Batkivshchyna Party was unavailable for comment.

"If the new leadership of the SBU won't reveal their informers, then I will have the right to reveal the identities of the agents as well as other information on them," said Moskal. "The SBU has the right to have agents for counter-intelligence, but not for combating the opposition or dissent."

Other alleged covert and subversive activity involved the use of four SBU groups were supposed to damage 27 cars that supplied EuroMaidan with food, firewood and clothing.

There were more than 20 cases of vehicle arsons reported in January-February related to EuroMaidan activists, including 15 overnight on Feb. 20.

Also, the SBU groups were to "imitate attacks and thefts of area residents" to artificially increase the number of police reports and complaints.

On Jan. 8, the day after Orthodox Christmas, the interior ministry issued a news release stating that it received 70 complaints on the illegal activity of EuroMaidan protesters that included bodily harm, hooliganism, and theft of personal items.

Kyiv Post editor Mark Rachkevych can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com. Kyiv Post editor Christopher J. Miller contributed to this report.



Courageous Kyiv Post photographer Anastasia Vlasova goes to the front lines during a Dec. 8 standoff between police and protesters on Hrushevskoho Street in Kyiv. (Pavlo Podufalov)

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Lifestyle

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Lifestyles of the rich and corrupt



The lavish interior that could be mistaken for a room in a Venice palazzo is one of the bathrooms in the mansion of former Prosecutor General Viktor Pshonka in Kyiv Oblast, photographed on Feb. 22 after Pshonka fled Kyiv and protesters broke into his house. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

BY OLGA RUDENKO
RUDENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

When thousands of people entered the mansion of overthrown President Viktor Yanukovich on Feb. 22, within hours after he fled Kyiv and relinquished power, they were stunned beyond words.

No matter how lavish a lifestyle they assumed he was leading, the reality exceeded all expectations. It takes days to walk the mammoth property. Even tiny fixtures had expensive price tags. One set of tree plantings cost €3

million alone. Huge chandeliers of gold and crystal may get overlooked among the entire splendor, but not until their price is uncovered. The documents found in the mansion show that some 30 chandeliers and lights purchased in 2010 were worth more than €30 million.

Eleven of the lights were the sconces to be put under the numerous paintings found there, each worth €100,000. The most expensive item on the list of purchased lights was a five-meter long chandelier worth €8 million. Eight smaller chande-

liers for the gallery were bought for €640,000.

The centerpiece of the 140-hectare (345 acres) estate is the palatial log cabin house where Yanukovich lived. It also has several villas, a conservatory with exotic plants, professional spa salons, a zoo, an animal farm and much more. Cavernous garages included many cars and boats.

He would have needed hundreds of employees, if not a few thousand, to maintain all of this – the grounds, the golf course, the fleets of cars and boats, the rare animals – and to provide secu-

rity, not to mention the cleaning and landscaping. One of the documents found in the compound showed that the cleaning and maintenance staff alone was some 300 people.

It's hard to estimate how much money went into building the place, but estimates exceed \$1 billion would not surprise anyone – all for a president whose salary was less than \$100,000 a year.

Journalists and others investigating documents left behind found evidence of an elaborate set of kickbacks showing Yanukovich ran Ukraine as → 14

March 7



Andru Donalds

A Jamaican musician whose voice is well-recognized all over the world, Andru Donalds is bringing his show to Kyiv. Donalds produced six solo albums starting in 1995 in which he explored the variety of music genres, including pop-rock, soul, reggae. The artist is also known for his work with the band Enigma as a soloist. Together they produced some four albums and numerous singles.

Andru Donalds in concert. March 7. 8 p.m. Caribbean Club (4 Symona Petlury St.) Hr 290 – 1,000



Feb. 27 – Mar. 10

Shevchenko Mania

Celebrating Ukraine's most famous author of all time, Mystetskyi Arsenal has put together an art project. Shevchenko Mania marks 200th anniversary of Taras Shevchenko's birthday with the exhibition of some 50 of his paintings dated back to 1830 – 1850s, along with the various poem recitals and video installations. Shevchenko Mania is an invitation to look at the artist's life and art beyond the textbooks.

ShevchenkoMania. Feb. 27 – Mar. 10. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Mystetskyi Arsenal (12 Lavrska St.) Hr 20 - 40

March 1

Rock Hits

The chamber crew of the Symphonic Orchestra "Resonance" is presenting their versions of the world's biggest rock hits. The orchestra "strips down" the music of the well-known songs, allowing the audience to enjoy the core the composer built. "Resonance" will be performing hits by the Beatles, Nirvana, Queen, Kiss, Bon Jovi, Deep Purple and many others.

Rock Hits by the Chamber crew of the Symphonic Orchestra "Resonance". Mar. 1. 7 p.m. Concert Hall NTUU (37 Peremohy Ave.) Hr 120 – 450

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A protester rests in an armchair in the mansion of former Prosecutor General Viktor Pshonka on Feb. 24. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Former top officials led pampered lives

→ **13** a racketeer, not as a democratically elected president.

And yet, the extent of his tacky style shocked almost as much as the scale.

The four-story mansion made of wood and stone named Honka, revealed the former president's preferences in interior design. The preferences included gilding, statues, redwood and marble – often all the elements were combined in the design of the same room.

"You know what the house means for every person. It is something sacred, something that should not be touched by anyone," said Yanukovich at a press conference in 2011, when responding to who owns Mezhyhirya.

Sacred or not, the house demanded incredible investments in decorations. Yanukovich could have won the prize for the most lavish and vulgar mansion ever, but some of his thunder was stolen the next day.

Protesters entered the house of former Prosecutor General Viktor Pshonka on Feb. 23. Although much smaller than Yanukovich's residence,

the mansion of Pshonka certainly is no slouch in terms of tastelessness.

King Midas could've designed its interior. The chairs, mirrors, cabinets and even curtains in the mansion are heavy on golden decorations. A flat TV in the living room was framed in a huge TV stand with golden ornamented carvings, while the nearby picture frames had family photos along with Pshonka's signature laid in Swarovski crystals. Similar crystals were on the velvet couch pillows.

But it wasn't just the gold that made Pshonka the most mocked figure of the week. One of the many Pshonka's portraits found in the house was of himself as Julius Caesar. The painting was based on the Caesar poster from "Astérix aux Jeux Olympiques," a 2008 French comedy that was based on the series of Asterix comics that portray Caesar as an unfortunate ruler who is always defeated by protagonists.

These and other bizarre findings in the mansions of former top officials raised the questions about the enormous luxury being related to psycho-

logical problems of the owners.

Psychologist Olena Bohatyriova refuted it, saying "the more money we have, the bigger houses we build." But even she admitted that Pshonka's collection of portraits of himself were odd.

"We can't say for sure whether Pshonka ordered his own portraits or not. If they were painted on his demand, there might be a certain psychological disorder," Bohatyriova said. "If these paintings were gifts, then the giver could have some kind of obsession."

Kyiv Post lifestyle editor Olga Rudenko can be reached at rudenko@kyivpost.com and on Twitter at [@olya_rudenko](https://twitter.com/olya_rudenko).

Ten of the weirdest things found in former officials' mansions

1. A garden statue of a white horse in Mezhyhirya that has Italian scenery painted on its body.
2. Water taps shaped as golden swans in a bathroom in Mezhyhirya. Pushing the wings turns the water on.
3. Dead birds of prey, crucified on wooden crosses in the garden. A popular rumor says there is a criminals' tradition to do it for good luck, but it's more likely that the birds were there to scare other birds away from the aviary.
4. Paintings of former Prosecutor General Viktor Pshonka as Julius Caesar and his wife Olga Pshonka as a Russian empress.
5. A lavish costume of an 18th century aristocrat found in the personal dressing room of Viktor Yanukovich.
6. Golden bread in one of the rooms of Yanukovich's palace.
7. A five-meter long chandelier purchased for €8 million for Yanukovich's mansion.
8. Pshonka's signature laid with Swarovski crystals on a picture frame.
9. Relics of Christian saints found in Pshonka's study.
10. A list of phone numbers for "exorcism services" found in Pshonka's home.

More photos of the lavish luxury of the mansions that belonged to Viktor Yanukovich and Viktor Pshonka are available online at www.kyivpost.com/multimedia/photo.



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March 7 – 8



(sukhishvili.com)

Georgian National Ballet

Sukhishvili started its work as a Georgian State Dance Company back in 1945. The founders, Nino Ramishvili and Iliko Sukhishvili, were both dancers since they were children, finally realizing their dream of showing the rest of the world how different the Georgian ballet can be, especially when it is mixed with modernism. Nowadays the crew counts some 500 people, including the dancers, orchestra players and technicians. Kyiv audience will have a chance to see two evening and two matinee performances.

Sukhishvili. Georgian National Ballet. Mar. 7 – 8. 3 p.m., 7 p.m. Palats Ukraina (103 Velyka Vasilkivska St.) Hr 150 – 1,250

Within Temptation

Founded in 1996, the Within Temptation band has been a music sensation for many years. Describing their music as "symphonic metal," the band had also experimented with symphonic rock and doom metal. The vocalist Sharon den Adel and guitarist Robert Westerholt had been working together since the beginning, releasing six studio albums together. Supporting its last album "Hydra," the band is touring the world.

March 6



(Courtesy)

Within Temptation.

March 6. 7 p.m. Stereo Plaza (119 Chervonozoryanyy Ave.) Hr 250 – 1,200

March 2



(shakhtar.com)

Dynamo (Kyiv) vs. Shakhtar (Donetsk)

Ukrainian Premier League: Round 19. The situation in the country had put the possibility of the game under the question, yet the director of the FC Shakhtar Serhiy Palkin assured the fans, that the team is ready to come up to Kyiv and play, according to izvestia.ru

Dynamo (Kyiv) vs. Shakhtar (Donetsk). Mar. 2. 7:30 p.m. NSK Olimpiyskyy (55 Velyka Vasilkivska St.) Hr 50 – 400. Live coverage by 2+2 TV Channel.



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