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# KyivPost

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# War Crimes



Soldiers, friends and relatives attend the funeral of Ukrainian soldier Ihor Branovytsky at Kyiv's Mikhailovsky Cathedral on April 3. Branovytsky was captured on Jan. 20 and allegedly killed the next day by Russian citizen Arseniy Pavlov, the mercenary known as Motorola. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Russian Arseniy Pavlov, or 'Motorola,' boasts of killing Ukrainian POWs

See story on page 11

Evidence mounts of war crimes committed by Kremlin-backed forces

See story on page 10

Despite Minsk peace deal, hundreds remain prisoners of war in Ukraine's Donbas

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**Hr 25 to \$1**  
 April 9 market rate

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# Alcohol abuse rampant at war front

BY OLEG SUKHOV  
REAGANX84@GMAIL.COM

Several months ago, three Ukrainian soldiers from a military unit stationed in Kharkiv Oblast allegedly murdered a fellow soldier and tortured and kidnapped seven others. They were drunk at the time, according to the regional military prosecutor, who said the suspects face life in prison if convicted.

While an extreme and rare case, alcohol abuse at the war front is common.

Drinking by men in fatigues has become such a problem that the governors of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts are ringing alarm bells. Some, however, insist that the extent of the problem is exaggerated.

On April 8, Luhansk Oblast Governor Hennady Moskal banned the sale of alcoholic drinks to servicemen, just a few weeks after the same was done by Donetsk Oblast Governor Oleksandr Kikhtenko.

In March Moskal also claimed that three drunk fighters of the volunteer Aidar Battalion had broken into an apartment in Lysychansk and beaten the owner, and later allegedly shot rifles outdoors.

Mykola Grekov, an Aidar officer and an adviser to Moskal, said by phone that it was not clear if the people that the governor referred to belonged to the battalion because Aidar insignia could be easily bought by any person.

"We have full understanding with Gennady Moskal," Grekov said, adding that Yevhen Ptashnyk, acting commander of Aidar, and the governor were expected to issue a joint statement on resolving their disagreements.

Alexander Rychkov, a freelance journalist working in Ukraine, said that one soldier had been expelled from the Aidar Battalion for alcoholism.

"Another Aidar soldier once got drunk and started hanging around the barracks with weapons," he told the Kyiv Post. "Then other soldiers were trying to catch him." Rychkov also says he has seen soldiers smoking marijuana.

Grekov dismissed the alcoholism accusations. "Today there is good discipline at the Aidar Battalion, and I, as a commanding officer, don't know any cases of alcohol abuse that took place recently," he said.

Another incident involving alcohol took place in mid-March, when an armored personnel vehicle driven by



An armored personnel vehicle driven by a drunk Ukrainian officer hit several people in Donetsk Oblast's Konstantynivka on March 16, killing an 8-year-old girl. The accident triggered protests. (konstantynivka/v kontakte)

a drunk Ukrainian officer lost control on a road in the Donetsk Oblast city of Konstantynivka and hit several people, killing an 8-year-old girl. The accident triggered riots in the city.

The Prosecutor General's Office said on April 1 that a negligence case against the two servicemen who were inside the vehicle had been submitted to a court.

Cafes and pubs in another Donetsk Oblast city, Artemivsk, swiftly filled with soldiers who went on a binge in February after running the risk of death during the takeover of Debaltseve by Russian forces and their proxies. They drank so heavily that they frightened many locals, forcing cafe owners to put up signs that they don't sell alcoholic drinks to soldiers.

An officer who served in the Debaltseve area in Donetsk Oblast in January-March has also witnessed some violent, alcohol-fueled incidents. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the press.

"Once an officer shot at soldiers through a closed door, and the soldiers kicked the shit out of him," he told the Kyiv Post. In Artemivsk, there was a soldier who died in a hotel after going on a five-day binge, the officer added.

While most soldiers drink moderately, some drink more because of the war, he said.

Drug addiction is also a problem. "During training, there was a bong in every toilet on every floor in the barracks," the officer said.

Military authorities are taking measures to crack down on alcohol abuse, Anatoly Stelmakh, a military spokesman, said by phone. Special officers in charge of morale and military prosecutors are working on that, he added.

"If we identify such cases, we fire people and, if there is a crime, we start a criminal investigation," he said. "I think this problem exists but it can easily be localized, and it's not a big problem for combat readiness."

Among Russian soldiers and Kremlin-backed separatists, alcohol abuse is also a problem.

Nightclubs in downtown Donetsk are rife with drunk fighters, Stefan Huijboom, a Dutch reporter working in Ukraine, told the Kyiv Post.

"In these clubs they are totally wasted," he said. "I have the impression that they might also be on drugs."

The use of intoxicating substances by soldiers can be easily explained psychologically.

Olga Pavlova, a psychologist, said that she knew a commander who had allowed his soldiers to drink alcohol after a battle in which many people were killed. "If they hadn't drunk, they would have gone crazy," she said.

A similar situation occurs when servicemen are on leave. "When they are on leave, they start relaxing," Pavlova said. "They need some psychological relaxation, they don't know how to do that in some other way."

She said, however, that overall discipline is quite strong based on her talks with servicemen.

Kyiv Post staff writer Oleg Sukhov can be reached at reaganx84@gmail.com

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# Ex-top financial inspector says Yatsenyuk is corrupt

BY ALYONA ZHUK  
ZHUK@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukraine's former chief government financial inspector has accused Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk and his entire Cabinet of having knowledge of embezzlement schemes at state-owned companies that have caused at least Hr 3.5 billion (nearly \$150 million) in damages to the state under their watch.

Mykola Gordienko made the allegations during a special parliamentary hearing related to corruption on April 8.

The Justice Ministry immediately dismissed the charges as defamation. The ministry said Gordienko was fired on March 4 for poor work performance.

In an April 5 interview to 1+1 channel, Yatsenyuk said that certain individuals – who he did not identify – are politically protecting Gordienko in order to overthrow the incumbent "government that fights corruption." He also promised to name the individuals behind Gordienko publicly in parliament.

The alleged schemes at the state-run enterprises originated when the prime minister's predecessor, fugitive Mykola Azarov, managed government until late February 2014. Gordienko said that altogether Hr 7.6 billion was pocketed during the terms of the previous and incumbent government, and that Yatsenyuk let the theft continue.

Appointed by Yatsenyuk in April 2014, Gordienko, as chief of the State

Financial Inspection, tracked the use of public finances. At the parliamentary hearing, Deputy Justice Minister Natalia Sevostyanova said the former financial inspector's comments were defamatory, insisting that his allegations relate to periods that predate Yatsenyuk's premiership.

She, moreover, said that the State Financial Inspection was the least efficient under Gordienko because it had reviewed only 30 percent of the companies assigned by the government.

Gordienko's allegations first emerged last month, when he gave a report to several lawmakers prepared by his agency prior to his dismissal. On March 18, lawmaker Yuriy Levchenko petitioned the prosecutor's office to investigate the charges.

In the report, based on more than 4,000 inspections of state-owned companies, Gordienko accused the current government of pocketing Hr 7.6 billion. Later he revised the figure down to Hr 3.5 billion, saying the rest had been stolen before the incumbent government was installed.

"But those were only unscheduled (spot) revisions, had we held scheduled (systematic) ones, there would be billions more (of the losses found)," Gordienko said on April 8.

Deputy Prosecutor General Volodymyr Guzyr at the hearing in parliament refused to say if Yatsenyuk or any other officials from his Cabinet are mentioned in Gordienko's reports. He said though that Yatsenyuk volunteered to testify in the case.



Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk says corruption allegations against him are politically motivated attempts to overthrow his corruption-fighting government. (Volodymyr Petrov)



Former head of the State Financial Inspection Mykola Gordienko (R) talks to the press on April 8 after a hearing of two parliamentary committees investigating his accusations that the government of Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk stole Hr 3.5 billion through embezzlement schemes at state-owned companies. (UNIAN)

"We don't need that at the moment though," he added.

"Moreover, the current Cabinet initiated criminal proceedings (based on results of Gordienko's inspections)," Sevastyanova said during the hearing.

When serving as chief financial inspector, Gordienko said he received threats, namely during the inspection of Energoatom, the state nuclear energy monopoly that produces half of the nation's electricity. He refused to name the individuals who allegedly made the threats, saying he will only tell them to investigators.

Kostyantyn Vashchenko, the head of the National Agency of Ukraine on Civil Service, who inspected Gordienko's work, said he found no evidence of pressure on Gordienko during his work.

Meanwhile, managers of two state

agencies that Gordienko mentioned in his reports accused him of attempts to solicit bribes during inspections.

Vasyl Veselyi, the former commercial director of the state postal company Ukrposhta, in a video posted on the Internet on April 8, said that all the data in Gordienko's inspection report was falsified.

"During the audit we were asked for a \$100,000 bribe for the head of the State Financial Inspection to get the 'right' report," he said.

Borys Ostapyuk, a former head of the state railway monopoly Ukrzaliznytsya, in a similar video, said that Gordienko wanted \$500,000 as a bribe for a "clean" report. Gordienko has denied such allegations.

Guzyr, the deputy prosecutor, said his office is investigating both the incumbent and previous governments

based on the results of Gordienko's inspections.

Former President Victor Yanukovich, Azarov and former Finance Minister Yuriy Kolobov have already been charged with embezzlement.

Corruption and manipulation in the current government have caused Hr 685 million worth of losses (\$30 million) to the state in the past year, according to the General Prosecutor's Office.

Gordienko himself didn't provide any evidence of Yatsenyuk's personal involvement in the alleged embezzlement schemes, saying instead that all the state companies where wrongdoings were uncovered "are managed by people close to Yatsenyuk."

Kyiv Post staff writer Alyona Zhuk can be reached at zhuk@kyivpost.com

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Editorials

# Too many Motorolas

One gets the impression that Russian citizen Arseniy Pavlov — better known as the warlord Motorola — finds it easy to kill human beings.

"I don't give a fuck about what I am accused of, believe it or not," Motorola told the Kyiv Post by telephone after the newspaper wrote about the funeral in Kyiv of Ukrainian soldier Ihor Branovytsky, who was executed after taken as a prisoner of Russia's war in the eastern Donbas. "I shot 15 prisoners dead. I don't give a fuck. No comment. I kill if I want to. I don't if I don't."

Another Ukrainian soldier, Yury Sova, was kept in captivity with Branovytsky and said he witnessed the murder. "We were beaten for six to seven hours in a row," Sova said. "Branovytsky was beaten brutally, and a lot of his bones were broken."

More evidence is emerging that these are not isolated incidents, but rather a pattern of war crimes in the Russian-controlled east.

Amnesty International says it has evidence that four Ukrainian soldiers were executed in captivity, shot at point-blank range by a Kremlin-supported separatist commander.

These incidents — from bombs and other terrorist acts in Ukrainian cities to continuing warfare despite a Feb. 15 cease-fire and Russia's ongoing supply of weapons and soldiers — show why the doves are wrong in their prescription for this war.

The argument of the "doves" is that Ukraine's government should negotiate with people like Motorola and that Russia is keen on ending the conflict because the Kremlin wants the European Union and America to lift economic sanctions. This is pure wishful thinking, divorced from the clear and hard realities of the war.

We agree with the analysis of the "hawks," which is grounded in hard facts in this conflict. We will believe that Russia truly wants peace when it returns control of Ukraine's borders to Ukraine, stops sending soldiers and arms to Ukraine's east, turns off the war propaganda teaching all Russians to hate foreigners and releases all Ukrainian prisoners of war.

All of these actions — fully within Russian President Vladimir Putin's powers to control — are not even close to happening, even as Russia is more than happy to feign diplomacy with the next peace talks scheduled for April 13 in Berlin.

Until Russia shows peace and returns Crimea, the world needs to treat Putin as an outlaw. As Frederick the Great said, "peace without arms is like music without instruments. Ukraine must continue to mobilize for war, since force is the only language that Putin and his buddy Motorola understand.

# Living with terror

A new reality is settling in, one that is changing the national psyche. Terrorist attacks in the name of Russian separatism are becoming a regular threat to residents of Odesa, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhya. Even Kyiv and western Lviv are not immune. Extremists have detonated explosives at pro-Ukraine rallies. Bridges and railroads has been damaged as well.

Since September, at least four innocent civilians have been killed, including a 15-year-old boy in Kharkiv, with dozens injured in the extremist violence. This week, a Russian woman suspected of organizing explosions, including an attack on a Ukrainian monument in Kharkiv, was arrested. Homemade explosive devices as well as military equipment were found at her home, the Security Service of Ukraine, or SBU, said. On April 9, SBU chief Valentyn Nalyvaychenko said 29 people in Odesa were arrested on suspicion of "terrorist" activity. Earlier in the week, 10 additional terrorist suspects were arrested in the port city, according to the SBU.

Also on April 9, lawmaker Serhiy Pashynsky, who chairs the national security and defense committee, told parliament that the SBU has arrested more than 100 "terrorists." The attacks appear to be just one component of Russia's war against Ukraine, which is aimed at destabilizing or overthrowing the pro-Western government in Kyiv elected after the Kremlin's puppet, President Viktor Yanukovich, fled power on Feb. 22, 2014.

This terror will go on as long as Russia wages war against Ukraine, with soldiers and proxies, and doesn't let the Ukrainian government control its own borders.

This means increased security will become a way of life — with everyone from the elderly to schoolchildren taught how to take precautions. Aggressive surveillance techniques are needed, including the installation of closed circuit cameras in cities and at key infrastructure sites. Citizens should be encouraged to tip off law enforcement: "If you see something, say something."

As in Israel and the U.S., certain freedoms are restricted as rigorous searches at train stations, airports and other public gathering points increase. Police should be better armed and trained to profile suspects.

Restrictions on civil liberties should be as limited as possible despite the new vigilance required. It's the unfortunate, but necessary, price of choosing democracy over despotism and of choosing independence over continued domination by an imperial neighbor.

**NEWS ITEM:** Crimean computer gamers were blocked from the popular online games Warcraft and Diablo III on April 7. Blizzard, the game developing company that operates the online multi-player servers, has blocked Crimeans because of the U.S. sanctions against Russia that followed the Kremlin's military invasion of Crimea and subsequent annexation. Previously, Apple and PayPal also suspended services in Crimea.



**NEWS ITEM:** On April 7, International Monetary Fund deputy managing director David Lipton defended the \$17.5 billion loan package to Ukraine, saying that for the first time the country has the will to make political and economic reforms. Others are not so sure.



**NEWS ITEM:** On April 1, Russian news media reported that a confectionary factory in the Russian city of Lipetsk was surrounded by police. The factory belongs to Roshen, the confectionary corporation of Petro Poroshenko, Ukraine's billionaire president. Since Poroshenko has yet to deliver on his promise to sell his businesses once he became president, there has been criticism of the conflicts of interest posed by his Russian businesses and his political responsibilities to Ukraine.

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# If Ukraine fails, so does Europe



GEORGE WOLOSHYN

After every serious foreign policy setback (even one in which the United States is not directly involved) pundits and historians have been fascinated with identifying the responsible party or parties. Recriminations fly back and forth while tabloids, magazines, and books churn out tons of newsprint with the same provocative question: "Who lost \_\_\_\_\_?"

So let me be the first to start the next round of questions that may start only a few months (a year or two at the most) in the future. It is a hypothetical question as long as Ukraine prevails in its defense of Europe, as it did in the 10th through 13th centuries against Asiatic hordes. But, unless Europe and the White House wake up to the daunting reality of what awaits them if Ukraine should fall, it may haunt mankind for generations.

The loss of Europe began in 1994 when both the U.S. and England pressured and stripped Ukraine of its strategic and tactical nuclear arms while committing themselves to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Had Ukraine retained at least its tactical nukes, the likelihood of Russian aggression against Ukraine would have been very small. But with British and US pledges, Ukraine thought such aggression equally unlikely.

After Russian President Vladimir Putin decided to test U.S. and British commitments to Ukraine in Crimea, and discovered that they were empty of content but heavy on rhetoric and diplomatic blather, it greatly strengthened his hand domestically and convinced him that neither British Prime Minister David Cameron nor U.S. President Barack Obama could hold a candle to a Margaret Thatcher or Ronald Reagan. Ukraine, like Czechoslovakia in 1938, was betrayed.

Putin now had every reason to believe that the deconstruction of Ukraine would be a cakewalk. After President Viktor Yanukovich and his ministers fled the country, the remaining government in Kyiv acknowledged that its mission was "suicidal." Its army consisted largely of a few thousand demoralized, poorly trained and equipped troops. The nation's information space was dominated by Russian and pro-Russian propaganda. Its treasury had been drained, and left with tens of billions dollars of debts. Every government agency responsible for the nation's security was riddled by Russian agents, saboteurs, and traitors. The economy, already weak, was hit with a trade war and a cut off of energy supplies.

To everyone's surprise, Ukraine miraculously rose like a phoenix out of the ashes within one year. It not only survived, but liberated some of its Russian-occupied territory, and proceeded to build one of the largest, combat-ready land forces in Europe.

While Russia is rapidly regressing into its dark, totalitarian past, Ukraine has shaken off two decades of post-Soviet passiveness and is moving rapidly towards democratic, modern, European statehood. And despite Russian threats and flexing of its military muscle, Ukraine – alone among all the NATO countries of Europe – has remained Russia's primary obstacle to its European ambitions.

But there is also a dark side to what appears – on the surface – to be a happy outcome. Every day and every night Russian trains



A man's reflection is seen on a wall with the engraved names of victims on April 9 at the Bykivnia Graves Memorial in Kyiv. President Petro Poroshenko and his Polish counterpart Bronislaw Komorowski with their wives visited the site, one of the biggest burial places of victims of Soviet-era totalitarianism. They paid tribute to the victims of Communist terror, including Ukrainians and Poles. (AFP)

and trucks laden with military supplies and troops have been moving into the occupied territories, and barely a day goes by without Ukrainian casualties from Russian shelling. All signs point to a major Russian offensive in the works, and the possibility of a breakthrough at various points along the front lines. While Obama, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande enjoy relative peace behind the backs of Ukrainian combatants defending the approach to Europe, none want to send them weapons with which they could save thousands of troops and civilians from superior Russian firepower and hold steadfast in the face of enemy advances. They are more concerned about the thug being "provoked" by a victim's effort to defend himself than to help the victim beat back the thug. So this is what the "free world" has come to.

But if the line should not hold .....what then? Will NATO be prepared to deploy its troops to hold back Putin's storm-troopers? Where are its troops? Which country in NATO will be the first to respond? Is any NATO country even prepared to respond? If not... how long will it take to mobilize? Will all countries honor their NATO agreement or will some make separate deals with Putin? What if Putin decides to use a small nuclear device on a frontline state as a warning...will Obama activate U.S. nuclear forces? The president has already debased the value of U.S. commitments under the Budapest Agreement, and has consistently rejected the urging

of Congress, his intelligence agencies, his top military advisers, and his national security experts to arm Ukraine.....why would he suddenly change his trajectory in the face of a nuclear threat?

The simple reality is that Russia's ambitions extend not only to Ukraine but to Europe. No single country in NATO is prepared to stand up to Russia's military machine, so each puts its head in the sand and hopes that others will come to its aid. But, ultimately, the whole NATO house of cards depends on U.S. and British nuclear deterrents. It is precisely these two countries whose trustworthiness is at issue.

Only reckless leaders would put their countries at risk without unambiguous answers to all the questions raised herein. But the only unambiguousness is the Ukrainian combatant now guarding Europe. So it is of critical importance that he be given all the weapons and supplies he needs to safeguard himself and to push back Russian forces. Only then will a diplomatic solution be possible, or a favorable military solution come within reach. Only then will future generations not look to Obama, Cameron, Merkel and Hollande when historians inquire as to who lost Europe.

*George Woloshyn worked in the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan. He is a former naval intelligence commander and former director of U.S. National Security Preparedness and a former director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Security Investigations.*

## VOX populi

WITH OLENA GORDIENKO



**Altino Jose Barradas, Portugal**  
President of the board of Proposito Inadiavel, non-profit organization

"I think the question of the fall of the (Berlin) wall and fall of the Warsaw Pact is something the traditional powermen in Russia will never eat very well. Ukraine is a very important geo-strategic point in international politics. It's possible relations with NATO and closer contact with the European Union create some problems in the strategic position of Russia. So for Russia this is a possibility now of gaining some power. They create these situations, like a totally fake one with Crimea. They enter and try to put an end to

### What do you think about Ukraine's situation?

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** From March 30 to April 7, Kyiv Post business writer Olena Gordienko took part in a European Union-sponsored training course "The Mediterranean of the Cultures" in Samos, Greece. Civic activists from 11 European countries gathered for the intercultural exchange. Gordienko asked residents for their perception of the situation in Ukraine and public opinion regarding Russia's war against Ukraine.



**Bojan Novak, Slovenia**  
Marketing and media specialist

"Ukrainian people have to realize that Western democracies under the dictate of the United States are using you for their own interests. The real reason why the war started is the Russian exit from the petrodollar. Every country who tried to do that eventually got destabilized or the



**Giorgos Mattheou, Greece**  
Manager in travel agency, mountain guide, wine and honey producer

"Ukraine is a big topic in Greece. We have big exports to Russia and now war could cause also problems to Greece, mostly economical. They now cut exports to Russia from the European Union and this is a disaster for the Greek farmers. The



**John Haralambous, Greece-Canada**  
Ambulance crew member

"I don't believe the other country, Russia, wants to 'save' someone in Ukraine, they always have some interests. The war is just strategic – Russia wants positions, to get closer to Crimea. War is a game of politicians, and it's innocent people who are always suffering."



**Piotr Herold, Poland**  
Economics student

"Polish people were on the Ukraine side from the beginning of the crisis. We supported the EuroMaidan, our politicians sought help from the European Union. Polish people see who Vladimir Putin is – a czar who wants to expand his 'Russian might' as it was in the 18th century. The world does not work like that any more. We don't really feel a threat from economic side...From the security side, though, that's a different thing. Poland is a part of NATO but NATO is really slow in its decisions and we don't have time to organize a strategy of defense."

# Wizz Air cuts service as air travel in Ukraine drops amid war, recession

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH  
RACHKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM

Gone are the peak periods of 2012-2013, when more than eight million passengers flew through Ukraine's airports each year. Traffic has fallen by 20 percent since then, according to the latest numbers, a drop accelerated by Russia's war against Ukraine. Nobody is predicting a rebound until the economy improves and the war ends.

Ukraine has halted service to war-torn Donetsk and Russian-occupied Crimea. Foreign tourists have been discouraged and Ukrainians have had their purchasing power cut by a prolonged recession and sharp currency devaluation.

The latest airline casualty is Hungary's Wizz Air, one of Europe's top budget carriers and Ukraine's third largest by market share for international flights.

Citing "ongoing instability in eastern Ukraine, the devaluation... of the local currency and the impact of foreign exchange controls," the low-cost airline said in a news release that it will slash 10 Ukrainian routes starting on April 20 and halt operations at its local subsidiary. Its Hungarian unit will handle the eight remaining routes, all going through Kyiv, with a single Airbus A320.

Wizz Air's decision comes after regularly scheduled operations were cut by Kharkiv Airlines and UTair-Ukraine, which were directly affected by the war.

Local airlines have been forced to hike their prices following the hryvnia's drop in value by more than half in the last year. Everything from aircraft lease rates and jet fuel to airport fees and overflight taxes are paid in U.S. dollars, reported local flagship Ukraine International Airlines in a statement last year.

Even the government-mandated fee of 50 cents for each passenger of domestic flights that goes to the Ukrainian treasury is U.S. dollar-pegged, the airline said.

Ongoing volatility adds further risk. Since passengers pay for tickets in hryvnia at the interbank rate on the

day of payment, airlines face losing money on tickets that are sold months or weeks in advance, said Serhiy Vovk, the director of consultancy Center for Transport Strategies.

"Another factor is the central bank requirement for companies to convert 75 percent of their hard currency earnings into hryvnia, which reduces the ability of airlines to meet dollar-denominated obligations," Vovk said.

Overall, the flow of passengers plunged by 20 percent in 2014 over the previous year, to less than 6.5 million travelers, according to the State Aviation Service. Ninety percent were international passengers, which represented a 15 percent drop in the same period.

Domestic air travel almost halved to 647,000 in 2014 on annual basis from 1.2 million passengers, with 65 percent average occupancy. By contrast, average occupancy on international flights dropped 4.9 percentage points to 73 percent in 2014.

Foreigners are wary of flying to and through Ukraine, said Oleksandr Myronenko, aviation market researcher and co-founder of Avianews. The July 17, 2014 downing of Malaysian Airlines flight MH17, killing 298 people, "changed the image of Ukraine," he said.

Only 146,804 international tourists visited Ukraine last year, 70 percent less than in 2013, according to data provided by the State Statistics Service.

Ukraine International Airlines carried 14.6 percent fewer passengers, with Wizz business sinking by nearly 20 percent and Russia's UTair-Ukraine falling by 24 percent.

"Do you know of at least one airline that has spoken of positive activities? I'm not even talking about profit growth," Infrastructure Minister Andriy Pyvovarsky asked hypothetically in a column published on Ekonomichna Pravda's website on March 31.

## Market contracts

When war transformed Donetsk Airport into a no-fly zone in May, UTair-Ukraine lost its key domestic destination, said Thomas Jaeger, man-



Ukraine's busiest airport, Boryspil, pictured on Aug. 9, 2013, processed almost 6.9 million passengers last year, 13 percent less than the previous year, according to the nation's State Aviation Service. (UNIAN)

aging director of ch-aviation.com, a Swiss provider of airline intelligence. It had been the nation's fourth busiest airport in 2013 with passenger traffic of 1.1 million. The third largest airport, Simferopol in Crimea, also became off limits to most carriers after Russia annexed the peninsula in March 2014.

UTair-Ukraine has since suspended scheduled operations and now exclusively operates chartered flights, Jaeger said.

Kharkiv Airlines temporarily suspended flights following the winter season, the carrier's press service told Ukraine's Liga news agency. It is currently seeking to resume operations this summer with charter flights to "popular tourist destinations" on behalf of its parent, tour operator PegasTouristik.

"Looking at the market, all of the airlines have started optimization," Myronenko said.

Despite the downward trends, news of Wizz's rollback came as a shock to Ukrainian authorities and Wizz's competitors. Pyvovarsky told the Kyiv Post by phone that he was surprised Wizz Air had closed its Ukrainian subsidiary so quickly. "In meetings with company officials in March, they indicated that they were looking to leave unprofitable markets, but I didn't expect this to happen so quickly," he said.

The minister said that Wizz had conducted an initial public offering in February of stocks on the London market, so the move was based on "strictly economic" reasons.

Wizz press contacts in Kyiv, Budapest and London didn't respond

to requests for comment.

Speaking of Wizz, Ukraine International Airline president Yuriy Miroshnikov told Liga that it is strange that "surviving the winter, which always is considered the low season, the airline is closing routes at the beginning of the summer season, which in aviation is considered profitable."

After enjoying an occupancy rate of 74.5 percent on 7,949 flights during winter, the airline announced flights will increase by 13 percent this summer over the same period a year ago. Fourteen new international flights from five cities will be introduced, including Kyiv-Beijing planned for launch on April 29.

Kyiv Post editor-at-large Mark Rachkevych can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com.

## One airline rules the skies

Many options are available for the government to energize the aviation market. They include paying airlines a certain amount for each occupied seat or marketing subsidies for advertising, as well as reducing or eliminating airport taxes or landing fees at airports controlled by the state, said Thomas Jaeger, managing director of ch-aviation.com, a Swiss airline intelligence agency.

Wizz Air hadn't asked for state benefits, and the government didn't offer any, Infrastructure Minister Andriy Pyvovarsky said by phone.

Yet negotiations are ongoing this week with officials of the parent company. The way the government allocates routes is under criticism, according to experts and industry players, including Turkey's Atlasjet.

Wizz Air had first threatened to leave the market in November when the State Aviation Service controversially prevented airlines whose foreign ownership quota exceeds 49 percent from being assigned international traffic rights and from operating international charter services.

The localization rules would've affected Wizz's and UTair's Ukrainian units, as well new market arrival Atlasjet. The Justice Ministry later agreed to suspend

the rules' implementation.

Atlasjet accused Ukraine International Airlines of keeping competitors out and controlling the aviation regulator. The airline hasn't received rights for flights since April 2014, even after investing \$15 million in the Ukrainian market, according to Atlasjet Ukraine CEO Serhiy Pidhorodetsky.

"The market and state authorities are divided into two camps," Pidhorodetsky said in an emailed message.

Ukraine International Airlines and the State Aviation Service are one side, and on the other, the Infrastructure Ministry and the vast majority of airlines, he said.

The aviation regulator is headed by Denys Antoniuk, who was director of route and alliances at Ukraine International Airlines before being appointed to the post on March 12, 2014. Neither the State Aviation Service nor UIA spokesperson Evgeniya Satska responded to emailed requests for comment.

Currently, Ukraine International Airlines is in a legal dispute with the Infrastructure Ministry for how routes get distributed. An April 23, 2013 ministry order took that exclusive duty from the regulator and transferred it to a com-

mittee consisting of members from both government agencies involved.

A panel of three judges at the Kyiv appellate court is scheduled to hear the complaint on April 23.

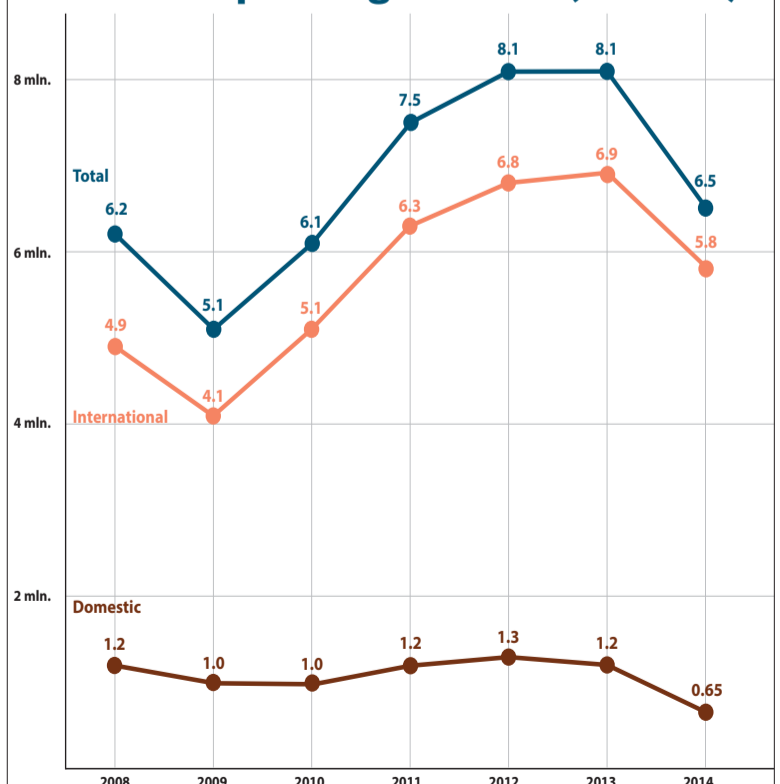
An analysis of seats offered at departing Ukrainian airports on April 6-12 conducted by Jaeger's ch-aviation found that UIA holds 42.3 percent of international market share. This dwarfs Russia-based Aeroflot's 9.5 percent, Wizz Air Ukraine's 7.9 percent and Turkish Airlines' 6.75 percent shares. Domestically, Ukraine International Airline has almost 79 percent, according to data for the same period.

"Ukraine International Airlines holds a dominant position and definitely we could have had better prices if there was more competition on different routes," said Oleh Marchenko, a lawyer who specializes in aviation at law firm Marchenko Danevych.

Aviation rules will become clearer, Pyvovarsky said. His ministry is going to review Antoniuk's work performance and is awaiting a review of the nation's aviation rules by EU authorities.

"Just wait. Soon you'll see changes for the better," said Pyvovarsky, who was appointed on Dec. 3. — Mark Rachkevych

## Ukraine air passenger traffic (millions)



Air travel, both domestic and international, dropped sharply in Ukraine in 2014 and is not likely to rebound this year amid Russia's continuing war and economic recession. Source: State Aviation Service of Ukraine

# Open Skies with EU will get its first test in Lviv

BY ILYA TIMTCHENKO  
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On April 1, the Infrastructure Ministry chose Lviv to test run a program that will allow the western Ukrainian city to accept direct flights from the European Union without any restrictions.

It was the latest step to bring Ukraine closer to uniting its airspace with the 28-nation political bloc in an agreement commonly known as Open Skies. In theory, the deal should foster free and fair competition and lead to market prices for flights once all the barriers are removed.

Negotiations with the EU started nine years ago and the agreement was initiated at the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius on Nov. 28, 2013. Ukraine has since been concluding agreements with each EU country individually.

Gibraltar is the biggest risk to Ukraine's accession because of an international dispute between Spain and Great Britain which has lasted since the early 18th century.

Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko "is personally involved in discussing this issue with the head of European parliament, the highest levels of bureaucracy in the European Union, so I think we will seal this agreement in the nearest future," Infrastructure Minister Andriy Pivovarskiy told the Kyiv Post by phone.

As a potential Open Skies member, Ukraine also must comply with safety, security, competition, environmental and passenger-protection issues. But membership for Ukraine also depends on other European political issues well out of its control.

It involves Great Britain's dispute with Spain regarding the Gibraltar airport. Both haven't agreed to which country the strait belongs. Citing the unsettled dispute, Spain in October withdrew its approval of Ukraine as an EU Open Skies member.

"If you talk about Georgia and Israel, they signed this agreement without any problems," says Andriy Huk, an aviation specialist lawyer who provides services to such airlines as Lufthansa, Emirates and British Airways.

"We are hostages of the situation between Spain and Great Britain," Pyvovarskiy said on March 24, cited by Center for Transport Strategies, a transport and infrastructure research and consulting center.

Pyvovarskiy discussed the issue with the ambassador of Great Britain to Ukraine, Simon Smith, at a meeting on April 2 during which the ambassador said that the issue has existed since 1713 and is merely a bilateral problem.

In the meantime, Ukraine's air travelers and industry wait.

Vitalii Vlasiuk, managing partner at law firm ePravo, says that Open Skies is good for Ukraine. "This is part of our European integration and into the world economy in general," he said.

From a legal standpoint, everyone should benefit since there will be less bureaucracy and common rules.

The EU's first such agreements were signed with Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Serbia and Morocco in 2006. Georgia and Jordan followed in 2010, and Moldova joined in 2012.

In 2013, Ukraine's total turnover of air transportation services was \$2 billion, according to the State Statistics Service. But the market has contracted substantially since Russia's annexation of Crimea and the closing of Donetsk and Luhansk airports amid Russia's war against the eastern Donbas.

Pyvovarskiy wrote in a column recently on Ekonomichna Pravda's website that all airlines operating in Ukraine's market, including the dominant Ukraine International Airlines, support the agreement.

The Lviv experiment works only on

a unilateral basis in which EU flights can freely fly to the city.

Airlines flying out of Ukraine will still need to get permission from the EU side on a bilateral basis.

If that is the case, Oleh Marchenko, partner at law firm Marchenko Danevych, suggests that Ukraine grant the same freedom for all of its airports until the EU agreement will be implemented.

Huck estimates that it will be at least five years before Ukraine sees benefits.

"Signing this agreement will just mean that we will start a lot of work," Huck says. About 800 regulations need to be adopted by Ukraine to meet EU standards. Only after this, Ukraine will receive full access to European routes.

Given the long-term nature of the agreement, however, "not every airline will be able to withstand the rules that will go in force after signing Open Skies," Atlasjet Ukraine CEO Serhiy Pidhorodetsky said in an emailed statement.

Another outcome, according to Huck, is that international airlines will start investing in upgrading Ukraine's outdated airports.

Membership will create greater opportunities for budget carriers to enter Ukraine's market, allowing Kyiv's Boryspil International Airport to compete with such major airports as Istanbul's Ataturk as a hub for East-West transit routes.

Marchenko added that Open Skies will also "destroy" the monopolistic "structure" of Ukraine's commercial aviation market dominated by Ukraine International Airlines.

"The Ukrainian commercial aviation market is very regulated on one side and very monopolized," Marchenko said. "It's really a difficult task that the Ministry of Infrastructure is facing now."

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## BUSINESS ADVISER

# TIME TO FLY



**OLEG BONDAR**

Managing Partner,  
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The latest couple of weeks have been intense in the aviation sphere. Wizz Air announced a wrap-up of their Ukrainian market operations. The State Aviation Service of Ukraine limited the number of Belavia flights in an attempt to reach parity with the air carrier of Belarus; the Minister of Infrastructure announced Open Skies over Lviv.

All these reports led to an outburst of publications and discussions in mass media. For example, some believe Wizz Air was pushed out from the market, unavoidably leading to the monopolization of Ukrainian aviation. Others are accusing the national air regulatory authority that it is lobbying interests of a certain carrier. Whereas others are demanding Open Sky benefits not only for Lviv, but for the whole territory of Ukraine without any restrictions.

Below we provide a brief analysis of past events and their consequences.

### 1. The Wizz Air departure and competition.

It should be stated that it was not exactly Wizz Air that made the Ukrainian air carrier market competitive. The business itself, and hopefully, the government too, have realized that the main competitors of Ukrainian air carriers are the international air carriers — our northern neighbors which included air carriage support as part of their governmental policy. Traditionally these were European air alliances and Turkish air lines which have built and are continuing to develop a powerful hub. Wizz Air didn't surprise the Ukrainian consumer with low fees or a developed internal flights network as it was announced when the company entered the market. At the same time, the low-cost model elements (flexible pricing, optional onboard catering etc.) are actively used by classic air carriers today. Thus, Wizz Air has become just one of the many airlines working in the Ukrainian market. True, their policy has always been noted for exceptional pragmatism — minimal expenses and long-term investments in Ukraine. As the experts note, they did not have any interest in developing the Ukrainian market and their decision to leave is yet another eloquent confirmation of this: as soon as the economic situation deteriorated and the number of profitable flights went down, the company immediately decided to liquidate the Ukrainian branch without thinking twice. No politics, just sheer business. When the situation improves, they will probably return. Although one cannot name it exactly as departure: as it has been announced, the low-cost operator intends to continue flights to Ukraine only under the Hungarian flag. In general, the decision of the Hungarian company to start operations in Ukraine through its head office is unlikely to lead to termination of competition in the sphere of Ukrainian aviation. Also, it would not cause any significant effect upon the market whatsoever.

### 2. In truth, the situation with Belavia is another routine event.

The Belarusian counterparty that obtained a right to 14 frequencies per week refused to provide the same number of flights to the Ukrainian air carrier. As a result, the State Aviation Service of Ukraine had a good reason to restrict Belavia's right to perform carriage between Kyiv and Minsk. This led to negotiations involving the Belarus aviation authorities where in the end a desired compromise was reached. All regulatory authorities apply this practice in similar situations, and this is one of the main goals of the state — to protect the national market. For example, the aviation authorities of Germany acted in a similar way in the conflict between Lufthansa and Ukrainian air carriers: the Ukrainian airlines could not acquire a sufficient number of frequencies until the German airline flagship was given convenient slots. Or, another example, the European regulatory authorities repeatedly refused to provide an increased number of frequencies to the UAE airlines to protect the European market. So it could be stated that the air regulatory authorities of Ukraine are able to implement adequate policy of protecting national interests quite efficiently.

### 3. Open skies over Lviv.

This is probably the most recent resonant event of the Ukrainian aviation market. Of course, it is still not clear how to implement this idea in reality. Ukraine has been bound to over forty countries under bilateral agreements, and not every agreement permits Open Skies. There is also internal regulation sufficiently limiting the Minister's initiative. In the end, the conflict regarding who issues flight permits (the Ministry of Infrastructure or the State Aviation Service) has to be resolved soon. The old regulations approved by the Ministry during Viktor Yanukovich's ruling contained great corruption risks and were declared being illegal by the court. However, the court decision has not been enforced yet, and the new rules developed by the State Aviation Service have not been published. Nevertheless, the idea is very interesting. Our northern neighbors have applied similar methods: in 2011, the Russian Federation opened skies over Vladivostok. Then, half a year ago the skies over Sochi as an experiment, and the open-skies mode was also introduced in Kaliningrad during the end of 2014. All the specified airports are similar in having no powerful carrier, and the aviation authorities aimed for attracting both foreign and national companies. The agreements on opening skies took into account the mutual interest of Russian air carriers as a rule. Certainly, the Russian experience cannot be bluntly applied to the Ukrainian reality: their market has more capacity and absolutely different ranges; the Russian government exercises much more aggressive protectionist policies and develops the internal carriage market actively. Besides, it is already clear that not all of these experiments will be successful. The initiative of the Ukrainian minister to Open Skies over Lviv can serve as a positive signal for all investors.

To sum it up, despite the deep economic and political crisis we have been enduring, the Ukrainian authorities and business demonstrate the intention to make Ukraine a powerful and independent player in the global aviation market. Judging by the rates and quality of reforms, the aviation sphere could be a great example for other branches of the Ukrainian economy.



A propeller plane of Poland's EuroLOT airline stands parked at the Lviv Airport on May 16, 2012. (Ukrainian photo)



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Ukrainian billionaire Rinat Akhmetov (center in suit) and director of Zaporizhstal Rostislav Shurma (R) tour the steel plant in Zaporizhzhya on May 16, 2013. (UNIAN)

## Hard times for Metinvest with \$113 million default

BY ZENON ZAWADA  
AND MARK RACHKEVYCH

Metinvest, Ukraine's biggest steelmaker led by the nation's richest man Rinat Akhmetov, reported on April 9 that it has defaulted on \$113 million in debt obligations due in May after it couldn't get all its creditors to agree to accept delays on part of its March and April payments as part of a maturity extension offer.

The decision comes as the company – a unit of Akhmetov's System Capital Management holding – has suffered heavy losses caused by the global plunge in iron ore prices and the war in Donbas, Ukraine's eastern-most industrial region where most of its assets are based.

Net income plunged 59 percent to \$159 million in 2014, Metinvest reported on April 8. Revenue fell 18 percent to \$10.6 billion while adjusted earnings before interest taxes

depreciation and amortization rose 14 percent to \$2.7 billion.

"The bonds have been trading at a certain discount and the market expected the bond would not be redeemed timely," said Roman Topolyuk, a metals and mining analyst at Concorde Capital investment bank in Kyiv.

The market is expecting other corporate eurobonds to look to restructure their external liabilities, added Timothy Ash, head of emerging markets research at Standard Bank.

Akhmetov's energy holding, DTEK, in 2014 managed to restructure \$526 million in debt for the years 2016-2017, according to Concorde Capital. The group is due to repay \$598 of its debt this year, excluding revolving lines and letters of credit of \$418 million.

Last year Mriya Agro Holding in western Ukraine defaulted on \$534 million worth of liabilities in October.

Its creditors now control the huge

farming enterprise

. Going forward, Metinvest has asked bondholders to agree to cross-default waivers in regards to its other debt maturing in 2015, 2017 and 2018.

According to Eavex Capital, the conditions of Metinvest's offer are: coupons are to be paid on May 20, Nov. 20 and Jan. 31 in exchange for a \$5 cash payment for every \$1,000 of each bond's nominal value.

Metinvest shareholders this year won't receive dividends, the group said – \$400 million was paid out in 2013.

The company also asked for waivers of default on 2017 and 2018 eurobonds in exchange for a \$2.50 cash payment for every \$1,000 of each bond's nominal value, according to Investment Capital Ukraine.

With the decision to default, it has bought itself more time to negotiate a new payment schedule, Topolyuk said.

## DTEK to contest prosecutors' challenge over Dniproenergo

BY ZENON ZAWADA  
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Ukraine's largest privately-owned energy holding DTEK said it will take the Ukrainian government to court to defend its controlling stake in Dniproenergo, its electricity-producing subsidiary.

"We see an attempt of re-privatizing and pressure on the investor, which is not in line with the official position of the higher agencies of state authorities and the European aspirations of Ukraine," the company's press service told Interfax-Ukraine on April 8.

The holding accused the government of trying to hold DTEK responsible for privatization procedures that were organized by state authorities, "which violates all principles of a rule of law state."

The statement came in response to the prosecutors' announcement a day earlier that it had filed a court complaint on April 3 alleging that DTEK's Dniproenergo and another thermal powergenerator, Zakarpattiaoblenergo, had colluded with authorities to rig the sale of the state's shares in the assets in their favor.

A court is also considering a separate claim filed by prosecutors to annul the sale of the state's controlling stake in Donbasenergo on similar grounds.

Dniproenergo would have a strong chance of succeeding in courts if the transactions complied with existing law, said Oleh Malsky, a lawyer with Astapov law firm.

"The state is trying to get back assets without analyzing the legal position of past and future buyers," he said. "It was most likely a political decision."

The two other electricity generators targeted by prosecutors – Donbasenergo and Zakarpattiaoblenergo – had yet to respond as of April 9 to the accusations.

They didn't immediately respond to the Kyiv Post's attempts to get comments.

As a result of the alleged rigged sales, the 25 percent blocking stake of Dniproenergo was sold at just 0.48 percent higher than the starting price in 2012, while the 50 percent stake in Zakarpattiaoblenergo was sold at 4.2 percent higher in 2012, the prosecutor's office said in the statement.

In comparison, the state's sale in November of an additional 25 percent stake in distributor Zakarpattiaoblenergo was 3.9 times higher than the starting price.

The case against the electricity generators is the latest in a series of attempts by Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to retake control of key enterprises from oligarch interests.

In late March, parliament approved a law that enabled the government to retake control of Ukrnafta, Ukraine's largest oil producer.

The move sparked a conflict with minority shareholder Igor Kolomoisky who, while still serving as Dnipropetrovsk Oblast governor, is accused of using armed men to retain control of the company. It took the direct involvement of U.S. Vice President Joe Biden to de-escalate the conflict, according to lawmaker Serhiy Leshchenko.

DTEK is led by Ukraine's richest man, Rinat Akhmetov, who Forbes Ukraine says has an estimated net worth of \$7.1 billion.

Meanwhile, Donbasenergo is controlled by Energoinvest Holding, which bought a 60.8 percent stake in 2013 and is widely reported to be controlled by people in ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's entourage.

Volodymyr Fesenko, the director of the Penta Center for Applied Political Research, said Poroshenko "is capitalizing on anti-oligarch attitudes in society to return to the state what was illegally taken. After the Kolomoisky conflict, he's taking advantage of the momentum for an active attack on the oligarchs. Undoubtedly, he's also strengthening his influence on events in the country."

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk has shown that he won't be outdone, Fesenko said, having led the Interior Ministry to open a criminal case last week against companies controlled by Dmytro Firtash on suspicion of embezzling \$100 million owed to the state. "He wants to play the role that Poroshenko had in his conflict with Kolomoisky as the defender of state interests," Fesenko said.

Yet Oles Doniy, a government critic and director of the Political Values Research Center, said these moves are a continuation of oligarch battles. "The current financial groups are divvying up the property of the oligarchs in the previous government," Doniy said.

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## → On the move

### PAID ANNOUNCEMENT



#### Leading Banking & Finance Partner Joins Marchenko Danevych Law Firm

Marchenko Danevych announced that **OLEH MAZUR** has joined its Kyiv office as equity partner and Head of Banking & Finance practice to enhance the firm's banking, finance, capital markets and transactional practices capabilities in Ukraine.

He advises on a full range of issues relating to general banking and finance, secured and unsecured cross-border and domestic finance, capital markets, securitisation, structured finance and debt restructurings. He has over 10 years' extensive experience working with borrowers, lenders and other creditors on international high profile lending, debt capital markets transactions and large debt restructurings. Mr. Mazur's client roster includes large foreign and domestic corporations from various sectors of economy, leading banks such as HSBC, Credit Agricole, BNP Paribas, Citigroup and other major financial institutions.

Oleg Mazur is perennially recognised and recommended as a leading lawyer in Ukraine for banking, finance and debt restructuring work by Chambers Global, Chambers Europe, Best Lawyers, IFLR 1000 and other reputable expert directories.

Prior to joining Marchenko Danevych Oleg was a partner with major international and Ukrainian law firms.

**Marchenko Danevych is a law firm based in Ukraine.**

The firm is dedicated to practice of business law, including Commercial, Regulatory and Transactional practices. We strive for excellence in legal services and deliver practical solutions to our Clients. We build our relations based on trust and respect. As lawyers, we contribute to the rule of law, success of our Clients and welfare of society at large.

## UKRAINE: ESCAPE FROM POST-SOVIET LEGACY?

Symposium for a Special Issue  
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# Despite Minsk agreement, hundreds remain POWs

BY ALLISON QUINN  
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Nikolai Surmenko was lucky: He wasn't beaten or tortured during his seven long months as a prisoner of Russian-backed separatists.

"They treated me more or less OK," Surmenko, a 24-year-old soldier of the Ukrainian army, said of his captors. "They did make me work, clean up the roads, move obstructions and cut metal and stuff. But that was it. It could have been worse."

Much worse. Evidence has emerged that numerous Ukrainian prisoners of war have been summarily executed by their captors while Russian citizen Arseniy Pavlov – better known as warlord Motorola – bragged to the Kyiv Post on April 3 that he has personally executed 15 captured Ukrainian soldiers.

Evidence of the alleged murders of Ukrainian prisoners is emerging nearly two months after the Minsk II peace agreement mandated the release of all prisoners from both sides of the war.

Instead, by the latest official estimate, at least 400 Ukrainians are still held by Kremlin-backed separatists. Activists say the number is much higher.

Meanwhile, separatists in Donetsk say the Ukrainian side still is imprisoning more than 1,300 of their fighters, although Markiy Lubkivskiy, an aide to the head of the Security Service of Ukraine, has disputed that number, telling Interfax-Ukraine that the estimate "did not correspond to reality."

Lubkivskiy, however, did not specify how many separatists were still in Ukrainian custody and he could not be reached for clarification on April 9.

Surmenko wound up in the hands of Russian-backed fighters in August, following some of the fiercest fighting in the war, when Ukrainian troops suffered heavy losses during what's become known as the massacre of Ilovaisk.

After more than six months in the former Security Service of Ukraine building in Donetsk, Surmenko was one of 18 people freed over the weekend.

Soon after Surmenko's release, however, Russian-backed separatists announced that they would halt the prisoner exchange.

Ukrainian authorities, meanwhile, have vowed to bring the remaining 400 captives home alive.

Volunteers involved in the prisoner swaps warn that all is not what it seems. They say that a corrupt political farce is playing out and that the actual number of Ukrainian prisoners, civilians and soldiers, is much higher than officials acknowledge.

"There are actually more than 1,000 people who we should be looking for," said Oleg Kotenko, head of the Patriot volunteer organization, which has worked closely with government officials in freeing Ukrainian prisoners. "That includes not only soldiers – about 200 of whom are in captivity – but also civilians, ordinary people and volunteers. There are ordinary civilians who just wanted to pick up their car somewhere, wound up in captivity and are now slaves."

Kotenko said that his group knows the exact location of 200 captives.

Kotenko said politicians who are supposed to be acting on Ukraine's behalf are part of the problem in winning the release of those in custody.

He said that a separatist field commander "was ready to hand over pris-

oners to us, but he was stopped" by separatists working in cahoots with Viktor Medvedchuk, the tycoon representing the Ukrainian government's interests on this issue.

"The separatists themselves are concocting all these problems together with Medvedchuk. They invent these problems in order to resolve the problems themselves and then look like heroes," Kotenko charged. "The real problem is with Medvedchuk and his people. He does not represent the interests of Ukraine, he represents the interests of Russia. And he does whatever Russia needs."

Oleg Bobavin, a spokesman for Medvedchuk, denied allegations that Medvedchuk's loyalties weren't in the right place. "He just knows how to free the prisoners. He has already said on more than one occasion that if there is someone else who can do it, let them do it. He won't stand in their way," Bobavin said.

Vasyl Budik, an aide to the deputy defense minister and a driving force behind the prisoner exchanges, said that the process has been hijacked. Just the other day, Budik said, "three people who were already dressed and ready to go home were taken back after the rebels got a phone call from someone."



Viktor Medvedchuk

## Medvedchuk's role

Many questions about the prisoner exchanges remain unanswered. One of them concerns Medvedchuk's role as chief negotiator.

Medvedchuk, the chief of staff to former President Leonid Kuchma, has close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin, with numerous official Kremlin photographs showing the pair rubbing elbows at various events. Muddying the waters further is the fact that prior to the EuroMaidan Revolution, Medvedchuk founded Ukrainian Choice, a group aimed at preventing then-President Viktor Yanukovich from getting too close to the European Union.

Less is known about Volodymyr Ruban, another negotiator, a mysterious former lieutenant general who has secured the release of hundreds of Ukrainian prisoners in separatist-controlled territories.

Ruban's group, Officer Corps, is not officially connected to the government, but he works closely with Defense Ministry officials.

Some say he is not quite what he seems, however.

"I'm no investigator, but I have talked to relatives of prisoners who say Ruban blatantly made (financial) demands of them to begin the process of freeing their loved ones," Kotenko, head of the Patriot group, said.

Ruban could not be reached for comment.

Viktor Maistrenko, another volunteer



Ukrainian prisoners of war stand inside a destroyed airport building in the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk on Feb. 26. (AFP)

involved in prisoner swaps, painted a similar picture. He also estimated that more than 1,000 people are still being held in captivity.

Surmenko, the Ukrainian soldier who was released recently, said he had heard of cases in which bribes were demanded from the families of friends of Ukrainian prisoners. But he said that he saw no money exchange hands in his own release.

## Prisoner exchange

Budik, who spent nearly three months in captivity and was freed last July, noted that there had been several cases of prisoners' relatives being scammed, with some volunteers believed to be extorting money to arrange prisoner swaps and at least one government official arrest-

ed for doing the same thing.

Some believe the lack of governmental coordination in freeing the remaining captives has provided fertile ground for such schemes.

Kuchma, a member of the Trilateral Contact Group on Ukraine that talks with separatists, on April 6 called for a government agency to be set up to free the remaining prisoners. Kuchma, president from 1994-2004, lamented the fact that so much of the work depends on volunteers.

Maistrenko, the volunteer involved in efforts to free prisoners, said separatists are using the captives as pawns in the information war. "They draw out the process by telling the relatives of prisoners, 'Go to the Maidan or the Rada, because it's Ukraine that isn't cooperating.' In reality, that isn't the case. The Ukrainian side is ready," he said.

Kotenko of Patriot was less forgiving of authorities: "Patriot is responsible for finding about 90 percent of the prisoners who end up getting freed. If we didn't search for these people and find out their whereabouts, no one would – not Medvedchuk, not anyone on any governmental level. No one would do it."

In order to ensure that the remaining prisoners are freed, he said, "someone in the Presidential Administration needs to answer for it."

Said Maistrenko: "No one can say at this point exactly how many people remain in captivity, but I'd guess there are no fewer than 1,500 people. Who knows how many of them are in Russia, or in black sites somewhere, outside of the realm that the rebels want to show the world."



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# Evidence of war crimes mounts against Kremlin

BY OLEG SUKHOV  
REAGANX84@GMAIL.COM

Evidence of the torture and killing of Ukrainian prisoners by Kremlin-backed fighters is growing, prompting a strong statement by Amnesty International on April 9.

The statement from the human rights organization follows testimony that Russian mercenary Arseniy Pavlov, also known as Motorola, killed Ukrainian prisoner of war Ihor Branovytsky. The Russian citizen also admitted in a telephone conversation with the Kyiv Post that he had murdered 15 prisoners.

The confession adds to a growing body of evidence that Ukrainian prisoners are killed by their captors, while others are tortured and humiliated, nearly two months after the Minsk II peace agreement in February called for the release of all prisoners from both sides.

"Shocking new evidence of 'execution-style killings' by pro-Russian armed groups in the Donbas, eastern Ukraine, illustrates the urgent need for action to tackle the escalating human rights and humanitarian crisis in the area," Amnesty wrote. "The torture, ill-treatment and killing of captured, surrendered or wounded soldiers are war crimes. These claims must be promptly, thoroughly and impartially investigated, and the perpetrators prosecuted in fair trials by recognized authorities."

Specifically, Amnesty referred to Branovytsky's murder and Motorola's claim that he killed 15 prisoners.

Former Ukrainian prisoner of war Yuriy Sova told the Kyiv Post that on Jan. 21 he had seen Motorola kill

Branovytsky, a Ukrainian soldier taken prisoner by the Russian militant's Sparta Battalion at Donetsk Airport.

Other witnesses have confirmed the report.

Sova said that he, Branovytsky and other prisoners had been beaten by Motorola's people in sessions lasting six to seven hours. A YouTube video posted on Jan. 21 shows that Branovytsky's face is bloodied and bruised.

When the Kyiv Post asked Motorola to comment on Branovytsky's murder by phone, he replied: "I don't give a fuck about what I am accused of, believe it or not. I shot 15 prisoners dead. I don't give a fuck. No comment. I kill if I want to. I don't if I don't."

The Security Service of Ukraine is currently investigating a murder and torture case against Motorola under the crimes against humanity article.

Amnesty also said that it had found videos documenting the captivity, and pictures of the dead bodies, of at least three Ukrainian soldiers captured by Russian-backed forces in Donetsk Oblast's Debaltseve in February and reportedly being held in a morgue in Donetsk. There are signs of bullet wounds to their heads and upper parts of their bodies, apparently the result of execution-style killings, Amnesty said.

The Amnesty report follows other cases of abuse by Russian-backed fighters.

Tetiana Rychkova, a volunteer helping Ukrainian troops and an assistant to the General Staff's head, said in an interview with Ukrainska Pravda published on April 6 that a separatist leader known as "Givi" had killed a Ukrainian prisoner.



Soldiers came to the memorial service for Ihor Branovytsky at the Mikhailovsky Cathedral on April 3. (Volodymyr Petrov)

In January several videos were published on YouTube that show separatists beating and humiliating captured Ukrainian soldiers, as well as prisoners with signs of torture and dead prisoners in the village of Krasny Partizan in Donetsk Oblast. One of the videos shows a Kremlin-backed fighter threatening to kill a prisoner and then the dead body of the prisoner.

Other videos released in January show a separatist commander "Givi" hit-

ting the head of a captured Ukrainian soldier with a gun and Russian-backed fighters parading and humiliating prisoners in Donetsk.

Meanwhile, Mashable reported in October that it had uncovered evidence suggesting that separatists carried out executions in eastern Ukraine. Documents recovered inside the former Security Service of Ukraine building in Slovyansk show that it served as a place for secret trials by separatists

in which at least three prisoners were sentenced to death by firing squad, Mashable reported.

One of the first possible war crimes by separatists happened in April 2014, when the bodies of Volodymyr Rybak, a local pro-Ukrainian activist, and Yuriy Popravko, a Ukrainian student, were discovered near a river outside Donetsk. The bodies showed signs of being tortured before they were drowned.

## At least 2,053 soldiers killed in Russia's war against Ukraine

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA  
GONCHAROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

Russia's war against Ukraine has claimed the lives of at least 6,098 people and left another 15,437 wounded, the United Nations estimates.

The killing continues as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe cites an increase in truce violations. Mortar explosions,

tank and heavy artillery fire were tracked in the Donbas in recent days. Ukrainian military reported that Russian-backed forces pushed their latest offensive close to the Bakhmutka highway in Luhansk Oblast on April 9. Ukraine's army losses are at least 2,053 servicemen.

Separatists leaders, meanwhile, accused Ukraine's government of cease-fire violations.

Read the full story at [www.kyivpost.com](http://www.kyivpost.com)

### Casualties mount in Russia's war against Ukraine (through April 8)

Civilians killed	4,045
Civilians wounded	9,106
Soldiers killed	2,053
Soldiers wounded	6,331
Displaced people from Donetsk, Luhansk oblasts and Crimea	1,177,748

Sources: Ukrainian Health Ministry, Defense Ministry Medical Service, Defense Ministry, United Nations, anti-terrorist operation spokesman Andriy Lysenko, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Russian human rights activist Elena Vasilieva



Ivan Ahapiy



Oleksandr Chernychenko



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Yuriy Savitskiy



Serhiy Shkred



Mykhailo Suslo



Dmytro Sviderskiy

# Russian citizen Motorola boasts of killing 15 Ukrainian prisoners

BY OLEG SUKHOV  
REAGANX84@GMAIL.COM

Russian mercenary Arseniy Pavlov, better known as Motorola, is the focus of investigations that he executed Ukrainian prisoners of war and tortured others.

He lent credence to the charges by admitting to killing 15 prisoners in a recorded interview by phone with the Kyiv Post on April 3.

"I don't give a f\*\*\* about what I am accused of, believe it or not. I shot 15 prisoners dead. I don't give a f\*\*\*. No comment. I kill if I want to. I don't if I don't," he said.

Behind the acts of violence is the world view of a Russian imperialist who gained military experience during the Second Chechen War in Russia.

He believes Russia is fully justified in attacking Ukraine.

Italian photographer Cosimo Attanasio, who was briefly detained by Motorola's Sparta Battalion in February and taken to its premises in Donetsk, told the Kyiv Post that the building resembled a scene from Mad Max, an Australian cult film featuring a post-apocalyptic anarchist society without law and order.

→ Probe under way of alleged war crimes

"At the entrance, there are a lot of vehicles, including tanks and trucks," Attanasio said. "There is a big truck with handmade armor reinforcements, all painted in spray, and inscriptions written in very shocking colors. It looks like Mad Max. One inscription (on a truck) read MOTOROLA in big letters in red."

Attanasio was held by Motorola's men for about three hours and says all Sparta Battalion fighters whom he saw at the building were under the age of 25, except for one.

Motorola, 32, was born in the Komi Republic and also reportedly used to live in Rostov-on-Don. Previously he had a blue-collar job and worked as a lifeguard.

He believes that Ukraine is committing genocide against its own people.

"In Chechnya there was a normal anti-terrorist operation: Arab, Chechen and European mercenaries were destroyed. Just mercenaries," Motorola told Russian newspaper Zavtra in June 2014. "The local population didn't suffer. Here it's a totally different situation. It's a real genocide."

During the two Chechen wars, Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, was almost razed to the ground, with the United Nations calling it "the most destroyed city on Earth." Human rights defense group Amnesty International estimated in 2007 that up to 25,000 civilians had been killed in the Second Chechen War and up to 5,000 had disappeared.

Amnesty and other human rights groups have also reported on indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas by Russian troops, hundreds of extrajudicial executions of civilians and prisoners of war and so-called "filtration camps" comparable to Soviet and Nazi concentration camps. In one prominent case, Chechen human rights activist Zura Bitiyeva was summarily

executed by a death squad in 2003, and the European Court of Human Rights later found the Russian government guilty of torturing her.

Motorola's experience in Chechnya came in handy when Russia launched its aggression against Ukraine by seizing administrative buildings in Crimea in February 2014.

"I took a train and came here, I didn't go into the details," Motorola told Zavtra, commenting on his decision to come to Ukraine. "There are Russians here, that's why I came. I've already said that, when Molotov cocktails started being thrown at the police on Maidan (during the 2013-14 EuroMaidan Revolution that ousted President Viktor Yanukovich), it became clear to me that it's a war. After the Nazis said that they would kill 10 Russians for every one of their kind killed, it didn't make sense to wait until the threat became reality."

The mercenary's claim to be a defender of Russian interests is at odds with the eastern Donbas being a majority Ukrainian region. It is also at odds with the view of many ethnic Russians who support Ukraine.

He wears medals given by Russian President Vladimir Putin for the "return and protection of the (Crimean) peninsula," according to footage broadcast by Russian television channel Rossiya-1.

The Kremlin has described the annexation as driven by locals but numerous Russian citizens became members of Crimea's "self-defense units," and Russian regular troops also took part.

The next step in Motorola's career was Russian-backed unrest in Kharkiv – something that was portrayed by Kremlin propaganda as a grassroots uprising by locals but also turned out to be coordinated by Russians.

Motorola said in a YouTube video published in March that he took part in clashes between pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian activists on March 14, 2014 in Kharkiv. Meanwhile, a YouTube video shows Motorola attending a pro-Russian rally in Kharkiv on March 16, 2014.

In April 2014, the Russian militant proceeded to fight in Donetsk Oblast's Sloviansk after it was seized by Igor Strelkov, another Russian citizen and ex-officer of Russia's Federal Security Service, the successor to the Soviet KGB.

Following the withdrawal of Russians and their proxies from Sloviansk in July, Motorola was appointed by Kremlin-backed forces as the "people's mayor" of Donetsk.

His next mission was Illovaik in Donetsk Oblast, where hundreds of Ukrainian troops were massacred after Russian regular troops invaded Ukraine in August.

Motorola's ascendance continued at Donetsk Airport, where his Sparta Battalion played a major role in fighting since September 2014 and in taking over what was left of the hollowed airport in January 2015.

The militant's family life is controversial, since he has been accused of bigamy.

In June 2014 he said he had a wife and a 5-year-old son in Russia. This did not prevent him from marrying a resident of Sloviansk in July, though there is no evidence that he got divorced with the first wife.

Kyiv Post staff writer Oleg Sukhov can be reached at reaganx84@gmail.com.



Russian mercenary Arseniy Pavlov, whose *nom de guerre* is Motorola, and his bride Yelena Kolenkina at their wedding in Donetsk on July 11, 2014. (Ukrinform).



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## Great one-day getaways

**Baturyn Palace, the former residence of Ukrainian hetman Ivan Mazepa (1639 – 1709), was burned to ashes by the order of Russian czar Peter the Great at the beginning of 18th century. In 2009 it was restored by its original blueprint. (UNIAN)**

BY NATALIYA TRACH  
[TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM](mailto:TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM)

The long Orthodox Easter weekend on April 11-13 will be a great opportunity to get away from Kyiv. Here are some nearby places worth visiting.

### Baturyn Palace

Baturyn, the city in Chernihiv Oblast, used to be the residence of the Ukrainian hetmans. Peter the Great had it burned to the ground in the 18th century to destroy remnants of Ukrainian independence and statehood. The palace of the last Ukrainian hetman, Kyrylo Rozumovsky, was reconstructed in the early 21st century. The house is beautifully restored according to its original 18th century architectural blueprint, although the original household items were destroyed.

Also on the grounds is the house of

judge Vasyl Kochubey, which was built in the second half of the 17th century. Kochubey's 16-year old daughter, Motrya, had an affair with hetman Ivan Mazepa, then 65, and his love letters to her are on display in the house. And so are authentic tools for torture of that period.

#### Schedule and prices:

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Group excursion tickets (per person): Hr 20, Hr 12 for children  
Group excursion ticket (foreign languages, for more than 5 people, per person): Hr 25, Hr 17 for schoolchildren.

#### How to get there:

By car, take the Kyiv - Gomel highway (M-01) to the Kipti village, then turn onto the Kipti - Glukhiv road (M-02).  
Or take the Kyiv train to Konotop (No. 830 at 7:40 a.m. or No. 818 at 9:50 a.m.) From Konotop to Baturyn,

take the bus that leaves at 12:45 p.m. From Baturyn to Konotop take the microbus that leaves at 5:30 p.m., 5:45 p.m. and 8:20 p.m. From Konotop to Kyiv take electric train No. 817 at 7:25 p.m. or train No. 774 at 7:47 pm.

### Kachanivka Palace

The Kachanivka village national reserve in Chernihiv Oblast can be reached after a two-hour drive along a grueling, pot-holed road from Kyiv. But it is well worth the trip.  
Lost in time and in its remote location, Kachanivka consists of a 19th century palace, a church, and several small outbuildings. The palace is surrounded by lakes and a picturesque park full of bridges and alleys.

The palace's interior, with its mahogany stairs, glorious mirrors on marble pedestals and ample stained glass adds to the authentic 19th century

ambiance.

While Kachanivka is an aesthetic and historical delight, its main drawback is the absence of restaurants in the area. So one will want to pack a good lunch.

#### Schedule and prices:

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Saturday – Sunday and holidays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
No excursions on Mondays.  
Tickets into the palace: Hr 10, Hr 5 for students  
Tickets to the exhibition: Hr 5, Hr 3 for students  
Group excursion tickets (per person): Hr 15-20, Hr 7-10 for students

#### How to get there:

A bus to Kachanivka leaves the Darnytsia bus station in Kyiv every day at 9 a.m. The bus back to Kyiv leaves at 2:40 p.m. → **13**

## City Life

WITH YULIANA ROMANYSHYN  
[ROMANYSHYN@KYIVPOST.COM](mailto:ROMANYSHYN@KYIVPOST.COM)

### Ukrainian wins women's chess championship

The women's world chess championship title is returning to Ukraine for a second time. Lviv Oblast native Mariya Muzychuk defeated Russia's Natalia Pogonina on April 5 in Sochi by a score of 2.5-1.5 after four matches in the annual competition administered by FIDE, the world chess governing body.

The international master and woman grandmaster became independent Ukraine's second world champion following Anna Ushenina's 2013 title win. Muzychuk, 22, earned \$60,000 as part of the distinction ahead of the 64-player field.

"I had no time to think how I spend the award money yet," Muzychuk said on April 8.

Playing with the white pieces, the 12th highest ranked active woman drew Pogonina in the fourth and final match in a Scotch Four Knights game that yields both opponents an almost symmetrical position in the opening. She had entered the match leading the series 2-1.

"Tension grew with every minute," a FIDE analysis of the game said. "Black had a couple of opportunities to seize the initiative, but did not use them."

Muzychuk's sister Anna, 25, who captains the Ukrainian women's chess team, had also played in the tournament in Russia. She lost to Sweden's Pia Cramling after three rounds of play. After defeat, Anna stayed behind to cheer her younger sister to victory.

Family support is credited for the successes of the sisters whose parents officially train them.

Natalia and Oleh Muzychuk taught their daughters how to play chess when they were 3 years old.

"It's easy to explain to a child which is a knight (a horse in Ukrainian) and which is a bishop (an elephant)," Natalia Muzychuk told the Kyiv Post by phone.

The Muzychuks founded a chess school in their hometown of Stryi in Lviv Oblast. Their daughters also attended this school.

Besides chess, Mariya intends to receive a Master of Arts degree this summer from the Lviv State University of Physical Culture.

Muzychuk returned to Ukraine on April 7 and was received by President Petro Poroshenko the next day. Once the celebrations are over, she will start preparing for her title defense against China's Hou Yifan, a former women's world chess champion. The match will take place this autumn.

Kyiv Post staff writer Yuliana Romanyshyn can be reached at [romanyshyn@kyivpost.com](mailto:romanyshyn@kyivpost.com).

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**PARADISE Cabaret**

# New must-try Kyiv cafes

BY VICTORIA PETRENKO  
PETRENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

At least two dozen of new venues have opened in Kyiv recently, with menus ranging from American hot dogs to banush (Carpathian corn porridge). Here are five new places that shouldn't be missed:



## Barbara Bar

37-41 Artema St.  
24 hours  
096-875-7587

Barbara Bar is for people who are hungry when it's very late or very early or any time in between. It's open around-the-clock and it serves breakfast any time, day or night. We recommend the oatmeal with a drop of whiskey (Hr 30), pumpkin soup with coconut and ginger (Hr 45) and Scandinavian salmon meatballs with pine nuts (Hr 90). In a nice twist, the furniture and decor in the cafe are handmade and can be purchased. Sundays are "Barbara Days," when female guests receive special discounts and freebies. Barbara Bar shares the same owners and space as Atlas Club, where there are parties on Fridays and Saturdays.



## Dogs & Tails

19 Shota Rustaveli St.  
12 p.m. till the last visitor  
044-353-0907

The founders of the popular Milk Bar have opened a new venue, just across the road from their first successful restaurant. Their new project, Dogs & Tails, specializes in American hot dogs, with unique recipes carefully compiled by New York chef Christopher Faulkner and Milk Bar chef Oleksandr Katayev.

Dogs & Tails has live music and DJs most evenings. The bar menu contains about two dozen original cocktails.

The cafe is located in the Small Hall of Kinopanorama. (This cinema, by the way, holds special Movie Mondays for movie buffs, screening old American films and serving popcorn.)



## Kiflyk Ethno Gastro Cafe

4 Shota Rustaveli St.  
10 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
050-378-3782; 093-672-2201

Ukrainian cuisine is so much more than borscht and varenyky. And those who want to learn more about it will find that this place comes in very handy indeed.

Kiflyk opened last month and focuses on Carpathian cuisine, including corn porridge, small fried potato bagels (krumplianyky), Carpathian sausages, cheeses and potato pancakes. The dessert specialty is kifli, – the small sugar rolls for which the cafe owes its name.

For dinner, we recommend the cream soup with the Carpathian cheese brynza (Hr 52), blood sausage with hurka rice (Hr 65), a plate of Carpathian cheeses with grapes, marmalade, honey and nuts (Hr 115), or a meat plate (Hr 105).

In terms of drinks, Kiflyk offers homemade Carpathian tinctures, mulled wine with rum and fresh juices, as well as tea and coffee.

Kiflyk's only drawback is its lack of space. We recommend making reservations.



## Liubimy Diadia

20 Pankivska St.  
8 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
044-289-1885

Liubimy Diadia is a new venue specializing in Middle Eastern cuisine. Its chef is from Israel.



Visitors enjoy their drinks in Dogs & Tails, one of the many new cafes that opened in Kyiv recently. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Here, one will find hummus (Hr 45), bourekas (Hr 75), Arab salad (Hr 75), the pizza-like dish sfiha (Hr 75), Iraqi tomato soup (Hr 85), salmon carpaccio (Hr 149) and Jewish braided brerad-challah (Hr 55).

The restaurant is in sections: a living room, a library and a kitchen. The details of its design, with vintage and handmade furniture and a large bookcase full of old books contribute to the restaurant's relaxed atmosphere.



## St. Murena

16 Yaroslaviv Val  
Sunday - Thursday 12 p.m. - 11 p.m.,  
Friday - Saturday 12 p.m. - 2 a.m.  
044-230-9460

A small cozy cafe in the old part of central Kyiv, St. Murena offers a basic cocktail menu, simple food, and regular screenings of art house movies and music sets from popular DJs on weekends.



A plate of Carpathian cheeses served in the small Kiflyk cafe that has opened on Shota Rustaveli Street recently. (Anastasia Vlasova)

The cafe's owner lived in Italy for over a decade before coming back to Kyiv with inspiration to open an eatery.

We recommend noodles with turkey and the beef salad. The noodles are made for order and require some waiting - but its worth it.

St. Murena also compliments its food with original liqueurs, uniquely flavored with pineapple-lemon, melon, a mixture of peppers and buckwheat-horseradish.

Kyiv Post staff writer Victoria Petrenko can be reached at petrenko@kyivpost.com.

## These places close to Kyiv are worth checking out soon

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### Oleksandriya Dendrologic Park

Oleksandriya Dendrologic Park spreads over 400 hectares along the banks of the Ros River in Bila Tserkva, Kyiv Oblast, and is Ukraine's oldest landscape park. It's named after Oleksandra, the wife of the Polish nobleman Franciszek Ksawery Branicki. Designed at the end of 18th century, it was the residence of the Branicky family until the beginning of 20th century.

Today, most of the park's buildings are little more than ruins, but its abandoned feeling only adds to its romantic allure. Visitors can admire its China Bridge and Echo Colonnade, or walk along its many ponds, gurgling streams and noisy waterfalls.

The Oleksandriya Dendrologic Park is a well-kept secret, attracting few tourists. This makes it an ideal destination for

those seeking a bit of quiet and privacy.

#### Schedule and prices:

9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. (from Dec. 1 to April 15, the park is closed on weekends), lunch break 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Tickets (no guide): Hr 10, Hr 5 for students. Tickets to the museum (no guide): Hr 6, Hr 4 for students

Group excursion tickets (per person): Hr 20-25.

#### How to get there:

Take a bus from the Kyiv railway station to Bila Tserkva (approximately Hr 50). From the Bila Tserkva railway station take bus number no. 13 to the "Pionerska" stop.

### Radomysl Castle

The Radomysl Castle houses Ukraine's only museum for non-canonical icons (largely painted by peasants), with some

5,000 on display. Built in the 17th century, the castle is located in Zhytomyr Oblast, about 100 kilometers west of Kyiv. It first served as a paper-production factory run by monks. Today, it still has the vintage machines. The tower's biggest attraction is in offering master classes so visitors can learn how paper was produced the old fashioned way.

The castle is surrounded by a small pond and a picturesque park where one can admire 17th century marble statues of Archangel Michael.

#### Schedule and prices:

Thursday - Sunday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Group excursion tickets (per person): Hr 50, Hr 25 for children

#### How to get there:

From the Zhytomyrska metro station (from the side of the shopping center) from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., take city bus no. 13 to the "Zamok" stop (about Hr 55).

To get there by car, drive 86 kilometers west on the E40 and Mo6 highways.

### Sofiyivka Park

Sofiyivka is a fairytale-like park that was built in the 18th century in Uman, in Cherkasy Oblast. Stanislaw Potocki, a Polish count, built it as a symbol of his love for his wife Sofiya.

Because of its picturesque scenery and many classical references and images, the park attracts thousands of tourists all year round. Statues of characters from Homer's "Iliad" and "Odyssey" adorn Sofiyivka. Tourists visit Calypso grotto, or walk in the Flora pavilion and the Muses' terrace. The bravest can even drift on a boat along the underground river Styx.

Sofiyivka is not only a great attraction for fans of ancient Greek mythology. The park is a real para-

dise for photographers and painters, who love capturing its waterfalls, boulders, pergolas and footbridges.

#### Schedule and prices:

9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Tickets: Hr 30, Hr 20 for children  
Group excursion ticket (per person): Hr 15, Hr 10 for children

Group excursion ticket (English, Polish, French, and German languages): Hr 40, Hr 30 for children

#### How to get there:

You can take a bus from the Kyiv Railway Station to Uman, or a micro bus from the Central Bus Station on Moskovska Square. The buses depart every 30-40 minutes. Tickets are around Hr 50.

By car, it's a 210-kilometer drive along highways E95 and Mo5.

Kyiv Post staff writer Yulia Sosnovska contributed to the story.



April 12

(Kyiv Market/facebook)

## Kyiv Market

For the eighth time, the one-day fair Kyiv Market will open to connect shoppers with sellers of hand-made jewelry, old and new clothing, accessories, books and retro vinyl records. The market will also provide entertainment for children and master classes in crafts. Guests are invited to donate books for village libraries.

**Kyiv Market 8.0 (1 Peizazhna Alley). April 12, 12:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Free**



April 3 - April 15

(Daryna Mykytiuk)

## Pop art exhibition

Exhibition of the works by modern Ukrainian artist Daryna Mykytiuk shows anti-violence paintings in the 1950s pop art style. Bright colors contrasting with black and white hues express women's optimistic attitude to external circumstances, according to Mykytiuk. The paintings are on sale for \$300-600 per one.

**Pop Art Mate art exhibition. Bechtereveka Gallery (14 Behterevskiy Alley). April 3-15. Free**



April 9 - April 19

(klitschkoexpo.com)

## Brothers Klitschko achievements exhibition

An exhibition of Vitali and Wladimir Klitschko's achievements opens up in Kyiv again after a successful premiere in 2014. The exhibition includes prizes, championship belts, and memorable awards. Guests are invited to watch a 30-minute video compilation of the brightest moments in the brothers' career.

**Brothers Klitschko achievements exhibition. Olympic National Sports Complex (55 Velyka Vasylkivska St.). April 2 – June 30. Free To pre-order a free tour call 099-102-4448, 097-225-5986, or go to [www.klitschkoexpo.com](http://www.klitschkoexpo.com).**



April 16

(haydamaky.com)

## Haydamaky show

At their upcoming Kyiv show, Haydamaky will present their new album "Ukrop." While the name literally means "dill" in Russian, it became a nickname Russian separatists have given Ukrainians. Haydamaky's style is a mix of Ukrainian folk music, modern rock, punk, performed with dance tricks.

**Haydamaky. Sentrum (11 Shota Rustaveli St.). April 16, 8 p.m. Hr 150-400**



April 9 - April 19

(pavlo.poduralov)

## Pysanka Festival

Pysanka Festival glorifies Ukrainian Easter egg pysanka, painted using the traditional wax-resist technique. The festival will include master classes on pysanka painting and exhibition of unusual pysanka eggs, including a six-meter-high luminous pysanka egg and a lamp made of 7,000 eggs.

**Pysanka Festival. St. Sophia Cathedral (24 Volodymyrska St.). April 9-19, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Hr 10**

## Easter Fair

Easter Fair invites those who want to buy all supplies for the Easter basket at once. Drinks, hand-made decorations for home and baskets, postcards, presents, and Easter sweet bread paska, will be available during a three-day fair.

**Easter Fair. Ukrainian House (2 Khreshchatyk St.). April 9-11, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Free**



(izoom.ru)

April 9 – April 11

**USAID/OTI Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative**  
is looking for a qualified professional to fill the long-term position of  
**GRANTS MANAGER**

Chemonics International, an international development consulting firm, implementing the USAID/OTI Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative (UCBI) Project, seeks a long-term grants manager. UCBI provides fast, flexible, short-term assistance to Ukrainian partners in support of successful, peaceful democratic transition and community cohesion in the wake of the conflict and deepened social tensions in the East. The position will be based in Kharkiv, Ukraine with the expectation for travel (up to, approximately, 25% of the time) in and around Kharkiv oblast and Kyiv, as required for project activities.

The grants manager plays a critical role in ensuring that grants are implemented rapidly and effectively, in full compliance with USAID and Chemonics regulations and policies, and consistently with OTI's operating methodology which emphasizes a hand-in-hand, predominantly in-kind approach to working with local partners.

This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced grants manager to play a key role in program development. Working with a small Kharkiv-based team, the grants manager will be integral to developing and sustaining a network of partners and activities.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Working in coordination with other staff will ensure compliance with USAID and Chemonics policies and procedures throughout the design, development, and implementation of grants.
- Ensure effective liaising between project staff and grant recipients, providing technical advice and assistance as needed in areas such as financial management, procurement requirements, and implementation planning.
- Reporting to the Regional Program Manager, the Grants Manager works closely with all program staff to evaluate grant concepts and grant agreement/award documents while ensuring adherence to established grants management policies.
- Ensure proper negotiation of final terms and conditions for grants and reviews and analyzes budget estimates for allocability, reasonableness, and consistency. This includes working with grantees and project staff to develop or revise detailed grant budgets so that they are realistic and appropriate to the needs of the activity.
- Review required documentation for grant disbursements, including grant agreements, negotiation memos, grant activity forms, branding and marking plans, and others, ensuring that grant files are complete and maintained as required.
- Responsible for overseeing the close-out of grants within required time frames.

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Bachelor's degree required.
- At least two (2) years of progressively responsible grants management work experience on donor-funded projects, such as activity management, financial management, procurement, and/or sub-contracting.
- Demonstrated experience in grants management focused on ensuring that procurement, finance, logistics, and programmatic aspects are being implemented on-time and in accordance with the specifications of the approved activity.
- Demonstrated experience in assessing recipient organizations' grant-worthiness, as well as their financial, administrative and program planning capacities.
- Familiar with USAID contract and grants management policies and procedures is desirable, but experience with other donor funded projects will be accepted.
- Ability and willingness to travel approximately 25% of the time in and around Kharkiv oblast and Kyiv, as required for project activities.
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision, to prioritize multiple work assignments in an extremely fast-paced environment, to meet deadlines, and to exercise good, professional judgment that reflects positively on the image of the UCBI program.
- Ability to effectively and professionally communicate verbally and in written form in Ukrainian, Russian, and English.

Send electronic submissions to [ukrainelocalrecruit@gmail.com](mailto:ukrainelocalrecruit@gmail.com) by **April 17, 2015**. Please put "Grants Manager-East" in the subject line and include your CV and cover letter. Those who have previously applied for this vacancy need not apply again. No telephone inquiries, please. Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis and only finalists will be contacted.



**USAID**  
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**Public Private Partnership  
Development Program (P3DP)**

The Public Private Partnership Development Program (P3DP) in Ukraine, funded by USAID and implemented by FHI360, is working with the Government of Ukraine, municipalities, NGOs and leaders of business to improve the legislative and regulatory environment for PPPs; increase the capacity of institutions and individuals to design PPP projects; and demonstrate through pilot PPP projects how partnering can improve infrastructure and the delivery of public services.

P3DP currently has 2 opportunities for international consultants with expertise and experience in the **Housing** or **Health Services** sectors.

The goal of each of the two consultancies is to facilitate private sector participation in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and rehabilitation of infrastructure in a way that increases effectiveness of aid in the short-term, while establishing a foundation for sustainable PPPs in the long term.

Selected consultants will be asked to describe and recommend no fewer than three (3) specific projects in the health services or housing sectors that combine local/ international donor funds and private sector participation, principally targeting assistance to IDPs. Potential projects will be identified in the regions of Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhya and/or Odessa.

To apply follow the instructions in the full Terms of Reference in the "Vacancies" section at [www.ppp-ukraine.org/en](http://www.ppp-ukraine.org/en).

Deadline for submissions is **April 22, 2015**.

Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



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This position contingent on available funding.

For application details go to: [www.kyivpost.com/employment/job/153/](http://www.kyivpost.com/employment/job/153/)

Deadline: **April 15, 2015**



**iDeals Solutions, a global leading cloud software company, is looking for a qualified professional with extensive experience of B2B communication to fill the long-term position of Senior Customer Service Manager in its Kiev office.**

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- Contact person:

**Contact person:**

[apyltai@auchain.ua](mailto:apyltai@auchain.ua),  
(067)5385884

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites applications from highly qualified, energetic, proactive and experienced professionals for vacancies in the project

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RECOVERY IN DONBAS REGION**

- Project Manager (Kyiv), SC, SB-4

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 19 APRIL 2015**

For detailed job descriptions and application for these and other UNDP vacancies, please visit <http://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/en/home/operations/jobs.html>, complete the UNDP PERSONAL HISTORY FORM\* (P-11) and attach it to the on-line application.

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**ATTENTION  
EXPATS**

Some years ago, the Kyiv Post lost part of its print archive from 1995-2000. If you have any copies tucked away in an attic or storage, please deliver them to the Kyiv Post! We will scan them for our archives and return your copy! Thanks for helping to preserve the history of Ukraine's English-language newspaper since 1995!

**CONTACT:** Brian Bonner, chief editor, [bonner@kyivpost.com](mailto:bonner@kyivpost.com) or call +38 044 591 33 44. The Kyiv Post office is at 31a Pushkinska St., Office 600, Kyiv, Ukraine, 01004.

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**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Holy Spirit thou who makes me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who gives me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your Perpetual glory, Amen. Persons must pray this 3 consecutive days without stating one's wish. After the 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favours has been granted.

Tony Santos

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