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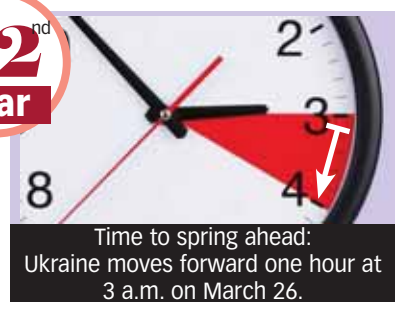
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# KyivPost

**22<sup>nd</sup>**  
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**March 24, 2017**

## 'State terrorism': Ex-Russian lawmaker assassinated in Kyiv

BY **OLGA RUDENKO**  
AND **OLEG SUKHOV**  
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The brazen assassination of a former Russian lawmaker in central Kyiv has

raised concerns for the safety of other Kremlin critics who have taken refuge in Ukraine.

Denys Voronenkov, accompanied by a state-provided bodyguard, was gunned down in a volley of bullets about 11:30 a.m. on March 23

as he was walking outside Kyiv's Premier Palace Hotel near the corner of Taras Shevchenko Boulevard and Pushkinska Street. His assassin was fatally shot by Voronenkov's bodyguard.

Ukrainian President Petro

Poroshenko called the murder "an act of state terrorism," squarely accusing his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, of carrying out the crime through his Russian Federal Security

more **Voronenkov** on page 3



# Deadly Trade

Russia remains Ukraine's largest export destination (\$3.5 billion), its top source of imports (\$5.1 billion) and its biggest investor (\$1.7 billion) despite the Kremlin's ongoing war that has killed 10,000 people and dismembered the nation. What are the consequences of trade with the enemy? Is Ukraine still too dependent on its neighbor?



**Inside:**

National **2, 3, 7 – 11** | Business **6**  
Opinion **4, 5** | Lifestyle **12 – 14**  
Employment/Real Estate/Classifieds **15**

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# Kyiv Post's Romanyshyn starts American journalism fellowship

BY BRIAN BONNER  
BONNER@KYIVPOST.COM

She's only been there a week, but Kyiv Post staff writer Yuliana Romanyshyn is already filling up notebooks with knowledge she'll share with her Ukrainian colleagues when she returns to the newspaper in September.

Romanyshyn arrived earlier this month in Columbia, Missouri, where she is immersing herself in a rigorous journalism education program at the University of Missouri, home to the one of the best journalism schools in the world. She will also get involved with the Columbia Missourian, the news organization managed by professional editors and staffed by journalism students.

Romanyshyn is on a six-month fellowship with Alfred Friendly Press Partners, which provides work and study opportunities in America to international journalists. She is the Kyiv Post's fourth fellow in as many years. Previous Kyiv Post fellows are current Kyiv Post staff writers Olena Goncharova and Oksana Grytsenko as well as former Kyiv Post staff writer Anastasia Forina.

"Columbia is a quiet city, an ideal place to immerse in studies. The schedule is intense and we study for 8-9 hours per day, leaving evenings for homework," Romanyshyn said. "I am impressed how practical the program is. Over this week we've already learned data search tools, U.S. ethics, key factors on business trends and had a writing exercise. And we just started!"

Romanyshyn also counts "as a bonus the chance to communicate closely with the other fellows. Over the last week, my knowledge of foreign policy and culture increased significantly. I study in a group with journalists from Kenya, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Malaysia and Cuba. Although the agenda is tough,



Alfred Friendly Press Partnership fellowships are multicultural experiences in America. From left, the hands of fellows from Ukraine, Nepal, Pakistan and Kenya. (Courtesy)



Kyiv Post staff writer Yuliana Romanyshyn in Columbia, Missouri. (Courtesy)

I hope I'll find time to dig more into American culture."

After three months in Missouri,

Romanyshyn will start working at the Chicago Tribune, one of the 10 largest newspapers in America.

Her fellowship was made possible with financial donations from nearly 100 Kyiv Post supporters who donated to a GoFundMe crowdfunding campaign that raised 25 percent of the cost of the fellowship.

"Your donation of \$7,560 has made it possible for Yuliana Romanyshyn to join the Alfred Friendly Fellows Class of 2017," said Randall D. Smith, president of Alfred Friendly Press Partners. "Because of contributions like yours, we are able to continue our mission – to create a transformative experience for up-and-coming journalists from countries struggling with a free press yet striving toward democracy continues."

The program was founded in 1983 "in the belief that just societies must have a vigorous and principled free press," according to its mission statement. "The Alfred Friendly Press Partners aims to build strong

newsrooms that make possible an informed citizenry. We work to strengthen skills and values by placing talented international journalists in U.S. newsrooms and by establishing long-term training partnerships with news organizations that share our goal of fostering professional excellence."

The program was started by Alfred Friendly (1911-1983), a Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist and Washington Post managing editor from 1955-1965. The Alfred Friendly Foundation has trained more than 300 journalists from 80 countries since 1984.

Romanyshyn has been a staff writer at the Kyiv Post since January 2015. She is a graduate of Ivan Franko National University of Lviv with an M.A. degree in Japanese language and literature and Ukrainian language and literature. In December, she completed a six-week New Diplomacy Fellowship with Spiegel Online in Germany. ■

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# Shootout in broad daylight: Assassination shocks Kyiv

Voronenkov from page 1

Service, or FSB. "Once again we have witnessed a textbook method of the Russian special forces, which we have repeatedly seen in various European capitals," Poroshenko said in a statement.

The Kremlin dismissed the accusation as absurd.

After fleeing Russia for Ukraine six months ago, Voronenkov became a witness in Ukrainian's high treason criminal case against ex-President Viktor Yanukovich, who fled to Russia on Feb. 22, 2014, amid the EuroMaidan Revolution to oust him. Voronenkov testified in January and was scheduled to give more testimony.

His state bodyguard exchanged gunfire with the victim's assassin, identified only as a Ukrainian citizen, mortally wounding him. The assassin died of his injuries hours later in a hospital. The bodyguard, an employee of Ukraine's Department of State Guards, was wounded in the shootout. Authorities say he is recovering and cooperating with the police investigation.

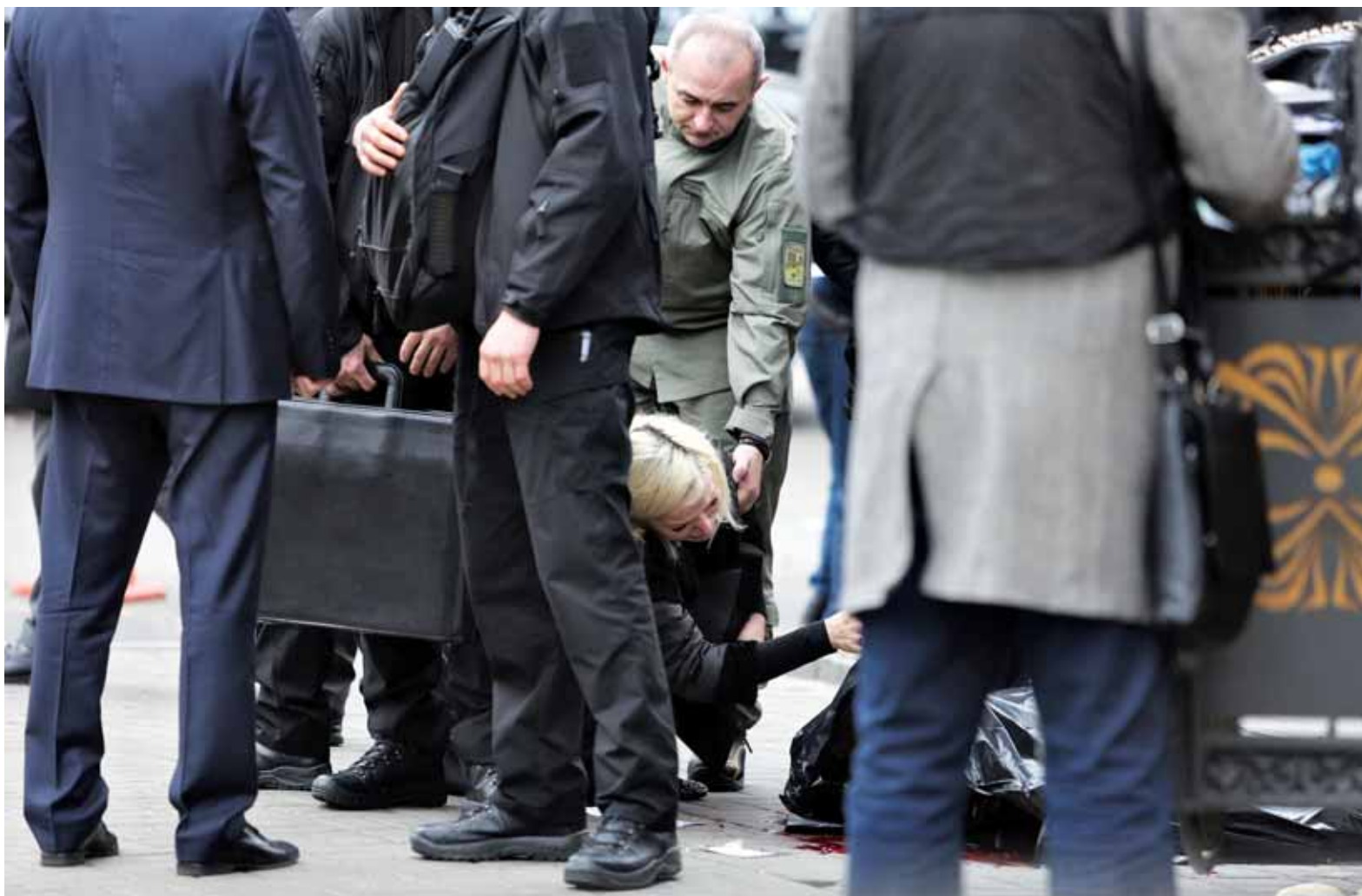
## Who was Voronenkov?

Voronenkov, 45, was a controversial politician who went from supporting Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula in 2014 to vocal criticism of the Kremlin. Months before the assassination, he gave up his Russian citizenship for a Ukrainian passport.

The murder comes amid a series of recent assassinations of other Kremlin critics, in Russia and abroad. The most famous of the murders include those of Russian opposition politician Boris Nemtsov in Moscow in 2015 and the poisoning by radioactive polonium-210 of former Russian FSB security service agent Alexander Litvinenko in London in 2006.

Voronenkov, who had a military background, had been in politics since 2000, moving between high- and middle-level offices before finally getting elected to Russia's State Duma in 2011, where he represented the Communist Party until 2016, when he failed to get re-elected.

When Russian unleashed its war against Ukraine in 2014, Voronenkov



Anatoly Matios, the chief military prosecutor, comforts Maria Maksakova, wife of Denys Voronenkov, as she identifies her husband's body after his assassination in the center of Kyiv on March 23. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

backed the Kremlin's annexation of Crimea and voted for it in parliament. He later gave a range of excuses for doing so, saying that he had been forced to do so or that he had never voted for it at all.

## Ukrainian citizen

Despite his formerly pro-Kremlin stance, Voronenkov's life in Russia was marred in 2014–2015 by a fraud investigation. He was suspected of a hostile takeover of a building in Moscow. Russian investigators acted to lift Voronenkov's immunity from prosecution, and succeeded in February – but by that time Voronenkov was no longer in Russia.

He moved to Kyiv in October, explaining that he disagreed with the Russian regime and didn't want to "live in lies and hypocrisy anymore."

Voronenkov was granted Ukrainian citizenship just two months after his arrival. The speed of that decision was surprising, fueling suspicions that the Russian lawmaker had made some kind of deal with the Ukrainian authorities. He soon gave testimony against Yanukovich, the former Ukrainian president suspected of numerous crimes including helping to instigate Russia's war against the nation he led from 2010 to 2014.

Voronenkov moved to Kyiv with his second wife, opera singer and lawmaker Maria Maksakova, and their infant son. He also leaves two children from his first marriage.

## Murder details

Voronenkov was walking near the five-star Premier Palace Hotel, a popular meeting place, at approximately 11:30

a.m. when he was approached by a man in a grey hoodie and sweatpants.

The man shot Voronenkov in the head and wounded his bodyguard in the stomach before being shot himself by the bodyguard.

Altogether, from six to 10 shots were fired, according to various accounts of witnesses. Voronenkov died on the spot. His attacker died in hospital three hours later. Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko identified him as a Ukrainian citizen, but no other details have been made public.

The murder took place as Voronenkov was heading to a meeting with Ilya Ponomarev, an ex-member of Russian parliament and an opposition politician living in Kyiv, Ponomarev said.

more Voronenkov on page 7

## Deaths of critics

Many of Russian President Vladimir Putin's critics have been killed in Russia since he came to power in 1999, including opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, journalist Anna Politkovskaya, human rights activist Natalya Estemirova, lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, and anarchist activists Anastasia Baburova and Stanislav Markelov.

During Putin's presidency, over 30 military generals were also killed, committed suicide or died in mysterious circumstances. Some claimed that the deaths could have been linked to Kremlin efforts to get rid of witnesses of Russia's aggression and war crimes in various countries, including Ukraine.

In 2013 exiled Russian tycoon Boris Berezovsky, an archrival of Putin, was found hanged in his apartment in London. The investigation couldn't conclude if it was a suicide or a murder.

In 2015, Mikhail Lesin, a former Russian minister and presidential aide, died in mysterious circumstances at Washington's Dupont Circle Hotel.

In late 2016 to early 2017 seven Russian diplomats, including Vitaly Churkin, Russia's ambassador to the United Nations, died or were killed in various circumstances.

Finally, in 2016, a British criminal inquiry found that Putin "probably" ordered the 2006 polonium-210 poisoning that killed ex-Russian security service agent Litvinenko in London.



Experts work near the covered body of Denys Voronenkov, an exiled Russian lawmaker, on March 23 in Kyiv. (Pavlo Podufalov)



An empty bullet casing is seen on the street in central Kyiv where Denys Voronenkov was gunned down on March 23. (Pavlo Podufalov)



## Editorials

## Down with Brown

The attempts to install Nigel Brown as the third auditor of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine is a farce, even by the standards of Ukrainian politics.

President Petro Poroshenko and his gray cardinals, lawmakers Ihor Kononenko and Oleksandr Hranovsky, have three times unsuccessfully tried to impose Brown on Ukraine's kleptocratic legislature.

Even the mounting resentment of civil society, harsh criticism by Western embassies and numerous procedural violations have not prevented the president and his cronies from pushing for this candidate, who has received money from Russian oligarchs and has been investigated by British police in a bribery case.

So strong is Poroshenko's desire for absolute power that two other puppet auditors – yet to be appointed by himself and his loyal Cabinet of Ministers – are not enough for him. He also wants to control the auditor appointed by parliament.

As the bureau's chief can be fired as the result of an audit, the president is clearly doing this to influence and possibly destroy the anti-corruption bureau, which is going after presidential allies, most notably state tax and customs chief Roman Nasirov on corruption charges that the suspect denies.

Verkhovna Rada Speaker Andriy Parubiy and Tetiana Rychkova, a volunteer helping the army, have already harmed their reputations by backing Brown.

The fact that Brown, a dark horse with a dubious reputation and without any anti-corruption credentials, received more votes in parliament than Robert Storch, a respected U.S. official with an impeccable reputation, offers more proof that many in the Verkhovna Rada are useless tools of a corrupt establishment. Elections cannot come quickly enough for Ukrainians.

Still, the ruling elite's failure to get their way so far is a good sign. Kononenko was frantically running around parliament in search of allies of ex-President Viktor Yanukovich with votes for sale. But he failed. Fugitive lawmaker Oleksandr Onyshchynko, a suspect in a corruption case, has accused Kononenko of buying votes, which he denies.

Civil society matters. The incumbent authorities should always keep in mind that Yanukovich's fate awaits those who ignore or try to fool the people.

## Budding autocrat

Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada on March 23 approved amendments requiring civic activists and NGOs to file publicly available asset declarations and introducing criminal penalties for them if they fail to comply.

The amendments, which also included the same requirement for media editors in the initial version, are a brazen attempt by the nation's ruling elite to intimidate anti-corruption activists and stifle criticism from the media. Activists are not public civil servants and don't have to account for their property, unless they commit a crime. The legislation is clearly aimed at discrediting activists and journalists, most of whom work for private companies, most probably with the aim of fabricating political cases against them.

The measure was backed by President Petro Poroshenko's Bloc, the People's Front, the Radical Party and three offshoots of ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions – the Opposition Bloc, Vidrodzhennya and the People's Will.

The amendments are absurd, not as heinous, but in the same league as the "dictatorial laws" of Jan. 16, 2014, which severely restricted civil liberties and triggered Yanukovich's downfall. The current amendments, which severely restrict free speech and civic activism, may have a similar effect.

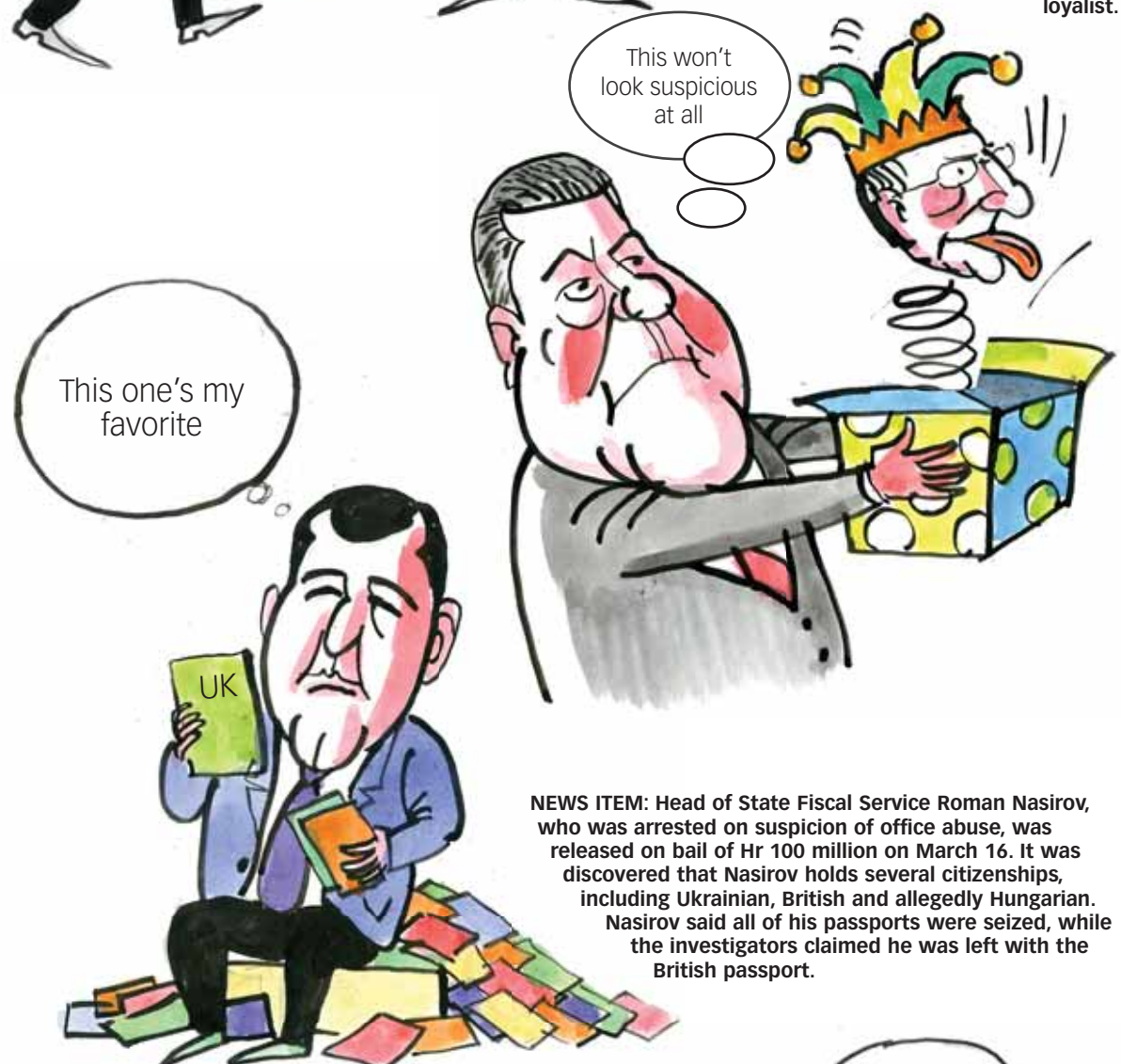
The legislation is also very similar to laws introduced in Russia under dictator Vladimir Putin, which brand non-governmental organizations "foreign agents." Those laws have led to the de facto destruction of NGOs and civil society, and turned Russia into a semi-totalitarian state.

The amendments indicate that the incumbent authorities, long ensconced in their palaces of government on the hills of Pechersk, have lost touch with the people who brought them to power. Ukraine's political elite should finally realize that it is not the government that should control civil society and the media, but the other way around. If Ukraine's two revolutions failed to drive this home, another one might.



**NEWS ITEM:** Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko said that Lviv mayor Andriy Sadoviy deserved to be jailed for the trash crisis in his city. The authorities' pressure on Sadoviy is seen by many as a way to influence Samopomich, the opposition party he leads. Lutsenko was a political prisoner under ex-President Viktor Yanukovich.

**NEWS ITEM:** The ruling parliament coalition of the Bloc of President Petro Poroshenko and People's Front made several unsuccessful attempts to appoint Nigel Brown, a controversial British citizen, as an auditor for the National Anti-Corruption Bureau. Brown has been investigated in a bribery case by British police and is seen as a Poroshenko loyalist.



**NEWS ITEM:** Head of State Fiscal Service Roman Nasirov, who was arrested on suspicion of office abuse, was released on bail of Hr 100 million on March 16. It was discovered that Nasirov holds several citizenships, including Ukrainian, British and allegedly Hungarian. Nasirov said all of his passports were seized, while the investigators claimed he was left with the British passport.



**NEWS ITEM:** After weeks of condemning the blockade of the railway trade with the occupied Donbas, President Petro Poroshenko suddenly backed it, saying that trade with Kremlin-occupied territories should stop.

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## Reformer of the week

## Larysa Golnik

Larysa Golnik, a judge of Poltava's October Court, is one of Ukraine's few honest judges and a brave whistleblower.

Golnik, who was interviewed for Hromadske television's Slidstvo.info show on March 12, published a video featuring Poltava Mayor Oleksandr Mamai and his former deputy Dmytro Trikhna unsuccessfully trying to bribe her.

Golnik got suspended and said that Oleksandr Strukov, the chairman of the October Court, was pressuring her and even assaulted her, which Strukov denies. Strukov is still on the job. The Council of Judges, the High Council of Justice and the High Qualification Commission have failed to react.

A Poltava court is considering a case against Trikhna, but Mamai is merely a witness in the case. The trial has seen no progress whatsoever since 2014 – allegedly because of Mamai's political influence.

Another whistleblower, Judge Serhiy Bondarenko of Cherkasy Oblast's Court of Appeal, has released a recording of the court's chairman, Volodymyr Babenko, pressuring him to make an unlawful decision. The judiciary's governing bodies failed to react, and Babenko is still on his job and is not being criminally prosecuted. Other judges, including Lyudmila Synetska, complained earlier this month about illegal pressure being put on judges by the authorities during the prosecution of EuroMaidan protesters in 2013 to 2014.

— Oleg Sukhov



## Anti-reformer of the week

## Vyacheslav Abroskin

Vyacheslav Abroskin, the ex-chief of Donetsk Oblast's police and a deputy chief of the National Police, took part in the March 13 crackdown on activists blocking trade with Russian-occupied territories in the Donbas.

The promotion of Abroskin, a representative of the anti-reformist old guard, on March 11 is seen as a sign of the failure of police reform.

Abroskin allegedly tried to serve the Russian occupation authorities as a police official in Crimea in 2014 before moving to mainland Ukraine, according to Sevastopol-based media. However, he denies this.

Abroskin on March 16 wrote on Facebook that he supported the proposal of People's Front lawmaker Yevgeny Deidei to beat Batkivshchyna lawmaker Igor Lutsenko with a baseball bat for his criticism of the police.

Meanwhile, police officer Yuriy Goluban – one of Abroskin's subordinates who entered the Verkhona Rada on March 15 in violation of parliamentary procedure – admitted on March 17 that he had met with Russian-backed separatist leader Oleksandr Khodakovsky when the war with Russia started in April to May 2014.

Khodakovsky had said before that Goluban had fought for the separatists, though Goluban denies this.

— Oleg Sukhov



VOX populi

WITH ALYONA ZHUK

**Do you support the decision to ban Yulia Samoylova, Russia's entry to 2017 Eurovision Song Contest, from entering Ukraine because she visited Russian-occupied Crimea illegally in 2015?**



**Oleksandr Linnik**  
doctor

"Politics is politics, and art is art. You can't just dismiss the Russian singer like this. If it is their candidate, this candidate should perform."



**Maryana Angelova**  
professor, journalist

"I believe the state security service is competent to make a decision. We need to treat

her not as a disabled person, but as a person under massive pressure from Russian propaganda."



**Samira Bumud**  
singer

"I support this decision. I am happy that Ukraine is finally defending its rights. Ukraine has to show

the world that it has its own rules and laws, and other countries have to follow them. Ukraine often behaves like a victim, like everyone has to pity it, but I think others should respect it."



**Serhiy Kucherenko**  
retiree

"I am a nationalist. I am categorically against her performing in Ukraine. As a Russian citizen - it's a matter of a principle.

Russia occupied Crimea, Luhansk, Donetsk. How can we stay friends with these people?"



**Tamara Velikova**  
doctor

"We can look at this situation from two sides - from the human perspective, and from the

political one. On the one hand, how should we treat a person who represents the aggressor? However, my position is split 50-50."

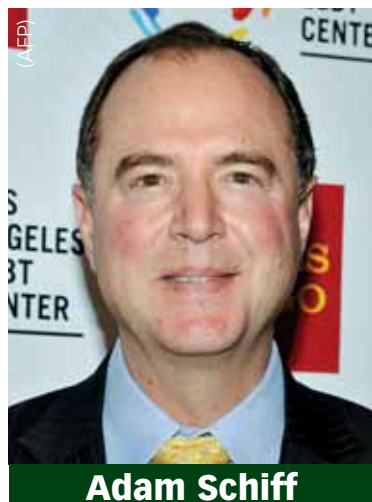


**Ivan Pavlichuk**  
security guard

"She broke Ukrainian law, so goodbye. If she broke the law, we have to treat her according to the law. Everything has to be transparent and honest."

## Ukraine's Friend &amp; Foe Of The Week

*Editor's Note: This feature separates Ukraine's friends from its enemies. The Order of Yaroslav the Wise has been given since 1995 for distinguished service to the nation. It is named after the Kyivan Rus leader from 1019-1054, when the medieval empire reached its zenith. The Order of Lenin was the highest decoration bestowed by the Soviet Union, whose demise Russian President Vladimir Putin mourns. It is named after Vladimir Lenin, whose corpse still rots on the Kremlin's Red Square, 100 years after the October Revolution he led.*



**Adam Schiff**

The Democratic U.S. House of Representatives member from California turned in a star performance at the March 20 House Intelligence Committee hearing in Washington, D.C.

The committee is investigating Russian influence on the 2016 U.S. presidential election. At the hearing, U.S. FBI Director James Comey confirmed an investigation into ties between Russia and U.S. President Donald J. Trump's campaign. Schiff laid out a detailed account.

Here are excerpts:

"In early July, Carter Page, someone candidate Trump identified as one of his national security advisers, travels to Moscow on a trip approved by the Trump campaign. While in Moscow, he gives a speech critical of the United States and other Western countries for what he believes is a hypocritical focus on democratization and efforts to fight corruption.

"According to Christopher Steele, a former British intelligence officer who is reportedly held in high regard by U.S. Intelligence, Russian

sources tell him that Page has also had a secret meeting with Igor Sechin, CEO of Russian gas giant Rosneft. Sechin is reported to be a former KGB agent and close friend of Putin's. According to Steele's Russian sources, Page is offered brokerage fees by Sechin on a deal involving a 19 percent share of the company. According to Reuters, the sale of a 19.5 percent share in Rosneft later takes place, with unknown purchasers and unknown brokerage fees.

"Also, according to Steele's Russian sources, the Trump campaign is offered documents damaging to Hillary Clinton, which the Russians would publish through an outlet that gives them deniability, like Wikileaks. The hacked documents would be in exchange for a Trump administration policy that de-emphasizes Russia's invasion of Ukraine and instead focuses on criticizing NATO countries for not paying their fare share..."

"In the middle of July, Paul Manafort, the Trump campaign manager and someone who was long on the payroll of pro-Russian Ukrainian interests, attends the Republican Party convention...Just prior to the convention, the Republican Party

platform is changed, removing a section that supports the provision of 'lethal defensive weapons' to Ukraine, an action that would be contrary to Russian interests. Manafort categorically denies involvement by the Trump campaign in altering the platform. But the Republican Party delegate who offered the language...states it was removed at the insistence of the Trump campaign."

It's worth watching or reading Schiff's remarks in their entirety. Let's hope the probe is as good.

— Brian Bonner



**Oleg Deripaska**

During the March 20 congressional intelligence committee hearing, the name of Paul Manafort -- the former campaign manager for U.S. President Donald J. Trump and former adviser to deposed Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich -- came up 28 times. But not once did any officials bring up Oleg Deripaska, the Russian oligarch who was revealed to have hired Manafort to conduct operations against the United States.

An Associated Press report from March 22 revealed that, in a 2005 memo, Deripaska said Manafort would "greatly benefit" Russian President Vladimir Putin. Hacked U.S. Embassy cables published by Wikileaks showed that U.S. diplomats described Deripaska as "among the two to three oligarchs Putin turns to on a regular basis."

Deripaska has spent much of his 25-year career as a pawn of a corrupt and criminal Kremlin administration. This week's revelation is nothing new, but it serves as a good time for us to name him Ukraine foe of the week.

The 49-year-old businessman made his initial fortune in commodity trading during the 1990s, even-

tually acquiring Siberian aluminum plants. From there, and like many other Russian and Ukrainian businessmen, he appears to have mixed his economic sway with political power. A 2006 U.S. State Department cable described him as a "more-or-less permanent fixture on Putin's trips abroad."

He hired Manafort to maintain control over industrial assets that he had acquired in Ukraine.

"Manafort proposed that Deripaska and Putin would benefit from lobbying Western governments, especially the United States, to allow oligarchs to keep possession of formerly state-owned assets in Ukraine," the AP reported. "He proposed building 'long-term relationships' with Western journalists and a variety of measures to improve recruitment, communications and financial planning by pro-Russian parties in the region."

Deripaska also set up a private equity fund called Pericles to acquire media assets across Ukraine. With Deripaska's mandate, Manafort attempted to buy out an Odesa cable company called "Black Sea." But before the deal was complete, Manafort made off with the \$19 million investment, reportedly refusing to answer Deripaska's phone calls from that point on.

It's clear from the evidence that Deripaska was happy to be a tool for the Putin government to gain influence in Ukraine. He saw that maintaining control over industry in this country and taking advantage of Ukraine's parasitic oligarchic system would allow the Kremlin to retain political influence. It's an indictment of Manafort that he was a willing participant in all of this, and a shame that it is only coming to light just now.

— Josh Kovensky



Order of Lenin



# Survey: Kyiv 8th cheapest city in world

BY MARIA ROMANENKO  
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Money can't buy happiness, but it can buy a lot of stuff in Ukraine. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit's ranking of the cost of living in 133 major cities, Kyiv – with a population of 3 million people – is the eighth cheapest major city in the world.

The ranking is based on the cost of living through tracking prices of food and other items.

Kyiv, along with Bucharest and New Delhi, comes in at 124th – six places down from last year, the report says.

The results coincide with another survey by Expatistan, which found that Kyiv is the third cheapest major city in the world among 213 municipalities surveyed. Only Hyderabad, India, and Tbilisi, Georgia.

In order to evaluate the cost of living in each of the cities, Economist researchers collect the prices for over 160 items in various stores in each city: supermarkets, mid-priced stores and higher-priced speciality outlets. An average is then evaluated,

and converted (using the current exchange rate) into a common currency – U.S. dollars.

Not to its credit, Kyiv offers some of the cheapest cigarettes in the world, with the average price of a pack of 20 branded cigarettes being less than \$1. Compare that to New York, a city at the other end of the ranking (ninth in the world), where a pack of 20 cigarettes cost 15 times more – \$14.25.

All of the other items in the survey – bread, wine and petrol – are the cheapest they have ever been in Kyiv in the last decade. A one-kilo-gram loaf of bread on average costs \$1.07, compared to \$2.12 five years ago or \$1.44 10 years ago. A 750 millileter bottle of table wine costs \$5.67 with its highest price being back in 2007 – \$15.35.

A liter of unleaded gas currently costs \$0.77, also the cheapest it has ever been in the last 10 years, but considerably more expensive than in other cheap cities. For example in Algiers it currently costs \$0.28, making the north African city the second cheapest place in the world to fill up, according to the Economist's report.



Kyiv is a beautiful, ancient and – according to many cost-of-living rankings – very cheap. This is a view of Kyiv's skyline from the top of the Gulliver business center on May 26. (Volodymyr Petrov)

## Celebrating Pakistan Day with dance

Pakistanis in Ukraine and their friends took time on March 23 to celebrate Pakistan Day in the Hilton Kyiv Hotel. The holiday celebrates the Lahore Resolution of 1940 that led to Pakistan's independence from the United Kingdom. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan came into existence on March 23, 1956. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



Another cheap city for motorists is Lagos, Nigeria, where a liter of gas costs \$0.46.

However, Kyivans have few reasons to be cheered by the low cost of living – the report suggests dramatic drops in the ranking, such as that of Kyiv, are likely due to the impact of political or economic disruption.

“Karachi, Algiers, Kyiv and Lagos have faced well-documented economic, political, security and infrastructural challenges,” the report says, “And there is some correlation between The Economist Intelligence Unit's cost of living ranking and its sister ranking, the liveability survey. Put simply, cheaper cities tend also to be less liveable.”

This year's Worldwide Cost of Living ranking is topped by Singapore, which takes the title of the most expensive city in the world for the fourth consecutive

year, followed by Hong Kong (also a non-mover), Zurich (which dropped one position) and Japan's Tokyo and Osaka, which last year failed to make the top 10.

The only eurozone city in the top 10 list is Paris, which has been among the 10 most expensive cities in the world for 15 years in a row and this year comes in at eighth. Two other European cities, Geneva and Copenhagen, also made the list, with Geneva coming third and Denmark's capital coming tenth.

The Worldwide Cost of Living is a biannual Economist Intelligence Unit survey, which compares over 400 individual prices across 160 products and services. The survey is designed “to help human resources and finance managers calculate cost-of-living allowances and build compensation packages for expatriates and business travellers.” ■

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People gather around the covered body of ex-Russian member of parliament Denys Voronenkov at the scene of his assassination on March 23 outside Kyiv's Premier Palace Hotel. (Pavlo Podufalov)

# Kremlin critic and assassin killed in shootout in Kyiv; bodyguard hurt

Voronenkov from page 3

## Main versions

Ukrainian investigators' main theory is that the assassination was ordered by Russia.

The Premier Palace Hotel, in front of which the shootout took place, belongs to Russian businessman and former pro-Kremlin lawmaker Alexander Babakov, who is Putin's representative for relations with ethnic Russians abroad.

Voronenkov's murder coincided with a large-scale and suspicious explosion at a giant ammunition depot in the city of Balakliya in Kharkiv Oblast on March 23, which some Ukrainian officials have blamed on Russian saboteurs.

One theory is that Voronenkov was killed because he had testified about Yanukovych's alleged crimes and was going to testify again on March 23, Lutsenko said, possibly implicating also allies of Yanukovych. The mysterious deaths of at least three Yanukovych associates in recent years are also suspected to be murders meant to prevent their testimony.

Another theory is that Voronenkov was killed because he investigated alleged smuggling by Russia's Federal Security Service as a military prosecutor in the early 2000s, Lutsenko said.

Russia's version of the events is consistent with denials after previous murders of Kremlin critics: The killing was a provocation by Ukrainian authorities.

## Murky past

In the early 2000s, Voronenkov was involved in an investigation into a large smuggling ring known as the "Three Whales" case, after the name of a furniture shop used for smuggling.

The investigation showed the involvement of top FSB officials in smuggling luxury furniture worth of billions of dollars. Voronenkov said that 16 FSB generals lost their jobs as a result of their findings and the search was leading to higher officials.

But Voronenkov claimed that Putin, who initially hired his confidant General Viktor Cherkesov to lead the investigation, later called a halt to the process.

"It turned out that Putin doesn't like to spill the beans if it is related to his closest friends, who as it turned out are allowed to be corrupt," Voronenkov said in an interview with Ukrainian investigative news website Censor.net.

Voronenkov said many investigators were subsequently arrested by the FSB on trumped-up charges, and he personally survived an assassination attempt in Moscow in 2007 over this case.

Russian opposition politician Ponomarev claimed at a press conference after Voronenkov's murder that the "Three Whales" case was one of the biggest investigations in Russia in the 2000s, and its findings were still of relevance.

"He, Voronenkov, indeed knew a lot about the most important vulnerable element of Putin's authority — I mean their financial flows."

Lutsenko told the same press conference that "the killing of a witness in a case of FSB smuggling backed by the Russian president" was one of two main theories to explain Voronenkov's murder.

## Trail of murders

Voronenkov's assassination is not the first murder of a prominent figure in Ukraine that has been linked to Russia.

Belarusian-born journalist Pavel Sheremet, who worked in Russia as an opposition-minded journalist from 1999 to 2014, was killed in Kyiv in July. The investigation is ongoing without success. Russian involvement remains one of the lines of inquiry.

Since 2014, at least a dozen separatist leaders have been also killed or died in Russian-occupied areas in the Donbas in what analysts say may be a Kremlin effort to get rid of its rogue proxies. ■

# Voronenkov's journey from Russian MP to Kremlin critic

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO AND ALYONA ZHUK  
GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM, ZHUK@KYIVPOST.COM

Denys Voronenkov led the typical lifestyle of Russia's pro-Kremlin elite until October, when he ran afoul of Russia's Federal Investigative Committee and fled to Ukraine along with his wife, seeking refuge from persecution.

He was a lawmaker for Russia's pro-Kremlin Communist Party, had five apartments in Moscow and a fleet of five luxury cars. His wife, the opera singer Maria Maksakova, was a lawmaker for United Russia, Russian President Vladimir Putin's party.

After arriving in Ukraine and receiving Ukrainian citizenship, Voronenkov claimed he was "trying to survive" Putin and started criticizing the Russian Federal Security Service, known as the FSB, and the Kremlin.

His biography shows he indeed had high-profile connections.

"Why do you think the FSB is such a powerful organization, which nobody can escape from?" he asked in an interview with Gordon.UA. "People who work there also make mistakes. If you know the system from the inside, you can easily do what I did," he said — meaning escape.

## Former military

Voronenkov was born in Nizhni Novgorod (then Gorky), a city in European Russia, into a Soviet military family. In his childhood his family moved between many cities in Russia and Ukraine. He also claimed to be half-Ukrainian, and said he had spent a lot of time in childhood in the southern Ukrainian cities of Kherson, Mariupol, Mykolaiv and Yevpatoriya.

He followed his father's military career, studying in military universities in St. Petersburg (then Leningrad) and Moscow, and starting his career as a military prosecutor in the mid-1990s.

## Political career

After working in law enforcement, Voronenkov switched to politics.

He was elected to Russia's State Duma on the Communist Party ticket in 2011. He followed his party's agenda, which corresponded to the Kremlin line.

Voronenkov was one of the 443 Duma lawmakers who voted in March 2014 in support of Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea peninsula. Five months later, he posted several pictures from Crimea on his Twitter. "I was struck by its beauty. I completely support its accession to Crimea!" he wrote on Aug. 17, 2014.

But after Voronenkov came to Ukraine, he denied this support and even denied the tweet about Crimea, claiming his Twitter account had been hacked.

## Leaving Russia

In March 2015, Voronenkov married fellow lawmaker Maksakova. Russian parliament speaker Sergey



Denys Voronenkov, who sought political refuge in Ukraine, was assassinated on March 23. (Courtesy)

Naryshkin sang at their wedding.

But in early April, Russia's Federal Investigation Committee asked the country's prosecutor general to start the process of stripping Voronenkov of his parliamentary immunity in a criminal case in which Voronenkov was accused of seizing a building in the center of Moscow.

Voronenkov claimed the case was fabricated and he had to flee Russia.

In February, Voronenkov said he received Ukrainian citizenship thanks to his Ukrainian roots. Maksakova kept her Russian and German nationality but gained a residence permit in Ukraine.

Voronenkov claimed he was going to serve Ukraine as his new motherland, and said he was helping the Ukrainian investigation in the treason case against ousted former President Viktor Yanukovych.

## Criticism

Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny called Voronenkov "corrupt and crooked" and exposed Voronenkov's luxury lifestyle in Russia.

"Voronenkov argued with someone, he was kicked out of the Duma, and rushed with his wife to Kyiv. Then right on the plane, they switched from the Georgy ribbon (the symbol of Russian-backed separatists) to blue-and-yellow (the colors of Ukraine's national flag)," Navalny wrote on his blog in late January.

Voronenkov replied to Navalny's comments that he earned his fortune from business before going into politics.

He compared modern Russia with Nazi Germany and said he would be helpful to Ukrainian investigators, since knew the inner workings of the Russian state. He also claimed he had gone public, hoping it would help him to save his life.

"You want to ask whether I have guarantees of my safety? No, nobody has them," he said in what was to be his final interview, with news website Gordon.ua.

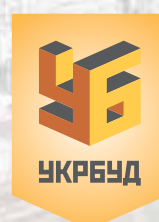


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The Kyiv Post's special focus in the April 14 edition —

## Spotlight on Mykolaiv

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# Massive fire hits Ukraine's biggest ammunition depot

BY WILL PONOMARENKO  
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Massive fires still raged on March 23 at the Ukrainian armed forces' biggest ammunition depot, near Balakliya in Kharkiv Oblast some 600 kilometers east of Kyiv.

The base was rocked by a series of massive explosions of unknown origin, although deliberate sabotage is one of the suspected causes. An investigation is under way.

Further detonations of ammunition continued throughout the day, even as Ukrainian television channels covered the disaster live.

The Balakliya arsenal covers an area of 368,000 square meters and contains 138,000 tons of ammunition, including 152 millimeter and 122 millimeter tank and artillery shells.

According to the Ministry of Defense, the ammunition depot, which is situated just to the northeast of Balakliya, caught fire at 2:45 a.m. Locals in the town and surrounding villages said they heard the first massive blast at 3 a.m., and fires broke out over large areas of the depot.

As many as 500 firefighters and 150 vehicles, including military armored firefighting trucks, were deployed to the scene during the first hours of emergency, the defense ministry reported, and an incident command center was set up.

Residents living near the depot were soon warned to pack and evacuate from their homes as fires at the depot began to spread.

Before dawn, a large-scale evacuation of civilians from Balakliya, a town of 30,000 people, and surrounding villages within 20 kilometers of the depot was launched, using 74 buses and 24 ambulances, according to Ukraine's emergency service. By 7:00 a.m. local time, up to 20,000 people had been evacuated to safe locations.



Smoke rises high over a fire at ammunition arsenal in Kharkiv Oblast on March 23. (Wladyslaw Musiienko)

Meanwhile, all civilian automobile and railroad traffic to Balakliya has been halted, and a 40-kilometer radius no-fly zone has been declared. The local authorities also stopped water, gas and electricity supplies to the area in order to prevent the further spread of the blaze. Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman visited the scene on the morning of March 23.

Large explosions of ammunition continued through the day, with some shell and rocket fragments hitting adjacent residential blocks.

At least one civilian was reported injured – a 54-year-old woman hospitalized with a shrapnel wound to the temple. Photographs published by the Interior Ministry's media center show residential houses in the town damaged by large fragments of exploded missiles.

Through the afternoon of March 23, the emergency services continued making attempts to bring the fire under control. However, the area affected by the fire continued to spread, Ukrainian Defense Ministry spokesperson Vitaliy Sarantsev said.

"The fire could probably last for up to seven days," Prime Minister Groysman said during a briefing to journalists at the scene, adding that up to 50 percent of the area of the depot was now affected. National Guards units were deployed in Balakliya to maintain order and assist in the evacuation.

## Drone attack

At a press conference in Kyiv on the morning of March 23, Ukrainian Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak said the ministry suspected that the fires and explosions at the depot had resulted from an act of sabotage.

"Various means by which the sabotage may have been committed are under investigation, from the use of a drone to planting explosives," the minister said.

Ukraine's SBU security service also said the accident appeared to be a typical act of sabotage, and said it had opened a corresponding criminal case.

Ukraine's Chief Military Prosecutor Anatoly Matios also said that there were signs that the ammunition depot had been attacked by a drone.

"According to the statements of the guards on duty, the sound of an aircraft was heard, (a sound) similar to an unmanned drone flying, and then there were explosions at two spots on one of the storage plots," Matios said during another briefing in Kyiv on March 23.

He added that the theory that the incident had been caused by negligence was still under consideration as well.

Ukraine's Border Guard Service has stepped up security on the government-controlled part of Ukraine's border with Russia in the east, the

Interior Ministry said in a statement on Facebook.

## 100-year-old arsenal

The artillery ammunition depot just east of the town of Balakliya was first established in 1918 during the civil war in the former Russian Empire. After Ukraine became independent in 1991, the ammunition depot was designated as the country's 65th military unit. It remained one of the biggest ammunition depots in Ukraine and Eastern Europe – according to various estimates, the Balakliya depot stored from 20–30 percent of the nation's ammunition stockpile, including old and obsolete Soviet-era rounds.

However, there were many reports that the depot was unsafe long before the incident on March 23. Pictures published in social media by base personnel show massive stores of rusty outdated heavy munitions being stored in the open air or in simple tents. The huge depot was guarded by only some 90 lightly armed servicemen.

At a press conference in Kyiv on March 23, SBU Security Service Chief Vasyl Hritsak confirmed that the 65th arsenal in Balakliya had been repeatedly flagged for problems with safety.

"In February this year, the head department of military counter-intelligence informed the management of that depot about deficiencies discovered in safety and security standards," Hritsak said.

By the evening of March 23 fires were continuing to burn at the depot, with occasional explosions as more ammunition detonated. However, no further casualties as a result of the incident had been reported. ■



An unexploded 125 millimeter projectile struck the road to Balakliya in Kharkiv Oblast on March 23 after a massive fire of suspicious origin at Ukraine's largest ammunition depot. (UNIAN)







# Economically, Ukraine can't break free from Russia yet

BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA,  
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Roman Baskov has several apps on his phone that help him spot Russian goods in Ukrainian stores. The 29-year-old wants to be certain he never buys anything produced in Russia.

"I don't want to give a single hryvnia to the occupants," he explains.

He's not the only Ukrainian to boycott Russian products. But this hasn't stopped Ukraine and Russia from trading \$8.6 billion worth of goods in 2016 – making Russia, by far, the biggest trade partner of Ukraine. The numbers break down into \$5.1 billion in imports from Russia – led by oil and petroleum – and \$3.6 billion in exports to Russia. Russia was also Ukraine's largest investor in 2016, with nearly \$1.7 billion.

The intensive economic relation-



Vidsich Civic Movement activists hold posters calling for a boycott of trade with Russia – which has the product code 460 – as other protesters lie on the floor in one of Kyiv supermarkets during a "Russian-made Kills" performance in 2014. (Courtesy of Vidsich)

responsibility for such a step.

"They are not ready neither to look for new markets, nor to promote Ukrainian goods," Hopko said. "Ukraine's government is doing everything possible."

Hlib Vyshlinsky, CEO of the Center for Economic Strategy, told the Kyiv Post that the fact that Ukraine keeps trading with Russia while asking West to impose tougher sanctions, is not hypocritical.

Since Ukraine is a victim of Russia's hybrid war, "it would be the win situation mostly for Russia if Ukraine immediately cut all the economic ties," Vyshlinsky said. "Because then Ukraine's economy will suffer and Russia's message of Ukraine as a failed state to the world will become true."

## 'Soviet heritage'

Ukrainian member of parliament Victoria Voytsitska, who is secretary of the parliamentary committee on fuel, energy and nuclear policy, told the Kyiv Post that many of Ukraine's nuclear power stations still operate only on Russian-made reactor fuel elements.

Energy expert Andriy Gerus told the Kyiv Post that 70 percent of Ukraine's nuclear power stations (approximately 9 from 15) can only operate on Russian-made reactor fuel elements.

"This is our Soviet heritage. When all the countries were united, their economies were deeply connected. We're not the same state anymore, but the economic connection is still very strong," Voytsitska said.

Voytsitska said Ukraine is trying to diversify its economy and retool its nuclear stations to use U.S.-produced fuel elements, but that this transition requires money and time.

Energy expert Gerus told the Kyiv Post that, over the last two years, Ukraine has diversified its sources of nuclear fuel, buying 30 percent of its fuel from the United States. But that leaves nine out of 15 reactors still dependent on Russian fuel.

Regarding oil, however, Gerus said Ukraine doesn't have many alternative sources, even though most petroleum imports are from nations other than Russia.

The bulk of Ukraine's imports from Russia, some \$4 billion worth, were the products of heavy industry, including metals, ores and chemical products. On a smaller scale, Ukraine also imported \$952 million in clothes, accessories, fabrics and beauty products; \$150 million in vehicles; and nearly \$20 million in food.

All the same, since the EuroMaidan Revolution that drove Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich to power on Feb. 22, 2014, Ukrainian imports at lot less than it used to – down to \$5.6 billion in 2016 from \$24.5 billion in 2013, according to Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce President Hennadiy

## Two reactions to Ukraine-Russia trade amid war



**Brian Whitmore,**  
Senior Russia analyst for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and author of *The Power Vertical* blog

"This presents a thorny dilemma for Ukraine. For Russia, there isn't really a distinction between politics and business. The Kremlin has essentially weaponized trade, commerce and finance. The goal is to ensnare elites in the former Soviet Union and beyond in the web of corrupt deals that emanate from Russia and establish a so-called Eurasian business space. I call this a zone of corruption and it is a key tool in establishing a sphere

of influence. It is also one of the main reasons the Kremlin was so opposed to Ukraine signing an Association Agreement with the European Union. Given geography, history, and established networks, and Ukraine's dependence on Russia for things like energy, it will be difficult – but not impossible – for the authorities in Kyiv to escape Moscow's embrace. An obvious first step would be to really tackle corruption, not just in words but in deeds. Another would be to develop sectors of the economy – like information technology – that can become sources of wealth but are in no way dependent on Moscow. Ukraine and Russia are not just in a war in the traditional military sense. They are also engaged in a war of governance. If Ukraine can prove that a transparent rule-of-law-based system can flourish on its soil it will win the war of governance – and have a stronger hand in the military conflict. If Kyiv fails here, it risks being absorbed by Russia's zone of corruption."



**Timothy Ash,**  
London-based analyst with Bluebay Asset Management company

"Since the EuroMaidan (Revolution that ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich on Feb. 22, 2014), and (Russia's war) in Donbas, there has been a marked decline in trade, energy, and financial ties between Russia and Ukraine. For example, only 4-5 years ago Russia still accounted for around 40 percent of Ukraine's total trade turnover, which is currently down to around 10 percent, and set to go lower again this year.

Meanwhile, whereas five years ago Ukraine was still importing 20 billion cubic meters of gas from Russia – close to half consumption – last year it was close to zero, and overall Ukrainian gas imports have gone down to around 10 billion cubic meters from 40+ billion cubic meters 10 years ago. The recent battle over trade flows to (Kremlin-controlled areas of the Donbas) have also seen Kyiv put additional pressure on the remaining Russian banks operating in Ukraine, which have now been levied with sanctions which are just likely to accelerate their exit. Even in the military field, while the talk is of a frozen conflict in Donbas, the reality is that the Ukrainian economy has learned to live with the status quo, as reflected in the 2.3 percent real gross domestic product growth posted last year, and expectations – pre-blockade of 2.5-3 percent growth this year, and broader macroeconomic stabilization. Any economic leverage which (Kremlin-controlled areas of the Donbas) exerted seems to have been reduced over time – and indeed, Kyiv's decision now to cut off trade to (separatist areas) suggests a decision to adapt a worse-case scenario, and put the cost of maintaining (separatist areas) onto Moscow directly, as is the case with Crimea, but also Transnistria (in Moldova), Abkhazia and South Ossetia (in Georgia).

ship is happening despite Russia's war that has killed 10,000 people since its start in 2014 and cost Ukraine control of its Crimean peninsula and parts of the eastern Donbas.

## Trade dropping

Trade has, however, dropped by more than half after both governments imposed selective trade embargoes on each other after Russia's annexation of Crimea and instigation of the war in eastern Ukraine, both in 2014.

Both nations introduced lists of goods banned for import. However, even banned Russian goods like caviar, meat and fish still find their way onto Ukrainian store shelves.

Trade experts say that one rea-

son for the stubbornly high number is that Russia buys higher-value finished products from Ukraine, while European Union nations favor cheaper raw materials.

## 'Doing everything...'

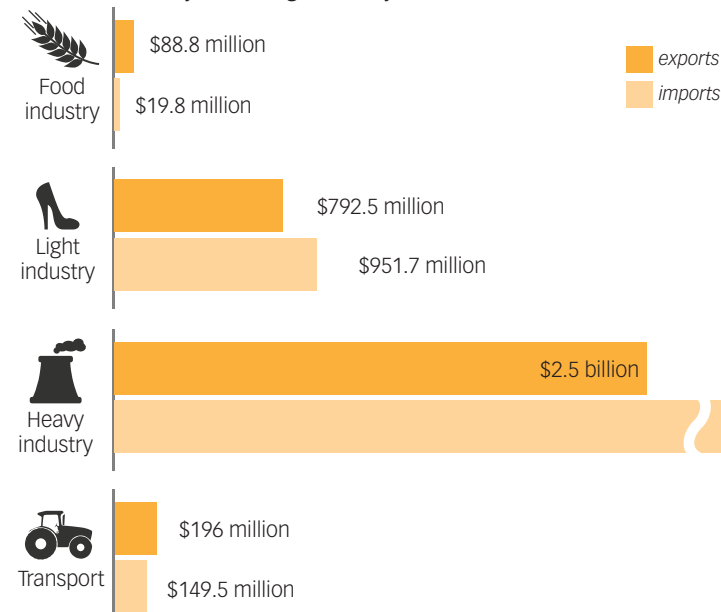
Hanna Hopko, an independent member of Ukraine's parliament who chairs the parliamentary committee on foreign affairs, told the Kyiv Post she wants Ukraine to become independent from Russia in all ways, sooner rather than later. But she thinks it could take another five years.

However, Hopko said that politicians clamoring for a complete halt to trade have not proposed alternatives and are not ready to take



## TRADE WITH RUSSIA, BY INDUSTRY

Russia remains a key trade partner of Ukraine, despite the war between them. Heavy industry took the leading role in trade in 2016, Russia accounting for more imports and exports from Ukraine than any other single country.



Source: State statistics service of Ukraine

Ukraine and Russia, now at war against each other, are linked by centuries of trade, including in the heavy industrial sector during Soviet times. That bilateral trade dominates despite war.



# Statistics tell truth: Russia remains 'an important trade partner' for Kyiv

Trade from page 10

Chyzhykov.

In 2016, Russia mostly bought from Ukraine ferrous metals and metal goods (\$893.2 million), nuclear reactors and boilers (\$642.9 million), and inorganic chemistry products (\$504.9 million).

Chyzhykov said that, since 2014, Ukraine has lost about \$14 billion in potential export income because of the fallout from the war and trade embargoes. "Moreover, due to the Russian ban on the transit of Ukrainian goods to other former Soviet bloc and Central Asia countries, we also lost several billion dollars," Chyzhykov said.

Olga Ponomarenko from the Development Center think tank of the Russian Higher School of Economics said that machinery and heavy equipment always made up the lion's share of Ukraine's exports to Russia.

Compared to 2012, exports of these goods fell by 80 percent in 2015.

"Exports of smaller categories of goods fell by 'only' 50 percent in dol-

lar equivalent terms, which is an indication rather of the hryvnia's devaluation than a significant decrease in real trade volumes," Ponomarenko told the Kyiv Post.

Russia remains "an important trade partner" for Ukraine, she said, citing the geographical proximity of the countries.

## Banned goods

Back in 2014, when Russia sent its military to invade and annex Crimea and then into the Donbas to ignite the current war, regular Ukrainians were the first ones to call for a shut-down of trade with Russia.

Activists launched a campaign in social media, urging people to stop buying Russian-made goods.

Baskov said he stopped using Russian bank Alfa Bank, and he avoids the Russian-owned chain of fitness centers Sportlife.

"I don't buy (Russian) chewing gum, chocolate bars or chemical products," he told the Kyiv Post.

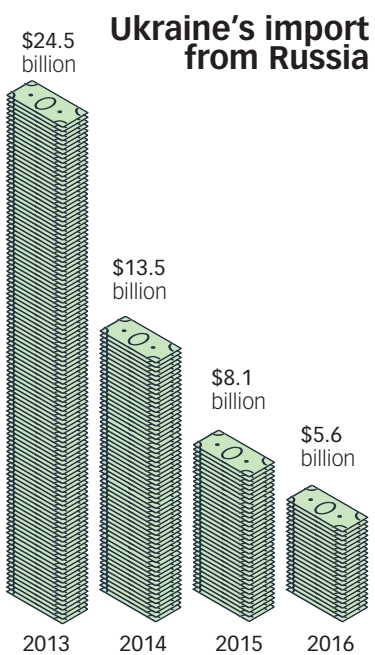
The campaign turned into a wave of protest, with Ukrainian retailers also joining the boycott. Store managers started marking Russian goods with warning signs reading "Made in the Russian Federation."

In response, Russian President Vladimir Putin ended his country's free trade agreement with Ukraine in 2015. Ukraine's cabinet struck back by banning several dozen types of goods from Russia.

Then in January 2016, the Ukrainian and Russian governments extended the mutual embargoes on certain types of goods they initiated in 2015.

Russia banned Ukrainian meat, poultry, fish, vegetables, milk, fruits, and nuts. Ukraine's list is longer, and includes fish, caviar, poultry, meat, cocoa, sweets, coffee and tea, beer, alcohol, cigarettes, locomotives, and much more. Ukraine has also banned the sale of weapons to Russia, as well as products that can be also used for military purposes.

However, Alexey Doroshenko, a Samopomich Party lawmaker and the head of the Retail Trade Suppliers Association of Ukraine, told the Kyiv Post that the Ukrainian government



Imports from Russia have dropped significantly since 2013, but remained at \$5.6 billion in 2016.



A customer examines country-of-origin identifying codes of caviar in a Kyiv supermarket on March 22. Caviar was included in the list of banned Russian goods by the Ukrainian government in 2015. However, experts say Ukrainian businessmen keep buying it from Russia as raw material and repackaging it as "Made in Ukraine." (Volodymyr Petrov)

doesn't know much about the actual situation on the market.

"They observe the situation from the hills of Pechersk," Doroshenko said, referring to the fact that most Ukrainian central government buildings are located on the hills of Kyiv's Pechersk District.

Data published by the State Statistics Service confirm Doroshenko's claim, revealing that both sides break their own embargoes.

In 2016, Ukraine imported from Russia \$306,000 worth of meat and fish, \$187,600 worth of coffee and tea, and sugar and confectionaries worth \$500,900. Many descriptions of imported and exported goods in the statistics are vague, making it difficult to prove that the embargo was indeed violated.

## Forbidden caviar

One of the goods banned for import from Russia, was one of the nation's signature products – caviar.

But according to Doroshenko, Ukrainian businesses decided the ban concerned only caviar packed in cans. So they keep importing caviar as a raw material packed in large drums, Doroshenko says, and then repacked into jars for retailing, marking them as "made in Ukraine."

"You can see how wealthy a country is by checking its exports. The higher the level of processing is, the wealthier the country is. That's because a product packed in small jars, designed with brand labels, costs a lot more than the same product packed in large cans and sold as a raw material," Doroshenko said.

In an emailed comment to the Kyiv Post, the press service of Ukraine's

Economic Development and Trade Ministry emphasized the fact that the importation of all Russian caviar has been banned by the government since 2015.

"There is no mention of whether it is packed in Russia or not," the press service said.

## Will 'suffer more'

Kateryna Chepura, spokesperson of the Vidsich Civic Movement that organized the boycott of Russian-made goods in 2014, said the fact that Ukraine and Russian are still main economic partners after three years of war is traumatic.

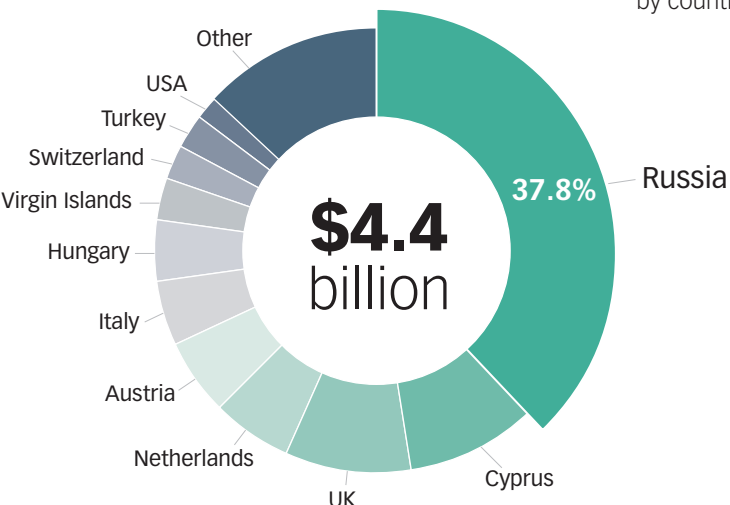
"Unfortunately, our economies are deeply connected. We understand that and are not calling for an

immediate cut of all the economic ties with Russia as Ukraine will suffer more from that," said Chepura. "Although our government has been taking measures to decrease our dependence from Russia, the movement is really slow and reluctant. In three years of war they could have done much more than impose the selective list of banned products."

Baskov is hoping Ukrainian and Russian relations can return to normal – but, for that, Putin would have to go.

"I'm sure that the Russian regime will fall, and we'll be able to trade with Russia the same as with any other civilized country – on an equal basis, and with competitive market conditions," he said. ■

## Foreign direct investment into Ukraine in 2016 by country



Russia remained Ukraine's largest foreign investor in 2016, accounting for nearly 38 percent of the \$4.4 billion total.





## Top 5 Kyiv venues to hire for parties and meetings

### City Life

WITH NATALIYA TRACH  
TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM

### Central square is historic focal point of capital

Maidan Nezalezhnosti, or Independence Square, is perhaps the most familiar place in Ukraine, the scene of heroic and tragic events.

In the winter of 2013-14, it was the focal point of the EuroMaidan Revolution that ousted President Viktor Yanukovich. It was also the place where many of the bodies of those shot by snipers on Feb. 20, 2014 on nearby Instytuska Street were laid out before shocked onlookers.

The EuroMaidan Revolution is only the most recent momentous event to occur on Maidan Nezalezhnosti. Many other dramatic events have been place here.

#### Four revolutions

Over the past 112 years, the square has witnessed four revolutions. The first took place in March 1905, when 15,000 Ukrainian workers and peasants came to Kyiv City Hall, which was located on the present site of the square, to demand political freedoms and economic rights. Despite being crushed, the 1905-07 revolution contributed to the national liberation movement later.

In October 1990, several hundred students from all over Ukraine went on a hunger strike on Maidan Nezalezhnosti. The students' strike heralded Ukraine's exit from the Soviet Union and independence in 1991.

Ukraine's Orange Revolution in 2004 was also headquartered at Kyiv's central square. The revolution was a public protest against the 2004 presidential election, which was rigged in favor of then-Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. The protests brought Viktor Yushchenko to the presidency in 2005. The Orange Revolution, which saw the country try – and fail – to shake off Russian dominance once and for all, was the forerunner to the EuroMaidan Revolution nine years later.

#### Ill omens

Due to all these events, some superstitious people believe that Maidan Nezalezhnosti is a place of ill omen, attracting death and bad luck. In February 1946, 12 German soldiers, convicted of war crimes, were publicly executed by hanging on the square. But the square's bad reputation goes back much further than that.



A couple celebrate their wedding day in a summer terrace of G13 Project studio. The Kyiv Post has picked out five best venues for hire in Kyiv for parties, business meetings, photo shoots, concerts and more. (Courtesy of G13 Project studio)

BY MARIA ROMANENKO  
MRO@UKR.NET

All dressed up for a party but nowhere to go? Looking for an interesting venue for a business meeting, or an unusual location for a photoshoot?

Then look no more: the Kyiv Post has scoured the Ukrainian capital for the best places for hire to hold these and other types of events.

#### Attic Space

Attic Space is a mansard roof space located in the picturesque center, opposite a botanical garden. The building is 139 years old, but the rental space was only designed in 2016. So the rooms are spacious, modern and cozy. Apart from an

extensive open space of 200 square meters, there is also a separate room of 22 square meters, a tower of six square meters (which can be used as a smoking area) and a bathroom with a shower. There is also a fully functioning kitchen areas with all the necessary appliances. Wi-Fi, a widescreen TV, sofas, chairs, tables and a bar are also available for use. For games and films or presentations, there are also a projector screen and a Playstation 3 game console.

Attic Space is also suitable for events where guests want to use the floor (such as physical activity classes) or for when guests want to take their shoes off. In that case for an extra charge the Attic Space team will cover the whole floor surface with carpets.

Renting the space costs Hr 4,000 for 24 hours (for events with up to 50 people) and Hr 5,000 for public events (up to 100 people). Paying per hour is also possible.

*Attic Space.* 36A Tarasa Shevchenka Blvd. +38-063-635-0736 <https://www.facebook.com/pg/atticspaceplace/>

#### Guliat tak guliat

Guliat tak guliat (the name translates as "let's party to the max") is located on Dehtiarna Street, near the lively Vozdvyzhenka area, which has turned from a sleepy residential area into a dining and entertainment area instead.

Guliat tak guliat has a sofa, armchairs, folding chairs with cushion pads, a fully-equipped bar, tableware

and glassware (wine glasses, glasses, shot glasses, plates etc.) for serving all sorts of cocktails, an X-box game console, table games and even a confetti blaster and a bubble machine.

For an additional fee clients can hire a waiter, barman, sushi chef, hookah server, DJ or a karaoke host. The place is perfect for birthday and office parties, stag and hen events, workshops, lectures, private film screenings, romantic dinners and photo shoots.

Hiring Guliat tak guliat costs Hr 350 per hour between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. and Hr 750 per hour between 5 p.m. and 12 a.m.

*Guliat tak guliat.* 7 Dehtiarna St. +38-063-332-7887 <https://www.guliat.com>

more Venues on page 13

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KyivPost

more Maidan on page 13



# Maidan Nezalezhnosti hosts 'ghosts', revolutions

Maidan from page 12

From the 9th century the site was called "Kozyne Boloto" (Goat Swamp) and even in the times of the Kyiv Rus was considered an unlucky spot. Some historians claim that in December 1240 the soldiers of Batu Khan, a Mongol ruler and founder of the Golden Horde, who sacked Kyiv, broke into the city not far from the Kozyne Boloto area.

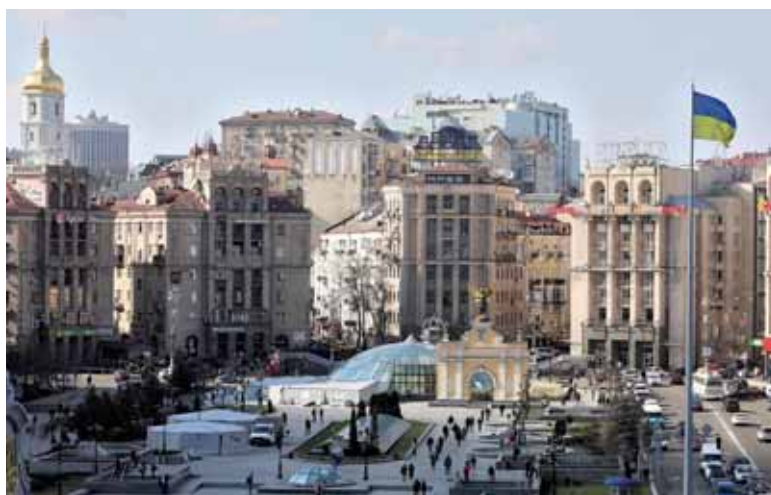
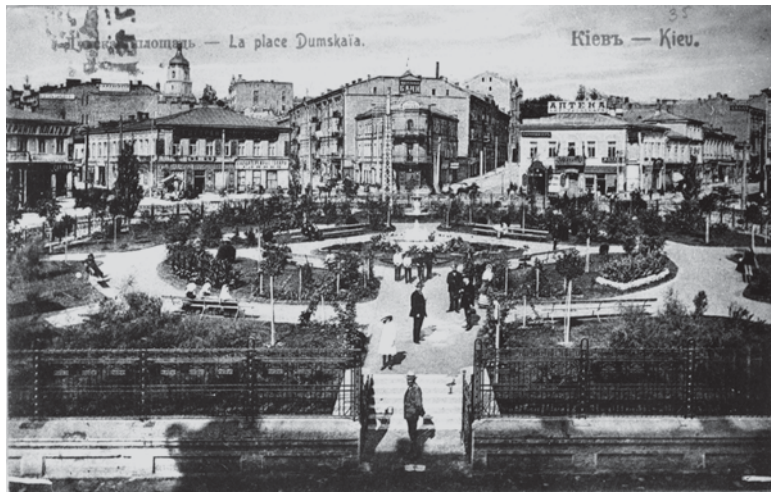
Maidan Nezalezhnosti is also famous for alleged poltergeist activity. In the 19th century, the resident of a house located where Kyiv's main post office building (22 Khreshchatyk St.) now stands called the police because furniture and pillows were moving about by themselves in the house. A public complaint about the "ghost" was entered into official police records.

Disaster struck the same site in 1989, when the portico of the main post office's building collapsed, killing 13 people. However, most believe that the structure cracked and fell because of poor construction, rather than the actions of an evil spirit.

## Name changes

During its long and turbulent history, the square has changed in appearance, size and name many times. During the late 18th to early 19th century Maidan Nezalezhnosti was a vacant lot. In the late 19th century, the area was named Khreshchatytska Square, and a market and later a circus occupied the spot. The area was as large as it is now, but when in 1876 the Duma building (city council) was constructed, the place was named Dumska Square. Dumska Square was located in the area of the present Globus shopping mall until the early 20th century.

During Soviet times, Maidan Nezalezhnosti took several names – Radyanska (Soviet) Square, Kalinin Square (in honor of the first chairman of the presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, the titular head of the Soviet state,



**Above:** Dumska Square, the site of today's Maidan Nezalezhnosti, was located on part of the present site of the Globus shopping mall, and existed until the early 20th century. The place took its name from the Duma building (city council), which was constructed there in 1876. This historic photo was taken in the early 1900s. It comes from Nikolay Tahrin photo collection and is reproduced courtesy of the Central State CinePhotoPhono Archives of Hordiy Pshenychnyi. **Below:** The modern-day Maidan Nezalezhnosti. The yellow building is the Lyadski Vorota (Lyadski Gates) – a symbolic monument to the ancient south gates of Kyiv, which were destroyed in December 1240 by the soldiers of Mongol ruler and founder of the Golden Horde Batu Khan. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Mikhail Kalinin) and then October Revolution Square until 1991, when it was given its current name.

The square has in the past hosted statues of Petro Stolypin, the third primeminister of the Russian Empire, known for conducting a major agrarian reform; Karl Marx, the founder of Marxism; and Vladimir Lenin, the

leader of October Revolution in 1917.

The square was greatly damaged during the German occupation from 1941 to 1943 in the Second World War, and the buildings around it were only fully rebuilt from 1950 to 1970.

In its present form, it is now a symbol of freedom and independence for the whole nation. ■

## Concerts, parties, business meetings and exhibitions: Kyiv has spots to hire for all

Venues from page 12

[facebook.com/pg/gtg.place](https://www.facebook.com/pg/gtg.place)

### Asylum art club

Asylum, a concert space that can accommodate up to 300 people, is located in the bustling area of Podil. Asylum can be used to hold concerts, parties, workshops, theatrical performances and art evenings of any genres and kinds. There are two rooms: a large concert room and a room with an art gallery and bar.

Asylum has high ceilings (over five meters high), a large stage designed by musicians, a good bar with a wide selection of drinks, beer and cider on tap, a coffee machine and cheap hookah. Staff, including a sound director, security guards and barmen, are available for hire too.

Asylum art club goes for Hr 600 per hour.

*Asylum art club. 25 Khoryva St. +38-050-571-3330 <https://www.facebook.com/Kiev-Kills-Asylum-Art-Club-1041673275929604/>*

### Llloom

Llloom is perfect for musical events, as it has a fully-equipped music studio for audio recording and equipment to shoot live videos. This studio is located in the same building as the nightclubs Closer and Mezzanine, which are very popular among Kyiv's youngsters.

Llloom can also be rented for holding a presentation, a concert, a music evening or even a small party.

The space has an area of 150 square meters, and costs Hr 500-600 per hour to hire.

*Llloom. 31 Nyzhniourkivska St. +38-095-687-0469 <https://www.facebook.com/pg/llloom/>*

### G13 project studio

G13 offers a space for holding business meetings, press conferences, congresses, presentations and seminars. It's a little further from the center than the other places on this list, but only a short 10-minute drive by car from the historic Podil area.

G13 also has a loft area, consisting of halls that can be adapted for different events: video and photo shoots and business events of all kinds. An open space where cultural or art events can be held is also available. A bar, a kitchen and Wi-Fi all operate in the space.

For when it gets warmer, there is also a summer terrace located in the yard of the complex, surrounded by sturdy fruit trees - perfect shade from the scorching sunshine. Renting G13 project studio costs Hr 300-650 per hour, depending on the type of the event.

*G13 project studio. 23 Baltiysky Alley. +38-067-404-4111 <https://www.facebook.com/pg/g13projectstudio/>* ■

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March 24



(Courtesy)

## 'Babylon' opera-circus

"Babylon" is based on a biblical legend about the conflict between a man and god. Staged by outstanding Ukrainian director Vlad Troitskyi, the ancient legend is adapted to a modern setting. The performance mixes a range of musical styles, vocal techniques and unusual musical instruments.

**"BABYLON" opera-circus. March 24. 8 p.m. KPI Palace of Culture (37 Peremohy Ave.) Hr 200-650**

March 25 - April 8



(Margo Didenko)

## Exhibition 'CANactions City. Values'

The exhibition depicts city life and its values, among which residents are the priority. The exhibition gives visitors an opportunity to determine their own values, and enjoy the art of photography. To gain entry, visitors should bring their passport or driving license.

**'CANactions City. Values'. March 25 - April 8. 4-9 p.m. American House (6 Pymonenko St.) Free entry**

## 'The Great Gatsby' ballet

After a triumphal European tour, one of the most popular performances in the history of dance is returning to Kyiv. Famous American director Dwight Rhoden and his star team bring F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic novel to the stage again. This amazing choreographic show, telling the story of love, hope and despair, will leave no one untouched.

**"The Great Gatsby" ballet. March 31. 7 p.m. National Palace of Arts Ukraine (103 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) Hr 380-2850**

(gatsbyballet.com)



March 31

March 25 - 31



(Courtesy)

## Docudays film festival

The 14th international human rights documentary film festival Docudays UA kicks off on March 25 and will last until March 31 in Kyiv's Cinema House (6 Saksahansko St.) and other theaters. Global warming and ecological issues are the main topics of this year's festival. Visitors will be treated to a total of 94 films from 47 countries. The films are screened in their original languages, with Ukrainian subtitles.

**Docudays UA film festival. March 25 - 31. Free before 3 p.m, after that Hr 20-40. For more information, see [docudays.org.ua](http://docudays.org.ua)**

## Selector Live. Ray BLK concert

Selector Live, organized by the British Council in Ukraine and Sentrum, starts its third season with a concert by soul singer Ray BLK. Described as "the Lauryn Hill of the UK," she is number one on the BBC's "Sound of 2017" list. Ray's stage surname stands for "Building, Living, and Knowing" – the things she writes and sings about.

**Selector Live. Ray BLK concert. March 31. 8 p.m. Sentrum (11 Shota Rustaveli St.) Hr 360-720**

(Ray BLK/facebook)



March 31

## Bloom Twins concert

The Ukrainian-British twins Anya and Sonya Kuprienko, having already conquered Britain, are returning to motherland to perform their solo show. Loved and respected by such legends as Guns N' Roses, Duran Duran and Seal, the sisters combine electronica with pop melodies, distinctive vocals, and the sounds of the flute, harmonica and piano.

**Bloom Twins concert. March 24. 8 p.m. Atlas (37 Sichovykh Striltsiv St.) Hr 300-1,500**

(Volodymyr Petrov)



March 19



**BURNS NIGHT**  
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22 April 2017

Hilton Kyiv Ballroom

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### PAYMENT PROFESSIONAL/VOUCHER EXAMINER

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/Ukraine  
Announcement # 003

#### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

This position is located in the Voucher Examination Unit, Budget and Accounting Division, Regional Office of Financial Management (OFM), USAID/Ukraine regional mission based in Kyiv. The primary purpose of this position is to examine and process vouchers and invoices of multi-million dollar, long-term technical assistance contractors and grantees, both direct and host country, for USAID project and non-project activities, recommending for payment or indicating required clarification or justification; and to control and monitor payment requests and disbursements. The incumbent examines project and non-project vouchers for USAID activities in Moldova and in Ukraine. He/she is responsible for processing FSN payroll, Official/Personal VAT Refund, COLA payments, reconciliation of EXO Citibank Travel Card, Carlson Wagonlit vouchers and 1221 posting. Serves as a backup for other Payment Professional/Voucher Examiner.

#### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

**A. Education:** Bachelor's Degree in Finance, Accounting, Economics or Business Administration is required.

**B. Prior Work Experience:** Four years of progressively responsible experience in payment processing, bookkeeping, voucher examination or accounting is required.

**C. Language Proficiency:** Level IV in English (fluent) is required. Level IV in Ukrainian and Russian (fluent) is also required.

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS:** March 30, 2017, by e-mail attachment only to Human Resources Office at [KyivHR@state.gov](mailto:KyivHR@state.gov); Include vacancy number and position title in the subject line of your email.

The full package includes: CV, cover letter and DS-174

(<https://www.usaid.gov/forms/ds-174/pdf>)

See the full version of this Announcement at:

<https://www.usaid.gov/ukraine/work-with-us/careers/documents/1863/usaidukraine-job-opportunity-announcement-payment-professionalvoucher-examiner>

### Financier/ Project manager

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#### Responsibilities:

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- gathering client data (accounting, structure, technical)
- business plan and financial model development
- negotiations with financial institutions,
- submitting forms to the financial institutions,
- correspondence and coordination between banks, client and Zorg Biogas,
- credit memorandum and credit agreement negotiation and preparation
- preparing periodical reports for the financial institutions about implementation status.

7-year experience with similar responsibilities in financial and banking sector, investment and venture banking, university degree in finance, fluent and professional English/Russian/Ukrainian.

Full-time job. Salary from 1300 to 3000 USD /month depending on your CV. Small financial consultant companies may offer their services as well.

Please contact:

**Raisa Sukretna**  
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B I O G A S



### U.S. Embassy and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Ukraine are looking to fill the position of Public Health Specialist: Care and Treatment

#### Basic Function of Position:

Job holder provides strategic technical and programmatic assistance to the CDC office in Kyiv and implementing partners (grantees) in Ukraine funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to oversee program implementation of Care and Treatment for HIV/AIDS in multiple oblasts. This position will 1) develop novel treatment protocol modifications aligned with current international best practices and newly developed Ukrainian antiretroviral drug treatment protocols; 2) conduct site monitoring visits for quality improvement of HIV/AIDS treatment programs (SIMS); 3) use clinical expertise to assess grantee quality and performance, and provide special reports for the U.S. interagency team, CDC Headquarters, and The Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (COAG); and 4) participate in international and national technical working groups focusing on medical care and treatment of persons infected with HIV/AIDS.

#### Required Qualifications for Full-Performance Level, FSN-11:

- Doctoral level (MD) degree or host country equivalent in medicine;
- Three (3) years of mid-to-senior level public health experience in HIV/AIDS treatment programs or other relevant public health programs;
- Level III (good working knowledge in speaking/reading/writing) in English;
- Level IV (fluent) in Ukrainian and Russian.
- Comprehensive knowledge and experience in HIV/AIDS treatment and HIV AIDS issues. Comprehensive knowledge of the host government Ukrainian health care system and structures including familiarity with MOH policies, program priorities and regulations.

#### Required Qualifications for Training Levels, FSN-10/09:

- Doctoral level (MD) degree or host country equivalent in medicine;
- **For Training Level FSN-10:** Two (2) years of experience in treatment programs or clinical work or other relevant public health or medical experience;
- **For Training Level FSN-09:** One (1) year of experience in treatment programs or clinical work or other relevant public health or medical experience;
- Level III (good working knowledge in speaking/reading/writing) in English;
- Level IV (fluent) in Ukrainian and Russian.
- Knowledge of infectious disease treatment is required. Knowledge of public health approaches to prevent infectious disease spread and care for those infected is required. Knowledge of the host government Ukrainian health care system and structures is required.

**Application deadline:** 14 April, 2017

**How to Apply:** The compensation is set within a range of 26, 000\$ to 40, 000\$ (gross per year) and will depend on qualification set of selected candidate. We also offer an excellent benefits package. Full version of the vacancy announcement and the U.S. Mission application for employment form (DS-174) are available at our site: <https://ua.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/> Interested applicants should fill out the application form in English and email it to: [KyivHR@state.gov](mailto:KyivHR@state.gov) or fax it to: 044-521-5155.



**National Democratic Institute for International Affairs is looking for a position of RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT for our office in Kyiv**

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- Deadline for application is Monday, April 3, 2017 (by COB). Successful applicants will be invited for a written test followed by an interview.

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#### Обов'язки:

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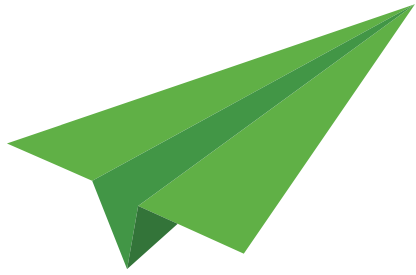
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**March 25,  
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