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Forbidden Trade

Despite Sanctions, International Trade with Crimea Continues



An aerial view of the seaport in Russian-occupied Sevastopol on Ukraine's Crimean peninsula. Despite Western sanctions, the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project has found that European ships continue to do business in the Crimean ports. (Courtesy)

Editor's Note: The following report by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, a Kyiv Post partner, was written by Oleksandr Humeniuk, Maksym Kytsiuk, Olena Loginova and Andrii Ianitskiy.

After Russian troops occupied the Crimean peninsula two years ago, the Kyiv government moved to block trade at all commercial ports—a move that was later supported by the European Union, the United States and other countries.

Yet more than 600 vessels have entered Crimean ports in the past two years, and OCCRP research indicates both Western and Middle Eastern businesspeople continue to trade with Crimea, in violation of the policies of their own countries.

What makes it easier for them is that to date, Ukraine has not prosecuted a single vessel owner or captain.

Ghost ships

In early December 2015, a vessel

named General flew the blue-and-yellow flag of the Republic of Palau as it passed through the Bosphorus, the channel linking the Sea of Marmara to the Black Sea at Istanbul.

more **Crimea** on page **10**

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Editorial staff: +380 44 591-3344 news@kyivpost.com

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Адреса видавця та засновника

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Mailing address:

Kyiv Post,
31A Pushkinska, Suite 600, 6th floor
Kyiv, Ukraine, 01004

Advertising

tel. +380 44 591-7788
fax +380 44 591-3345
advertising@kyivpost.com

Editorial staff

tel. +380 44 591-3344
fax +380 44 591-3345
news@kyivpost.com

Subscriptions & Distribution

tel. +380 44 591-3344
fax +380 44 591-3345
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Medvedchuk proud to be Putin's friend

BY CHRISTOPHER J. MILLER

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More than a decade ago, Viktor Medvedchuk became known as the "Gray Cardinal" because his low profile masked unparalleled clout in the halls of power in Ukraine.

These days, detractors have another nickname for the millionaire tycoon and backroom politician with close personal ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin: they call him the Prince of Darkness.

A behind-the-scenes force in Ukrainian politics since Leonid Kuchma's presidency, when he served as chief of staff from 2002 to 2005, Medvedchuk holds no prominent post today – and he says he doesn't want one. In a recent interview, he told RFE/RL he feels more "free" and effective without the confines of political office.

But his influence has been thrown into relief again by the upheaval that has hit Ukraine since protesters drove a Moscow-friendly president from power in February 2014. Russia responded by seizing Crimea and fomenting unrest in eastern Ukraine, setting off a war between Kyiv and Russia-backed separatists that has killed more than 9,500 people.

With ties in tatters, Ukraine's new, pro-Western leadership appointed Medvedchuk that June to act as a lead arbiter in dealings with Russia. The hope was that the Kremlin connections of a man who has Putin as the godfather of his daughter would be helpful.

But Medvedchuk's Kremlin connections meant that, while the appointment was celebrated in Moscow, it was met with wide-



Then head of the presidential administration of Ukraine, Viktor Medvedchuk (second from right), applauds Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma as they arrive for a ceremony marking the end of the Year of Russia on Jan. 23, 2004 in Kyiv. (AFP)

spread concern and suspicion by the Ukrainian public.

More than two years later, that wariness has not gone away. Several Ukrainians who were jailed in Russia have returned home in swap deals, including the prominent former helicopter navigator Nadia Savchenko, but many others remain behind bars.

Meanwhile, the peace deal Medvedchuk helped forge for eastern Ukraine is in danger of falling apart. The cease-fire is in tatters, with increased fighting this summer stoking fears of a return to full-scale war. And political aspects of the Minsk accords, which were supposed to reintegrate separatist-held territory into Ukraine and restore Kyiv's control over its border with Russia by the end of 2015, have gone largely unfulfilled.

For many in Ukraine, questions about the motives of Medvedchuk have only been amplified.

Medvedchuk is "Putin's personal representative in Ukraine," said Taras Berezovets, director of the Kyiv-based political consultancy firm Berta Communications.

'Just jealous'

Medvedchuk has said it is a "great honor" to be counted among Putin's friends. The Russian president reportedly baptized Medvedchuk's daughter in St. Petersburg in 2004, and cameras have repeatedly captured him at Putin's side – whether it's at a Formula One race in Sochi, Russia, at a sambo martial arts meet, or with wife and kids at a lavish Crimean villa.

In the interview with RFE/RL, Medvedchuk made no apology for

his closeness with Putin. On the contrary.

"You know, those who talk about it, it seems to me they're just jealous of me. They are just jealous of me, and that's it," he said, adding that he has nothing to hide: "I don't even want to make other comments on this subject, because my work is transparent."

Medvedchuk spoke to RFE/RL in a boardroom at his office, behind heavy doors flanked by beefy security guards in an unassuming building off Kyiv's Leo Tolstoy Square.

He wore well-shined loafers, pressed slacks, musky cologne, and a tight-fitting white shirt that set off a fresh suntan he acquired in what might seem like the last place a Ukrainian politician would go for a summer vacation these days: Crimea.

"It was perfect – a warm sea, nice temperature, great location," said Medvedchuk, whose practiced, pearly smile seemed to project a confidence grounded in careful preparation. "I first vacationed in Crimea sometime in the early 1990s and I've continued that tradition since."

But this is not the early 1990s. Today, Crimea is at the heart of a rift between Moscow and Kyiv that may never heal: Ukraine says it will never give up the peninsula, while Moscow says it will never give back what Putin has called Russia's holy land. Kyiv, rights groups, and Western governments say Russia has abused and oppressed Tatars and other Crimeans who opposed the annexation in March 2014, and visitors from other parts of Ukraine have been intimidated and threatened with imprisonment by the Moscow-imposed authorities.

Medvedchuk said that he understood their frustration and stressed that legally, Crimea is part of Ukraine. "But de facto, unfortunately, it belongs to Russia," he said. And don't expect it be returned to Ukraine, he added, accusing the central government of pushing the peninsula away, alienating its residents, and prompting them to accept Russian control.

"If the authorities in Ukraine would like Crimea returned, they would not cut the electricity, not cut the water and declare an economic blockade," Medvedchuk said. "It would not have stopped rail transport, both freight and passenger. It would not have stopped trucking."

Medvedchuk is in lockstep with the Kremlin, or close, on other key issues.

While much of the world accuses Moscow of igniting the war in eastern Ukraine, Medvedchuk puts most of the blame on the Ukrainian government. He contended that Kyiv is wrong when it says that elections in the separatist-held territories, a key step on the path to peace set out in the Minsk deal, are possible only after Ukrainian control over the border with Russia in those regions is restored.

The accord called for an immediate and full bilateral cease-fire, followed by the withdrawal of all heavy weapons by both sides and the establishment of an effective monitoring regime before local elections should be held. Kyiv must also adopt a law governing the elections and pass legislation providing amnesty to

more Medvedchuk on page 11

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Scores of Roma flee mob after death of 9-year-old

BY CHARLES RECKNAGEL

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Scores of Roma have fled from a southern Ukrainian village after residents torched one Romany home and demanded authorities evict all Romany families from the area following the killing of a 9-year-old girl.

Amid soaring tensions, residents and local officials said they would provide a "safe corridor" on Aug. 29 for Romany families to leave the village of Loshchynivka, near Odesa. However, the eviction operation was called off after some 40 of the village's total population of 50 Roma left on their own overnight, carrying only essential items and leaving most of their belongings behind.

The expulsion threat came after scores of villagers attacked Roma homes following the killing and suspected rape of the girl, who was not from the Romany community. Only two Romany families remained in the village on Aug. 29 – one of them the family of the suspected attacker, a 21-year-old Romany man who has not been publicly identified and who denies guilt.

The outbreak of communal violence underscores the tense conditions under which many Roma



Police surround the Roma villagers as they escape their homes, forced out by their neighbors in Loshchynivka, Odesa Oblast on Aug. 28. (UNIAN)

in Ukraine continue to live at the margins of Ukrainian society. In Loshchynivka, as in many other places in Ukraine where Roma are present, the Roma live in rented and often dilapidated buildings on the outskirts of town and are largely mistrusted and feared by members of other ethnic groups.

Tensions exploded in Loshchynivka after the girl's body was found in an empty and ruined building on

Aug. 27. The Odesa Regional Police Department said that she had stab wounds in the chest, that she probably died of injuries to her heart and lungs, and that there were signs of rape.

According to police, on Aug. 28 an angry mob of residents surrounded the six homes inhabited by the village's Romany minority, kicking down fences and shouting for all Roma to leave the village immediate-

ly. One house was set on fire.

Several hundred village residents also held a rally to demand authorities force the Roma out if they were unwilling to leave. The local district council subsequently held an emergency meeting and voted to support the residents' demand.

Yuriy Shishmash, the deputy of Izmayil district council, said on August 28 that the Roma would "get safe passage out of town" early the next morning so that they could "remove themselves and their belongings." He also said, "We ask everyone to refrain from any kind of actions against them."

The head of the district council, Valentina Stoykova, told reporters on Aug. 28 that the Roma had agreed to be evacuated because they "understand they cannot live here."

As police were dispatched from Odesa to maintain order in Loshchynivka, Odesa Governor Mikheil Saakashvili said in a video message on Facebook that he shared the outrage of "all residents" of the village.

Without making any reference to Roma, he said that "antisocial elements" were involved in "massive drug dealing" in Loshchynivka and that "the killer" had been detained and would be punished.

With just two Romany families remaining on Aug. 29, police announced the "evacuation" operation had been canceled. The Roma reportedly relocated to the nearby town of Izmayil.

Human rights group in Ukraine called the events in Loshchynivka an example of mob justice.

"You cannot project your hatred related to actions of an individual whom you consider a criminal against everyone else. There is no such thing as collective responsibility," Yevhen Zakharov of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union told RFE/RL on Aug. 28. "Generally speaking, a decision to evict an entire community is illegal."

In Ukraine's last census, in 2001, some 47,000 citizens identified themselves as Roma. However, unofficial estimates are much higher, with the European Roma Rights Centre putting the number of Roma in Ukraine at 120,000 to 400,000.

The Budapest-based ERRC says that many Roma in Ukraine do not have basic identity documents and that they face discrimination in housing and access to education and employment.

RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service and RFE/RL correspondent Merhat Sharipzhan contributed to this story ■



Back to school

Left: A first-grader rings a symbolic bell to give a start to the new school year at the Ivan Bogun Military Lyceum in Kyiv on Sept. 1. In accordance with the tradition, he is carried by a senior student. (UNIAN)
Bottom: First-graders play with a balloon on their first day at the Meridian International school in Kyiv on Sept. 1. This year, the Kyiv schools were for the first time allowed to cancel the long and tedious official ceremonies that traditionally opened each new school year. (Anastasia Vlasova)



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Editorials

Mob rule

It's an ugly story. A nine-year-old girl, living in Loshchynivka village in Odesa Oblast was murdered on Aug. 26, apparently after being raped.

Immediately, the police singled out a suspect, a 21-year-old man, who lived nearby and happened to be an ethnic Roma. The villagers, predominantly Bulgarian, began attacking the Roma houses, eventually forcing all Roma to flee the village.

The local government did nothing to interfere with what human rights advocates classified as a "blatant violation of human rights and Ukrainian and international laws."

Apparently, trying to restore the order and protect the Roma's stay at their homes was not on law enforcement's agenda.

The awkward wording of a police news report said that the Roma man was "reasonably suspected" of the crime, as if suggesting that this is not always the case when it comes to Ukraine's police picking up their suspects.

While we hope that the investigation and trial of a young Roma will be transparent and unbiased, the parallels with Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" inevitably come to mind, as a case of investigation and trial with a pre-determined outcome.

And so far, we haven't seen a modern Odesa version of Atticus Finch, a person of honor determined to get to the truth of what happened against all odds. Instead, we've seen Odesa Governor Mikheil Saakashvili who, as the Roma were forced to flee the village, called them "antisocial elements" who should no longer be comfortable in their homes.

While Saakashvili stopped short of endorsing the human rights violation taking place in the village, he did nothing to prevent it. Moreover, the governor vowed to ensure that the "drug dealer neighbor" who is suspected of murdering the girl would get a maximum sentence. Obviously, the fact that he made the statement on the very same day the official investigation was started didn't bother Saakashvili that much. He got 3,000 likes on Facebook.

War for truth

For more than two years, hundreds of journalists and photojournalists have been risking their lives to show the world the truth about the war in the Donbas. Several were killed on the job.

So it's no wonder that the photojournalists quickly suspected that an impressive battle photo that went viral online was actually staged.

Its author, Dmytro Muravsky, an amateur photographer employed by the Defense Ministry as an adviser, couldn't prove the picture showing a shell explosion in the frontline village of Shyrokyne was documentary. His portfolio spoke against him: He used to make staged pictures for the army to use as promo images.

And still, Muravsky got enormous support from the public, who didn't seem to care whether the photo was staged or real – some of them said just so.

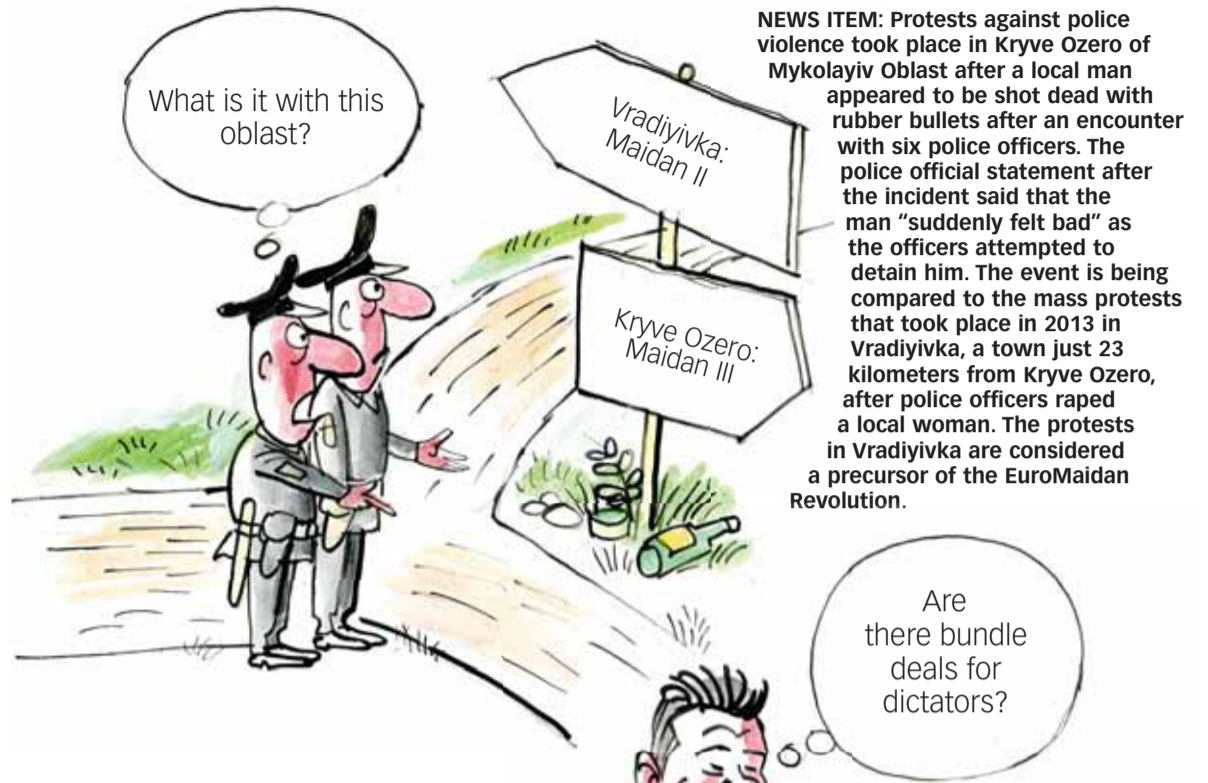
We do care. If the picture was indeed staged, it devalues honest media coverage of the war and the work of the war journalists. It endangers the reputation of Ukraine, suggesting that its media and authorities manipulate facts and, pointing at Russian lying propagandists with one hand, produce fakes with another.

It took the Defense Ministry a week to choose sides. Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak fired Muravsky on Aug. 28, "considering the public reaction" to his photos. The ministry's press service noted that it did not distribute the images as documentary ones.

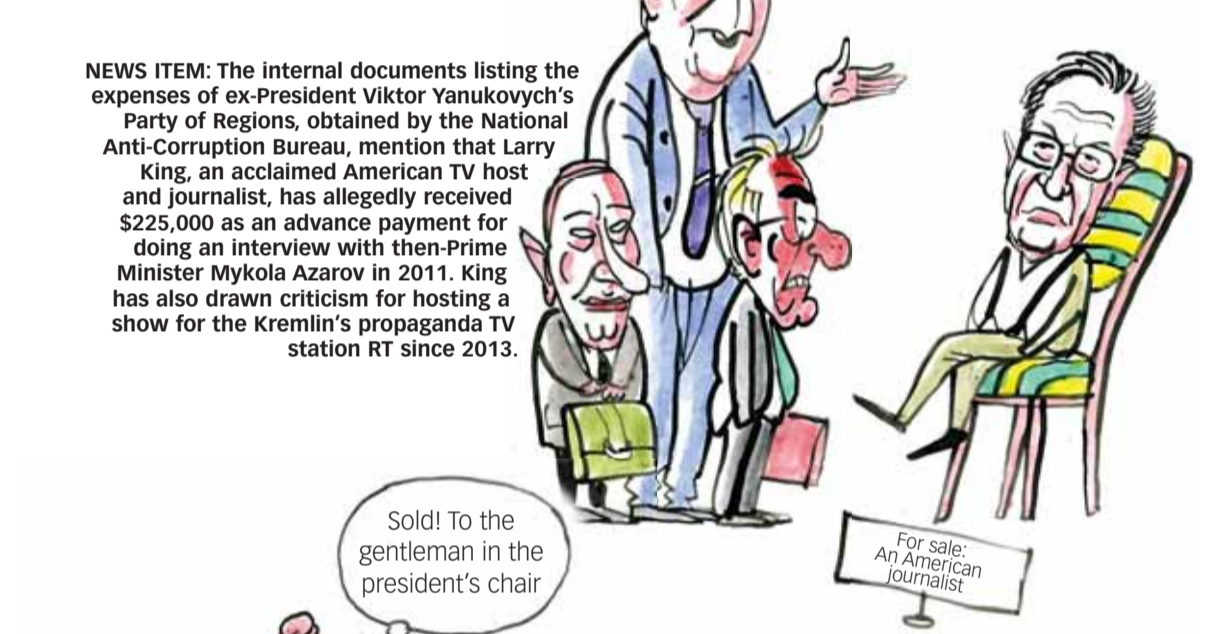
But is it enough?

The Defense Ministry hasn't had a great record in cooperating with journalists. They were known to throw harsh and unfair criticism on journalists whose coverage wasn't in line with the army's position. Their press accreditation allows extremely limited access to the front lines. To really cover the war, the reporters have to disobey and use personal contacts with soldiers.

Maybe it's time for Ukraine's authorities to come to peace with journalists, allow them to do their job and realize that photographs have to be real to be valuable.



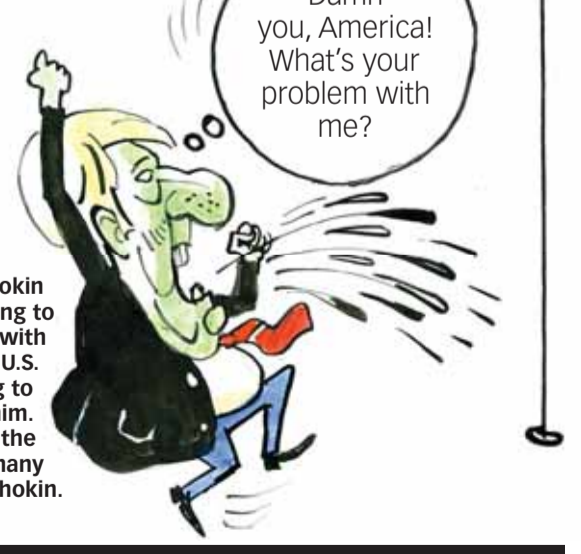
NEWS ITEM: Protests against police violence took place in Kryve Ozero of Mykolayiv Oblast after a local man appeared to be shot dead with rubber bullets after an encounter with six police officers. The police official statement after the incident said that the man "suddenly felt bad" as the officers attempted to detain him. The event is being compared to the mass protests that took place in 2013 in Vradiyivka, a town just 23 kilometers from Kryve Ozero, after police officers raped a local woman. The protests in Vradiyivka are considered a precursor of the EuroMaidan Revolution.



NEWS ITEM: The internal documents listing the expenses of ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions, obtained by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau, mention that Larry King, an acclaimed American TV host and journalist, has allegedly received \$225,000 as an advance payment for doing an interview with then-Prime Minister Mykola Azarov in 2011. King has also drawn criticism for hosting a show for the Kremlin's propaganda TV station RT since 2013.



NEWS ITEM: The internal documents of the Party of Regions, obtained by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau, mention that a large sum of money was paid to the judges of the Constitutional Court about the same time that it issued rulings in favor of then-President Viktor Yanukovich. The judges have not been suspended and are still working.



NEWS ITEM: Ex-Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin has been worried that Ukraine was surrendering to the interests of the U.S., he said in an interview with Channel 112. He also claimed that the former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt was trying to put together a compromising dossier against him. Shokin's grudge for America may be explained by the Pyatt's recent comment that confirmed what many suspected - that the U.S. pushed hard to dismiss Shokin.

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Reformer of the week

Olga Khudetska

Olga Khudetska, a journalist and a former member of a police vetting commission, earlier this week exposed the flaws of police reform that she said led to a high-profile murder in Kryve Ozero, Mykolayiv Oblast, on Aug. 24.

According to eyewitness testimony, six police officers beat and killed a man after his wife called the police and complained about him.

Four of the suspects successfully passed vetting earlier this year, and one failed to pass vetting but was reinstated by a court.

Khudetska, who was a member of a vetting commission in the oblast until May, says that police officers in Mykolaiv Oblast and elsewhere have not been vetted properly.

Commission members were overloaded with work and had to interview about 30 officers every day for about 15 minutes each, and many officers were vetted in absentia, Khudetska said.

In May, civil society lost control of many vetting commissions when Interior Ministry representatives and activists linked to the ministry began to dominate the vetting process. Several civil society groups left the commissions to protest against the decision, saying that Interior Minister Arsen Avakov is effectively killing the reform.

— Oleg Sukhov



Anti-reformer of the week

Vadym Denysenko

Vadym Denysenko, a lawmaker from President Petro Poroshenko's Bloc, lashed out at the electronic declaration system last week, saying that information in property and asset declarations could be used by robbers.

Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko echoed Denysenko's thoughts on Aug. 30, saying parliament could pass a law to limit public access to declarations in an effort to protect their property from criminals.

In February, Denysenko sponsored controversial loopholes that would allow corrupt officials to escape punishment for lying in declarations, though his amendments were subsequently canceled by parliament.

Critics see attempts to limit public access to electronic declarations as yet another excuse for derailing the electronic declaration system.

This fall the Verkhovna Rada will also try to block electronic declarations by enabling officials not to include their relatives' property, limiting officials' criminal responsibility for lying in declarations and exempting from criminal liability those who pay a 5 percent tax on declared wealth, Vitaly Shabunin, head of the Anti-Corruption Action Center's executive board, wrote on his blog on Aug. 31.

The declaration system was formally launched on Sept. 1 but declarations could not be uploaded due to technical difficulties, which some attributed either to another sabotage attempt or incompetence.

— Oleg Sukhov



VOX populi

WITH ANNA YAKUTENKO

Should the state stop giving support to all scholarship students?

Editor's note: The Finance Ministry proposed to stop paying a Hr 825 monthly grant to all students with an average score of B or higher, and instead pay it only to the financially-challenged students and to those who show academic excellence.



Oleksandr Khlopenko,
fifth-year student

"I think it's a populist decision. The authorities are just distracting

people's attention from more serious problems. Nobody discusses the reform of education, everybody is worried about grants. As a student, I'm counting on this money."



Viola Martyniuk
second-year student

"On the one hand, the competition for high grades would

be reduced. Students would start studying for knowledge, not grades. But on the other hand, there are people who can't afford to pay for their dorms and are not supported by their parents. They would end up spending time on a side job instead of studying."



Alice Chikal
first-year student

"I'm not receiving a scholarship, but I think that people who came to Kyiv from smaller

cities and villages should get it. Many of them have parents who can't support them. I think that instead of canceling scholarships, the authorities should eliminate corruption from universities, so that children of the wealthy people can't enroll by bribing."



Arie Mora
fifth-year student

"I don't get it when they say that scholarships should be canceled to allocate more

money for the army. You can't sacrifice education for supporting the army. But I don't think that scholarships are the main motivation to study well — it's too low for that."



Valeria Zelenkova
second-year student

"I think that even this small scholarship is very helpful for the students

who come from outside Kyiv. Without it, they would have to look for a job, and a job distracts them from their studies, and they will be less educated — all these things are connected."

Babyn Yar, the ravine where 100,000 killed



NATALIA A. FEDUSCHAK

The official 75th anniversary commemorations of the Nazi massacres that took place at the Babyn Yar ravine in Kyiv will take place in the Ukrainian capital between Sept. 23-29. The Ukrainian Jewish Encounter, a Canada-based nongovernmental organization, working in cooperation with the World Jewish Congress, Ukraine's government and other Ukrainian Jewish and diaspora organizations, will also sponsor a series of public events in memory of what took place.

On a sun-drenched Kyiv afternoon, Sept. 29, 1966, the Ukrainian writer and dissident Ivan Dziuba addressed a crush of several hundred people surrounding him.

"I want to say a few words — a 1,000th part of what I am thinking today and what I would like to say," he told the crowd. "I want to turn to you as people, as to my brothers in humanity. I want to address you, Jews, as a Ukrainian, as a member of the Ukrainian nation, to which I proudly belong. Babyn Yar, this is a tragedy of all humanity, but it happened on Ukrainian soil. And that is why a Ukrainian does not have the right to forget about it, just as a Jew [doesn't]. Babyn Yar, this is our common tragedy, a tragedy first of all of the Jewish and Ukrainian people."

Fifty years later, Dziuba is expected to return to the place where he uttered those words, the ravine in Kyiv known simply by its citizens as Babyn Yar, to take part in a ceremony.

It is here, in a wooded area of Ukraine's capital, that one of the greatest single Nazi massacres of World War II took place: Over a two-day period in 1941, on Sept. 28-29, over 34,000 Kyivan Jews were shot to death. During the next two years of Kyiv's German occupation, more killings and burials of peoples the Nazis deemed enemies occurred at the ravine. These included Ukrainians, Roma, Soviet POWs and others.

Yet of the estimated 100,000 victims at Babyn Yar, over two-thirds were Jews.

Babyn Yar is the most potent symbol of what has become known in recent years as "the Holocaust by Bullets."

Between 1941 and 1945, some 1.5 million Ukrainian Jews were systematically shot in fields and ravines throughout the territory that makes



A man places flowers at the Babyn Yar memorial in Kyiv. Nazi Germany executed 100,000 people during a two-year period in the Kyiv ravine, including 34,000 Jews on Sept. 28-29, 1941. (Ukrafoto)

up modern-day Ukraine. Because of its sheer magnitude, Babyn Yar survived in the collective memory of Ukrainians, even as first German, and then Soviet, authorities tried to destroy all traces of the crime.

To commemorate Babyn Yar's 75th anniversary, Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko has launched a series of commemorative state events. In addition, a series of non-governmental commemorative events are planned. Public events sponsored by the UJE include a youth conference that will bring together 200 young people from Ukraine, the United States, Canada, Israel and Europe to participate in a week-long program that will focus on Babyn Yar and the Holocaust, emphasize historical awareness, mutual respect toward ancestral heritage and civic responsibility; a symposium devoted to Babyn Yar as a signal event of the Holocaust; and a memorial concert that will feature works by Max Bruch, Yevhen Stankovych and Johannes Brahms.

The Ukrainian Jewish Encounter has also supported an international landscape competition, recently completed, that will expectantly act as a first step in helping transform Babyn Yar, currently deemed a recreational area, into a memorial park that will honor those killed and buried beneath

its grounds.

In related events, the Pinchuk Art Centre is currently hosting the exhibition "Loss. In Memory of Babi Yar", which features the works of contemporary artists Christian Boltanski, Berlinde De Bruyckere and Jenny Holzer. A cinema series and documentary photo exhibit will also take place in Kyiv that week.

In his 1966 speech, Dziuba spoke not only of the importance of memory, but of the many factors that led to Babyn Yar: "This tragedy was brought to our nations by fascism. But do not forget that fascism does not start with Babyn Yar and it does not end there. Fascism begins with disrespect for a person, and ends with the destruction of a person, a destruction of nations — but not necessarily only with such destruction as in Babyn Yar."

He asked in those distant days of 1966 for Ukrainians to look within, to recognize similarities between the two peoples and to honor those Jewish figures rooted in Ukrainian lands. He expressed shame at the anti-Semitism he still saw among his own people, and asked that Jews also show understanding and tolerance. "As a Ukrainian, I am ashamed that among my nation — as among other

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Ukrainian schools abroad teach language, history

BY ANNA YAKUTENKO
YAKUTENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Alexander Frisk, 5, is still a year away from starting elementary school in Sweden, where his Ukrainian family lives. But he is starting school this September anyway: In a Ukrainian Saturday school, *Ukrainsk skola i Sverige*.

His mother, Viktoria Frisk, who moved to Malmo from the Ukrainian city of Novovolynsk six years ago, wants her son to know Ukrainian language and culture. Two years ago she enrolled him into Ukrainian language classes for toddlers. Now, his two-year-old brother Mikael will start the same class, and for Alexander it is time to start Ukrainian school.

"It's important to me that my children know their roots," Frisk says. "Of course, they'll grow up more Swedish than Ukrainian, but I dream that they will come to Ukraine and not have any language barriers."

Ukrainsk skola i Sverige, the first Ukrainian school in Malmo, opens its doors for the first time this year. In the first year, it will teach the students the Ukrainian language by singing folk songs, reading Ukrainian fairy tales and playing games with a Ukrainian-speaking teacher. The school is funded by the Swedish government and the parents.

Next year, Alexander Frisk will

→ 'I dream that my kids don't have a language barrier when in Ukraine.'
— Viktoria Frisk

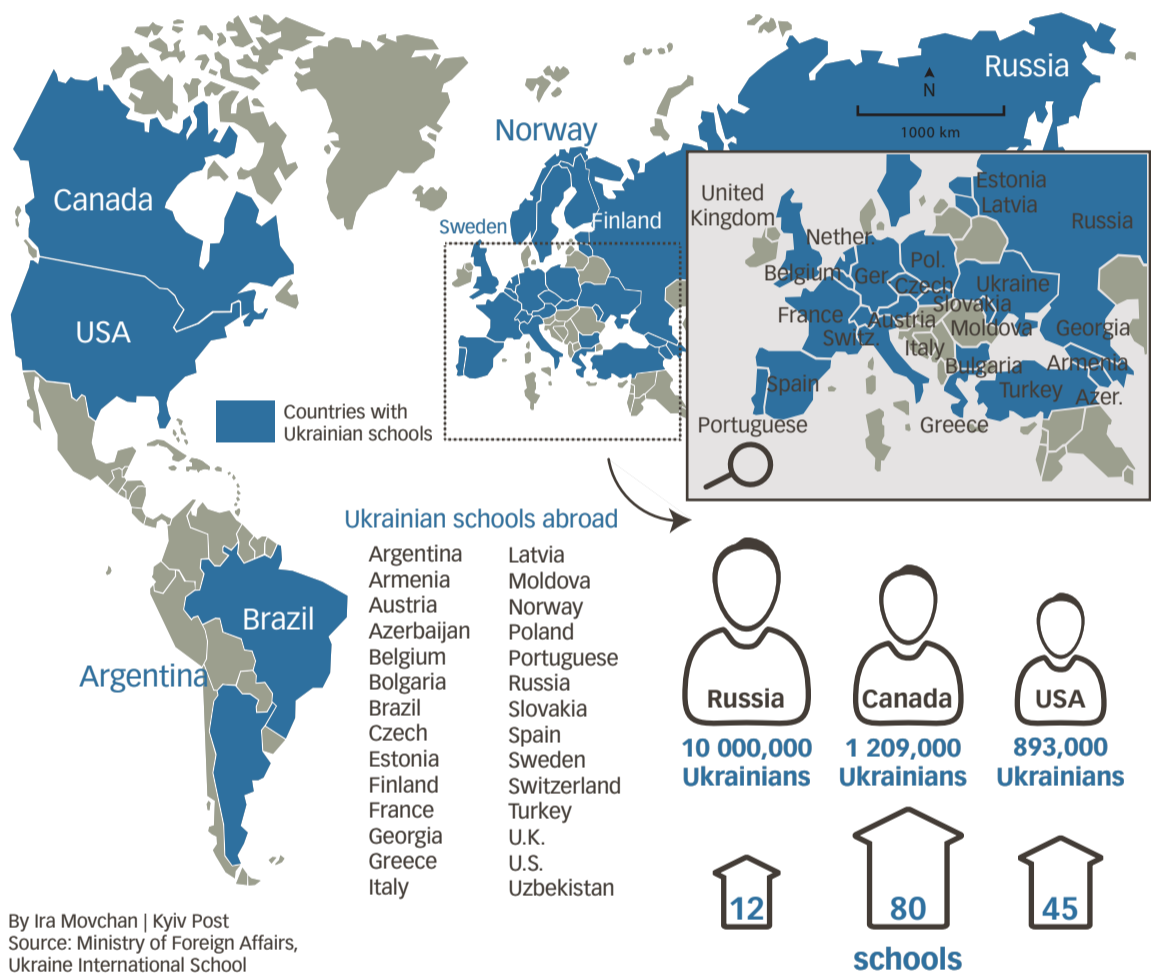
enroll in a public Swedish-language school but continue going to his Ukrainian school every Saturday.

Migration and schools

First Ukrainian schools abroad opened in the territory of modern-day Serbia in the middle of 18th century by Ukrainian migrants from Zakarpattya region.

Since then, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians have left Ukraine in several migration waves, most of them in the 20th century. Today, over 10 million Ukrainians live outside Ukraine – and many want their children to visit Ukrainian-language schools.

more Schools on page 7



By Ira Movchan | Kyiv Post
Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ukraine International School

At least 10 million Ukrainians live outside of Ukraine. Dozens of Ukrainian schools function in every country with a Ukrainian diaspora to teach the second-generation Ukrainians their history and language.



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Children attend a geography lesson in a Ukrainian School in Vienna, which has classes on Saturdays. It's one of two Ukrainian schools in Austria that provide classes in Ukrainian. (UkrSchuleWien/facebook)

Schools around globe offer classes taught in Ukrainian

Schools from page 6

In Canada, where there are 1.2 million people of Ukrainian origin, there are about 80 bilingual schools and kindergartens with classes both in English and Ukrainian.

In the U.S., the government counts 893,000 ethnic Ukrainians, while the diaspora members have an unofficial estimation of 1.5 million. There are 45 bilingual Ukrainian-American schools that 3,000 students attend.

The schools are coordinated by the Ukrainian Educational Council, which trains and hires teachers, develops a curriculum and covers a part of the textbook expenses.

Some of the Ukrainian schools in the U.S. are full-time bilingual schools, while most only have classes on Saturdays and are an addition to regular American schools that their students attend.

Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies in Washington and Parma, as well as Cleveland School of Ukrainian Studies in Parma have classes every day.

Europe boasts Ukrainian schools, too.

Eight Ukrainian schools hold Sunday classes in Italy. At least 11 Ukrainian schools are available in Spain. The Netherlands and Austria each have two Ukrainian-language schools. Some 14 Ukrainian schools are found in Poland, where 49,000 ethnic Ukrainians live. Fourteen Ukrainian schools function in Germany, most of them founded by churches, according to Ukrainian Saturday School in Munich data.

The list of countries where Ukrainian communities have Saturday or Sunday schools also includes Norway, Switzerland, Bulgaria, U.K., Argentina, Brazil, and countries of former Soviet Union as Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Estonia and Latvia.

By contrast, in Russia, the country with the biggest Ukrainian diaspora of 2 million people according to the official statistics and about 10 million in unofficial estimations, there are only 12 Ukrainian schools that have classes on Saturdays, and not a single full-time school.

Representing Ukraine

Ukrainian schools abroad are founded by churches, Ukrainian community centers, or independent parent committees. The classes are usually held on Saturdays or Sundays in public schools, Ukrainian museums or cathedrals.

The Ukrainian program in such schools usually consists of Ridna Shkola (Native School) classes for elementary students who learn the basics of the Ukrainian language, and Kursy Ukrainoznavstva (Courses of Ukrainian Studies) for older students, where they study Ukrainian grammar, literature, geography, history and culture – all being taught in the Ukrainian language.

"We, the Ukrainians living abroad, are the face of our nation (for other nationalities)," Frisk says. "Ukrainian schools abroad are so important because they help (ethnic Ukrainians) to represent our nation to others." ■

Global Scholars helps Ukrainians get into top Western schools

BY YULIANA ROMANYSHYN
ROMANYSHYN@KYIVPOST.COM

For a regular Ukrainian trying to get into a top college or a boarding school in the West, the competition isn't even the hardest part. The hardest is to find money for tuition in a poor country with no student loan opportunities.

That's where Ukraine Global Scholars steps in. The initiative launched in 2015 aims to guide high school students through the process of application and getting a scholarship.

Five Ukrainian Ivy League graduates and current students founded Ukraine Global Scholars to help high school students to get the best education in the U.S. and Europe. They select motivated participants throughout Ukraine and prepare them for admission into boarding schools and colleges overseas, hoping to get a contribution to the development of Ukraine in the future.

"At some point, other people helped us get into good schools and taught us how to apply, and showed us everything we needed to know, so this is our way of paying back," said Yulia Sychikova, co-founder and mentor of Global Scholars.

Other goals are to increase the number of Western-educated professionals in Ukraine and the network of Ukrainian experts around the world.

When one tries to apply to the top college or boarding school without any assistance, the chance to be admitted is below 1 percent, Sychikova said.

In 2015, the program announced their first call and selected 13 stu-

dents. Nine of them applied, and five were admitted to the boarding schools, all expenses covered.

"Five out of nine is a pretty good result because all of these kids got full financial aid together and a ticket to a "top" university (in the future)," Sychikova said.

Five finalists started their first year in the New York University Abu Dhabi, Leysin American School in Switzerland, and an all-girls boarding Emma Willard School. To cover their expenses, they won around \$1 million in scholarships.

In 2016, Global Scholars decided to expand and announced 20 finalists out of 350 applicants, who are now preparing for the application process. The mentors conducted a six-week online test camp, preparing for TOEFL and SAT exams, and a two-week camp covering the full cycle of the application process. Besides constant mentorship, the organization covers tests and application fees and advises on financial aid and scholarship opportunities.

As a non-profit venture, Global Scholars covers the expenses through fundraising, spreading the information about the program among the diaspora, alumni, and business community. In 2016, they hope to raise \$50,000 to cover the fees the entire application process.

One of the 2016 finalists is Ihor Barakaiev, a high-school student from Kirovohrad. He plans to apply to a boarding school and a college abroad to study computer programming. After gaining some experience in a foreign company, Barakaiev hopes to come back to Ukraine to work in IT.

While selecting the 20 students, Global Scholars carried them

through a three-round application process that includes an essay, English and math tests, and two 30-minute interviews. During the interview, the selection committee pays attention not only to strong academic record and extra-curriculum activities but also to the applicant's wish to contribute to the Ukraine's society after graduation.

Another finalist, a 15-year old high school student Vladyslava Sirychenko said that the interview with Global Scholars wasn't difficult for her as she already knew what she plans to do in the future. Her passion is applied mathematics.

After graduating a Kyiv school, she will start the tenth grade of a boarding school abroad, and then go to a university. She said that while her father supports her goals, her mom says it is a waste of time to study so long.

Sirychenko's classmates also don't share her wish to study abroad. They want to go to the top Ukrainian universities.

"They think that I'm a bit crazy," she said with a smile.

As a backup, Sirychenko also plans to apply to a Ukrainian university.

However, not every skilled student plans to invest in Ukraine after graduating one of the world's top schools. Sychikova said that during the selection process, they met a lot of talented students with academic achievements whose goal was to study abroad and stay there.

"It is understandable that many students want to do that, but whenever we heard that, it was a red flag for us," Sychikova said. "We are looking for those who have passion for Ukraine." ■



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Weekly business roundup

BY YULIANA ROMANYSHYN,
JOSH KOVENSKY,
NATALIE VIKHROV
ROMANYSHYN@KYIVPOST.COM
KOVENSKY@KYIVPOST.COM
NATALIE.VIKHROV@GMAIL.COM

Investment in fixed assets rises to 9.6 percent

Ukraine saw a rise in fixed asset investment during the first half of the year, recording a leap to 9.6 percent growth for the first six months of 2016.

This follows a relatively tepid 0.7 percent growth for the first quarter of 2016, according to government statistics released on Aug. 26 reported by Concorde Capital.

Fixed asset investment fell by 9.2 percent in the first half of 2015, last year's rating.

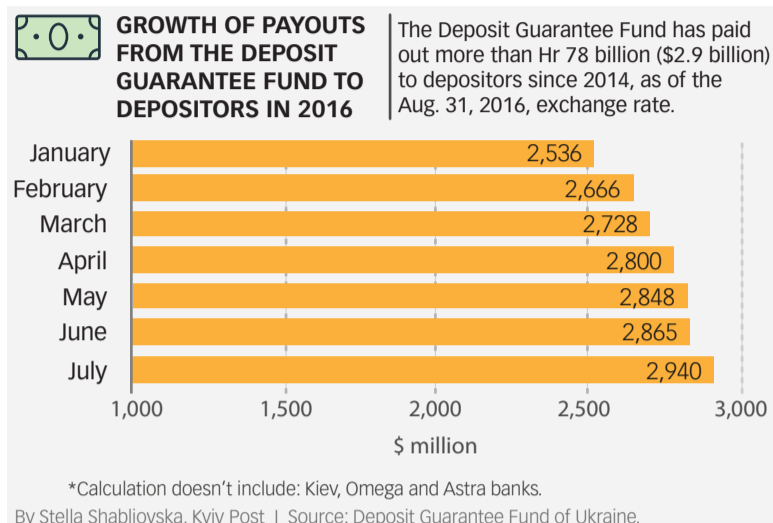
This year's growth occurred across Ukraine's economic sectors, except for telecommunications which recorded a 65 percent drop. Finance saw a fall of 11 percent, construction of 2 percent, and arts and sports of 28 percent.

According to Alexander Paraschiy, an analyst at Concorde Capital, while the news is encouraging, it is not clear if the growth constitutes a stable pattern.

"It's not clear how sustainable this two-digit growth might be amid volatility of the current economy," Paraschiy wrote. "Still, even the results observed till now give the grounds for a potential upward revision of our investment forecast. Initially, we estimated 2.3 percent year over year of investment growth in 2016 but if current tendencies are preserved, we can't rule out 10 percent expansion this year."

Ukrnafta hits gusher of regulatory and financial woes

Ukraine's majority state-owned oil extractor Ukrnafta has been releas-



ing a flurry of panicked press releases over the past week, claiming an ongoing assault from regulators while complaining of ongoing non-payments from its parent company, Naftogaz. Ukrnafta, whose minority shareholder Ihor Kolomoisky exerts de facto control over the company, is trying to dig itself out of debt under the chairmanship of Britain-born Mark Rollins, a longtime oilman who started working at the firm in October 2015.

The largest share of the debt is an Hr 15 billion (\$570 million) unpaid tax bill, while there are additional financial disputes between Naftogaz and Kolomoisky.

Rollins has tried to tie the company's recovery to a debt restructuring plan which, he says, would allow the firm to become solvent within 10 years, permitting board approval. But Ukrnafta now says that Naftogaz is holding the restructuring plan hostage in exchange for Ukrnafta ceasing to attempt to recover natural gas extracted from 2006 to 2012, which it says Naftogaz stole.

Since then, the government has threatened to revoke Ukrnafta's licenses for 17 of its oil production and extraction facilities across Ukraine. The moves come days

before the shareholder meeting at which the restructuring plan is set to go for a vote, timing that Rollins called "remarkable."

"Licenses suspension won't help the state to reach its desired goal of having the tax debt repaid," he added.

PrivatBank ups capital by \$100 million

PrivatBank, the country's largest financial institution, upped its reserve capital by \$100 million amid ongoing reports of the bank's instability, the bank announced on Aug. 26.

The bank said that its total share capital would increase to Hr 23.8 billion (\$900 million), a Hr 2.6 billion (\$99 million) increase from its previous amount of Hr 21.2 billion (\$800 million).

The bank said that it would increase the capital by jacking up the value of its shares by Hr 34.03 a piece, Reuters reported.

The news, which comes after numerous reports that the bank's credit portfolio is shot through with insider lending and non-performing loans, provoked positive reactions from many analysts.

Dragon Capital said in a research note that the news suggested the

bank's shareholders "maintain constructive relations with the National Bank." Political analysts and politicians have suggested in the past that the bank is used as a suicide belt by Kolomoisky, with him threatening to default on the bank's loans, provoking a country-wide financial crisis, in exchange for political concessions.

Though a step towards stability, the move has not totally reassured other analysts.

"Such a capital increase, without additional contributions from PrivatBank shareholders, seems to be a small part of a broad program of the restructuring (recapitalization) of the bank," wrote Concorde Capital analyst Alexander Paraschiy, "whose potential capital gap ranges from Hr 15 billion to Hr 128 billion, as was hinted by main shareholder Igor Kolomoisky."

National Bank to liquidate another bank

Ukraine's state banking regulator has revoked the license of yet another bank - KSG Bank. According to the National Bank press release, KSG systematically violated law and was allegedly involved in money laundering.

According to the National Bank website, the bank suspiciously transferred millions of hryvnia into the accounts of their clients, who then cashed the money. The National Bank discovered that a number of these accounts were opened using lost or stolen passports.

The person who conducted the transactions had 500 credit cards issued in his name, while his passport was registered as stolen.

The regulator says it will alert the police.

The liquidation of the bank will have no impact on the stability of financial markets, given the limited number of customers (around 1,200 clients) and minor amounts of assets, says the National Bank.

Over the past two years, the National Bank declared some 80 banks insolvent, leaving only 100 functioning banks in Ukraine.

China to build textile plant in Rivne Oblast

Chinese textile company Yuyue Home Textile Co. plans to build a flax processing facility in Rivne Oblast. The company is investing \$20 billion in the construction, which is set to begin in 2016 and will take five years to finish.

The facility will produce flax-based textiles from start to finish, beginning with growing the crop to processing it into cloth. The company will rent about 30,000 hectares of land for the plant and a flax field.

The authorities hope to employ around 1,000 people, with 90 percent of the jobs going to local citizens.

Bank Mikhailovsky depositors receive Hr 1.02 billion

The Deposit Guarantee Fund has paid out nearly Hr 1.02 billion (\$38.8 million) to depositors of insolvent Bank Mikhailovsky - 94 percent of the total owed, the Fund said.

The fund's press service announced it will be halting payments from Aug. 27 to Sept. 2 to add more depositors entitled to compensation to the registry, which will see payouts increase by Hr 88.87 million.

The collapsed Bank Mikhailovsky was owned by Ukrainian businessman Viktor Polishchuk, who set up a fraudulent deposit scheme that offered high growth rates and attracted more than Hr 1 billion in deposits.

The money was not insured by the Deposit Guarantee Fund but after a series of protests from the bank's former clients in June, the fund decided to compensate depositors.

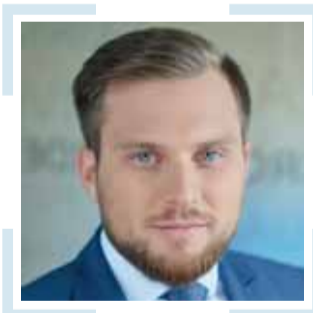
It started making payments from July 15 following weeks of protest from defrauded clients. ■

ON THE MOVE

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Nataliya Dryuk was promoted to senior associate, Intellectual Property and Dispute Resolution practice groups, with AEQUO law firm. Nataliya is a specialist in civil and commercial litigation, and intellectual property. She provides legal services to both domestic and foreign companies on trademark, patent, copyright and domain name litigation. She is experienced in corporate restructurings and foreign holdings administration. Nataliya also participates in complex due diligence exercises in various industry sectors. Education: Donetsk National University, Master of Laws, Donetsk, 2006.



Michael Lukashenko was promoted to senior associate, Corporate and M&A / Private Equity practice groups, with AEQUO law firm. Michael focuses on M&A, private equity and international finance transactions. Michael has extensive experience in structuring and executing M&A transactions in various jurisdictions, involving both offshore and onshore vehicles. His other fields of expertise are cross-border lending transactions, legal due diligence and debt restructuring procedures, as well as complex financial regulatory matters, including FX control and securities. Education: National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv, Bachelor of Laws, 2010, Central European University, Budapest, Master of Laws, 2011.



Yevgen Blok was promoted to senior associate, Antitrust and Competition practice group, with AEQUO law firm. Yevgen provides legal advice to both domestic and foreign companies on a broad range of competition law issues, including merger control, concerted actions, abuse of dominance and unfair competition. He also has extensive experience in cross-border financing projects. Education: Kyiv International University, Bachelor of International Law, Kyiv, 2007, Ukrainian State University of Finance and International Trade, Master of International Law, Kyiv, 2008.

AEQUO 

Freed political prisoner recalls his two years of Russian hell

BY YULIANA ROMANYSHYN
ROMANYSHYN@KYIVPOST.COM

Although he tries to lighten the mood with jokes, Hennadiy Afanasiev's voice still trembles when he talks about the more than two years he spent in Russian jails as a political prisoner.

One of the more noteworthy figures among the 28 Ukrainian political prisoners held in Russia, Afanasiev was charged with terrorism. He signed a confession under torture, but then recanted publicly at a trial, all to no avail.

He returned to Ukraine after a prisoner exchange with Russia on June 14. He is one of only three Ukrainian political prisoners released so far.



Hennadiy Afanasiev stays on Poshtova Square near Dnipro River in Kyiv during the Kyiv Post interview on Aug. 18. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Torture for testimony

The Russian security service agents arrested Afanasiev, then a 23-year-old photographer and pro-Ukrainian activist, on the street of his native Simferopol in Crimea.

On May 9, 2014, two months after Russia invaded Crimea, Afanasiev was returning from a pro-Ukrainian rally, one of the last ones that took place. The date, a World War II Victory Day, has a special meaning in Russia, where the authorities use it to remind of the country's military power.

As he headed to meet a friend, several agents approached, put a bag over his head and threw him into a car. First, they took him to his own apartment and searched it. Then, he was put in a security service compound in Simferopol.

That's when the hell started.

Afanasiev was accused of preparing terrorist attacks with movie director Oleg Sentsov, activists Oleksandr Kolchenko and Oleksiy Cherniy, who were arrested two days after Afanasiev. They were accused

of preparing to blow up two Soviet monuments in Crimea.

To get him to sign a confession and testify against his alleged conspirators, the agents tortured Afanasiev for 10 days.

Beatings on the head and stomach were easier to take than what came later. When that didn't work, they put a plastic bag over Afanasiev's head. Then came a gas mask with a closed hose that meant he struggled to breathe. The hose would finally be opened, but only for the jailers to pour in some liquid that made the prisoner choke and vomit – while the gas mask was still covering his face. For the culmination, they would send an electrical current through his genitals. The jailers also woke him up constantly during the night.

What helped to crack him in the end, however, were the threats to his mother.

"We will bring your mother to the next room, and you will hear us doing the same to her," Afanasiev's lawyer Alexander Popkov quoted the

agents as saying. After 10 days of torture, Afanasiev signed a pre-written testimony saying that he was preparing a terrorist attack with Sentsov and Kolchenko.

A Moscow court used this testimony to convict the two in 2015. "Under that torture, I could sign anything against anyone, to be honest," Afanasiev says today.

Afanasiev claims that the agents who tortured him were former officers from the Ukrainian Security Services who were hired by Russia's security service, the FSB, after the occupation of Crimea.

Fighting back

After initial questioning in Simferopol, Afanasiev and other arrested Crimeans were sent to Moscow for trial.

Afanasiev's trial was the fastest. Since he already had pled guilty, in December 2014 he was sentenced to seven years in prison for plotting a terrorist attack.

Afanasiev made it back into the spotlight in July 2015, when Russian

prosecutors called him as a witness to the trial of Sentsov and Kolchenko.

There, Afanasiev surprised everyone: He withdrew his testimony. Standing in the Moscow court he announced that he signed the testimony against Sentsov and Kolchenko under torture. The two met this confession with applause.

In the end, however, Sentsov and Kolchenko were still found guilty of terrorism and sentenced to 20 years in prison. The Ukrainian authorities are negotiating for their release.

But for Afanasiev, this rebellion lifted his spirit.

He stopped being afraid of tortures and began to resist the prison's administration. He wrote up to 12 complaints and appeals every week, complaining about severe conditions.

Afanasiev was released on June 14. The Russian authorities exchanged him and Yuri Soloshenko for two prisoners held in Ukraine, Ukrainian citizens Olena Hlishchynska and Vitaliy Didenko, charged with promoting separatism in April 2014 in Odesa.

→ 'Under that torture, I could sign anything against anyone, to be honest'

Afanasiev, Soloshenko and Ukrainian pilot Nadia Savchenko are the only Ukrainian political prisoners

released so far from Russia's prisons.

"I am the only person who was convicted of terrorism in Russia and then released," says Afanasiev.

Prison's toll

For the first year and five months of his time in the Russian prison, Afanasiev wasn't allowed to meet his family or a representative of Ukrainian authorities.

"I was in a vacuum," he recalls. "No one was there, not a consul or a lawyer. They didn't even give me letters."

He also got no medical care.

"They take a pill of aspirin, break it in half and say: 'This one's for your headache, this one's for diarrhea – do not mix them.' That was all the treatment," he says.

So when he got serious ulcers on one hand and needed to stop the infection from spreading, he had to improvise.

"I sharpened a piece of iron and had to cut off pieces of my skin... I couldn't get rid of inflammation. To cut it off hurt less," he says.

He ended up catching a blood infection that became a formal reason for his release. He's been treating it even now.

For the last three months before the release Afanasiev was put in solitary confinement.

"I could only talk to myself and the cockroaches," he says.

He recalls how the prison was gradually changing his personality.

"In the first year you dream about freedom, you remember it," he says. "After two years, the degradation starts and you are just surviving, like a wolf."

After the release, Afanasiev has returned to Crimea-related activism – although he can't return to Crimea, he has been working on making a map of all the violations of human rights in Crimea after the Russian occupation. ■

Feduschak: Babyn Yar lessons, 75 years later

Feduschak from page 5

nations – there is anti-Semitism, there is a shameful, unworthy human phenomena called anti-Semitism," he said. "We, Ukrainians, should in our environment fight against any show of anti-Semitism or disrespect to Jews, a non-understanding of Jewish problems. You, Jews, should in your environment fight against those who do not respect the Ukrainian person, the Ukrainian culture, the Ukrainian language, who unfairly sees in every Ukrainian a hidden anti-Semite."

Dziuba, who recently turned 85, will receive during the commemorative week the Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Award, which is conferred by the Jewish Confederation

of Ukraine and UJE to an individual in Ukraine, Israel or the diasporas for work in fostering Ukrainian-Jewish relations. Previous recipients of the award were Ukrainian Jewish Encounter board chairman James C. Temerty and Ukrainian businessman Victor Pinchuk.

Dziuba's most important message 75 years after the Babyn Yar tragedy and his address to those present at the ravine a half-century ago is about the danger of remaining silent.

"There are things," he said, "there are tragedies before which the enormity of any word is powerless and about which silence will say more

– the great silence of thousands of people. Maybe for us here, it is fitting to do without words and silently think the same thing. But silence only says much there, where all that can be said has already been said. But when much still has not been said – when nothing has been said – then silence becomes the accomplice of lies and non-freedom. That is why we speak and must speak – where we can and where we can't, using all opportunities which happen to us infrequently."

Natalia A. Feduschak is director of communications at the Ukrainian Jewish Encounter. ■

This article originally appeared in the *Odessa Review* and is reprinted with the author's permission.

Dozens of European ships docking in forbidden ports

Crimea from page 1

The ship was heading towards Ukraine, its official route stated as: Nemrut Bay (near the Turkish city of Izmir on the Aegean Sea) to Kherson, a Black Sea port city on the southern Ukraine mainland north-west of Crimea.

However, on Dec. 4 the vessel lay near the entrance to Sevastopol harbor in southwest Crimea, the peninsula's largest city and home to the Russian Navy's Black Sea Fleet. The General disappeared from international tracking radar for 10 days. On Dec. 14, its onboard navigator was turned back on, and General returned to the Turkish port. It apparently never went to Kherson.

According to international navigation standards, every international vessel must carry an electronic "navigator" linking it to the Automatic Identification System, a global network that tracks vessels using satellites, reports from passing ships and radar. It is possible to follow the movement of vessels throughout the world via AIS navigators, using the website <http://www.marinetraffic.com/>.

Reporters for OCCRP did just that for almost a year, following vessels around Crimea including tracking the disappearance of the General. Experts say the ship must have turned its AIS navigator off, which is only possible if the power on board is cut off.

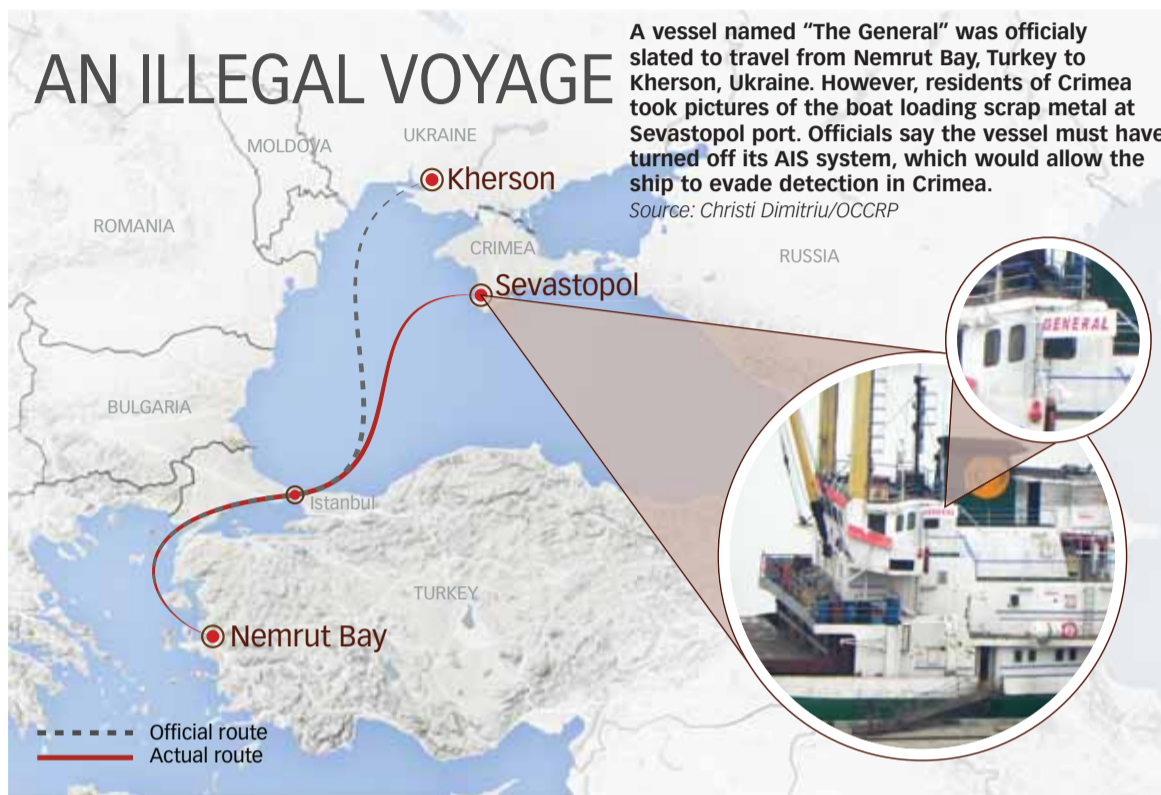
From Dec. 9 to Dec. 11, at the request of OCCRP journalists, Sevastopol residents took a series of photos showing the General loading scrap metal in Sevastopol's harbor at Inkerman Pier.

The photos demonstrate that, in defiance of international prohibitions, the General spent at least five days in the port of Sevastopol loading goods.

Who authorized the load of scrap metal—or the visit to Sevastopol—could not be determined. Reporters for OCCRP did establish that the General is owned by a Lebanese company, New Marine Co. There is no information on this company available in Lebanese open registries. Attempts to contact the company were unsuccessful.

European flags

On June 16, 2014, several months after Russia annexed the Crimea, Ukraine closed the peninsula to



international navigation. Subsequently the EU and US also banned entrance into Crimean ports and imposed corresponding sanctions.

Despite this, hundreds of vessels flying flags of various countries continue to visit the peninsula. Information on these vessels is being gathered by both governmental and non-governmental institutions.

According to data collected by the State Hydrographic Service of Ukraine, the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine, and the non-governmental organization Maidan of Foreign Affairs, as of June 2016, 602 vessels have entered Crimean ports. Most of them are registered in Russia or fly Russian flags or are Ukrainian registered ships seized and operated by Russia. However, Europeans are also doing business with Crimea despite the sanctions: over the past two years, 24 vessels bearing EU countries' flags, 43 vessels registered in the EU and 22 vessels owned by EU beneficiaries have entered Crimea.

The vessel MS Südkap, owned by the German company Krey Schiffahrts GmbH, was in the eastern Crimean port city of Kerch in late July of 2014. Reporters for OCCRP first sent a letter with questions to the German company; next, an OCCRP journalist called its office and talked to its chief executive officer, Daniel Grensemann.

The only thing he said was that his company had experienced

huge problems because its vessel had entered Crimea. However, he did not answer the letter.

Krey Schiffahrts inspector, captain Maxim Babenko, tried to explain over the phone, how the German company generally operated: "Our vessels are contracted by third parties that find cargoes and transport them. I mean, we do the transportation, but they find the cargoes.

"We have a list of exceptions, places where our vessels do not go for certain reasons. This is a separate list, and it is discussed with each contractor. Regarding Crimea... whether it is Ukrainian or Russian, we do not have a clearly-defined position on this, just as, it seems to me, the rest of the world doesn't."

The Embassy of Germany in Ukraine promised to alert relevant authorities in Germany regarding a possible prosecution. "[The] Government of Germany and its partners in the EU have more than once proved (their) determined condemnation of the illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation, and will not recognize it. This position remains unchanged," a written statement from the embassy said.

The reaction of other European embassies to the violations was muted, or, in some cases, non-existent.

For instance, the Embassy of Greece did not respond to questions about a large tanker, the Kriti, that arrived in Kerch in June 2014.

Although at that time Ukraine had not yet officially closed the Crimean commercial ports, the General Assembly of the United Nations had already published a resolution stating that countries including Greece supported Ukraine's territorial integrity.

The Kriti is part of the fleet believed to be owned by the wealthy Vardinoyannis family of Greece. Neither the Embassy of Greece in

Ukraine, nor the company owning the vessel, would say what it was doing in Crimea.

In October of 2015, another ship arrived in Crimea to pick up a cargo of scrap metal, also from Sevastopol. The vessel was named Ramzi and it flew the Togolese flag.

This ship is owned by a Romanian company, JSM Maritime Ltd., which in turn is owned by the family of Syrian businessman Johar Hasan.

From Crimea, the Ramzi headed to the Lebanese ports of Beirut, Tripoli, and Jieh.

The Embassy of Romania in Ukraine did not consider the Ramzi a Romanian responsibility, noting that Romania only controls ships that fly the Romanian flag.

Change of flags

A ship may be owned by a company from one country, and navigate under the flag of another; or, a ship found in violation of some law can easily switch its flag to a different country with different laws.

Ali Aliyev, former employee of Turkey's Palmali Group of Companies, says Palmali changes flags when its ships head to the Kerch Strait, which connects the Sea of Azov to the Black Sea, separating Crimea from Russia. "Back in the day, when passing the Kerch Strait, we used to raise the Ukrainian flag, and now we raise the flag of Russia," he said but denied the ships are visiting Crimean ports.

The Palmali Group is one of the best-known logistics companies in Turkey. Palmali's fleet has more than 100 vessels.

Among its largest clients are Russia's Lukoil and Azerbaijan's SOCAR. In late 2015, international media reported that Maltese authorities were looking into Palmali's involvement in oil trade with the Islamic State.

During the past two years, records show six Palmali vessels arrived in Crimea.

Palmali owner Mübariz Mansimov Gurbanoglu, a Turk of Azerbaijani descent, explained his company's success to Forbes Russia as follows: "We are [an] international company. In Turkey, we are considered as Turkish, in Russia – as Russian, in Azerbaijan – as Azerbaijani company. The strategy is to belong everywhere."

He did not respond to OCCRP's request for comment.

When OCCRP journalists visited the company's office in Istanbul, they were not allowed to film the office or environs and were told to contact the media department. The latter did not respond over the course of several months.

"Turkey does not recognize the annexation of Crimea. We will not compromise our principles for trade with a small piece of land. It was clear from the start," said Yönet Can Tezel, the Turkish Ambassador in Ukraine. "Turkish ships cannot leave the Turkish port saying that they are going to the Crimea. But maybe some of the ships with the flags of other countries are pretending to go Russia, but they actually go to the Crimea. This is ... not connected with the official position of Turkey."

Violators go unpunished

Currently, Ukrainian police are investigating four criminal cases involving illegal entry into occupied Crimea during the past two years. In the port of Kherson, there is an arrested Turkish vessel, the Kanton: in 2014, it arrived in Crimea, and in March 2015 it arrived in Kherson, where it was detained.

Ilya Ryzhkov, acting head of the administration of Kherson sea port complains that no court decision has been issued. "The captain and the crew have left the vessel," Ryzhkov said.

The prosecutor's office is investigating three other illegal entry cases. Four persons have been declared suspects and put on the wanted list.

According to the Criminal Code of Ukraine, only the captain and members of the crew of the violating vessel can be prosecuted. If convicted, they can face up to 5 years in prison, but there is no legal way to pursue the company operating the vessel, or its owner.

The Ministry of Infrastructure is building dossiers on the vessels that have visited Crimea since the ports were closed, passing this information to the prosecutor's office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Pavlo Klimkin says every violation is investigated. "Firstly, we make an official protest. Secondly, the violators lose access to Ukrainian ports; we approach others asking to influence the violators, and almost always we get an official response."

Klimkin said he was familiar with the ships and countries that OCCRP has investigated and noted that the number of violations has decreased lately. ■



Ilya Ryzhkov, acting head of the administration of Kherson sea port. (Kyrylo Lazarevych)

Kremlin's stooge? Medvedchuk says he's not

Medvedchuk from page 2

separatists who have not committed heinous crimes, something that has become a contentious political issue in Kyiv and is yet to be done.

"Without these political changes... the Minsk deal won't budge an inch," Medvedchuk said. Echoing Moscow's line, he said Kyiv must reach a consensus directly with the separatist leadership, "because there is no other way to bring these territories back."

"Well, there is one more way, but it is unrealistic," he continued. "The Ukrainian army must go on the offensive and seize these territories by force. But neither Washington nor Brussels will let Ukraine do that."

In contrast with Medvedchuk and the Kremlin, Kyiv and the West have stressed the need for Russia to fulfill its obligations under the Minsk deal, which requires the withdrawal of "all foreign armed formations, military equipment, as well as mercenaries" from Ukraine.

Swap deals

In addition to being an architect of the Minsk deal, Medvedchuk has become a key go-between for Kyiv and Moscow in arranging prisoner exchanges – most notably the swap of Savchenko, on May 25, for two Russians Kyiv says were military intelligence officers. In all, he claims to have helped the release of 402 persons since December 2014.

In this area, he is quick to tout his importance.

"I am the only person conducting negotiations with the administrations of the [Kremlin-controlled separatist republics] and with the administration of the Russian Federation," he said, grasping his chest with his hands and leaning over the table.

Three weeks after Savchenko

came home, Medvedchuk was able to get Russia to release and return Ukrainians Hennadiy Afanasyev and Yuriy Soloshenko, in exchange for two Ukrainian citizens charged with promoting separatism in Odesa.

Since then, though, the swaps have stalled, and each side still holds many dozens of people in custody. Among the Ukrainians held by Russia are Oleh Sentsov – a filmmaker who was detained in Crimea in May 2014 and sentenced to 20 years in prison in August 2015 on a terror plot conviction that supporters say is a travesty of justice – and Oleksandr Kolchenko, who was detained at the same time and sentenced to 10 years.

The U.S. State Department has called the charges against Sentsov and Kolchenko "groundless" and said they "were taken hostage on Ukrainian territory."

Medvedchuk said the men are in a different category than those detained on the Donbas battlefields. In Russia's view, he said, the cases of Sentsov, Kolchenko and some others are different because "they were convicted of an offense committed on the territory of Crimea, which de jure is perceived by Russia as its territory."

According to Medvedchuk, more than 600 people whose release is sought by the separatists are being held on Kyiv-controlled territory. He said that's about equal to the number of those held by the separatists and Russia combined.

From Kyiv to Washington, many have long viewed Medvedchuk as a Russian stooge, an accusation he vehemently denies.

When Russia seized control of Crimea, the United States imposed sanctions on Medvedchuk for "threatening the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine, and for undermining



Sergei Glazyev, an adviser to Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Viktor Medvedchuk (R), a friend of Putin's, hold a news conference in 2012 in Zaporizhya to support their "Ukrainian Choice" movement which urged Ukrainians to reject closer ties to the European Union in favor of a Moscow-led Customs Union. (UNIAN)

Ukraine's democratic institutions and processes."

A White House statement also said that Medvedchuk had "provided financial, material, or technological support" to Viktor Yanukovich, the president who was pushed from power and fled to Russia after setting Ukraine's upheaval in motion by scrapping plans for a far-reaching Association Agreement with the European Union and seeking closer ties with Russia.

That decision was in line with policies advocated by Medvedchuk, who had been criticizing the EU for years.

In 2012, his nonprofit political group Ukrainian Choice pushed for a referendum on Ukraine's accession to the Moscow-led Customs Union.

Ukrainian Choice also played a role in stirring up anti-EU sentiment ahead of the November 2013 summit in Vilnius during which Yanukovich had been set to sign the Association Agreement. In a nationwide campaign, it put up billboards showing same-sex stick-figure couples holding hands and the words: "Association with the EU means same-sex marriage."

Born in Siberia to a father who was deported there from western Ukraine after suffering political repression for participating in national movements, Medvedchuk was not always such a critic of the West.

East and West

While a deputy in Ukraine's parliament between 1997 and 2002, he often spoke well of Europe and especially Poland, where he enjoyed working relationships with government officials. Those who know him say they noticed a shift to pro-Russian views when he worked as Kuchma's chief of staff from 2002 to 2005. Since then, Medvedchuk has helped shape political and economic policies in a way that detractors say plays directly into Putin's hands.

They point to his involvement in drafting a contentious 2010 gas agreement signed by Putin, then prime minister, and his Ukrainian counterpart Yulia Tymoshenko, as an example of him brokering a deal that favored Moscow.

More recently, he has said that Ukraine must be "federalized" if it

is to be stable, meaning that that regional authorities including the separatists in the east should be granted more power.

"Medvedchuk is a political genius," said Berezovets. "But his efforts are directed at Putin's success, not Ukraine."

Medvedchuk vehemently denied such accusations.

'Real peace'

Right now, Medvedchuk said, he is using his influence to seek an end to the war in Donbas. It is coincidence, he says, that his position that Donbas is part of Ukraine is shared by Putin.

"[Putin says] that there should be peace in Donbas. He also recognized and continually said that the Donbas is the territory of Ukraine," Medvedchuk said. "Putin, however, also repeatedly said that he thinks about the safety of the Russian-speaking population in the Donbas...as outlined in the Minsk agreements."

Two days after interviewing

Medvedchuk, RFE/RL visited the front-line positions of a Ukrainian battalion in Maryinka, a town 28 kilometers from the center of the separatist stronghold of Donetsk. There was no cease-fire.

On July 27, tanks unleashed a barrage of shells on the battalion's positions from the separatist-held side about 100 meters away, setting off blasts that rocked the town and set one home ablaze. There was nobody inside; many have fled Maryinka since the start of the war.

It's a conflict that many of those fighting want to end. Asked about the Minsk deal and Medvedchuk's role as an arbiter between Kyiv, Moscow, and the separatists, battalion commander Vyacheslav Vlasenko echoed what has become a widespread sentiment in war-torn eastern Ukraine: "I don't care."

"It could be the devil or Adolf Hitler himself," Vlasenko told RFE/RL at the battalion's Maryinka headquarters. "If this person brings real peace, then I don't care who he is." ■



Viktor Medvedchuk speaks with the Kyiv Post on Jan. 28, 2014 in Kyiv. Medvedchuk faces sanctions by the United States for "threatening the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine, and undermining Ukraine's democratic institutions and processes." (Pavlo Podufalov)

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The Martial Arts Festival takes place on Sept. 18. Follow all the best events at www.kyivpost.com/lifestyle.



Donetsk art center finds ways to flourish in exile



Mykhaylo Hluboky, a project coordinator of Izolyatsiya, a Donetsk non-profit platform for contemporary culture, gives an interview to the Kyiv Post in the former laboratory of the Kyiv Shipbuilding and Ship Repair plant on Aug. 22. Around him hang the photos from an exhibition dedicated to Ukraine's Independence Day and called "The Birth of Ukraine" by Russian photographer and journalist Victoria Ivleva. (Anastasia Vlasova)

BY NATALIYA TRACH
TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM

In June 2014, amid Russia's military invasion of eastern Ukraine, a non-profit platform for contemporary culture was forced to leave Donetsk and relocate to Kyiv.

Since settling in Kyiv, Izolyatsiya (Isolation) has become one of the capital's major cultural institutions, but its employees still dream of returning to Donetsk when the war ends.

"We will return," says Mykhaylo Hluboky, Izolyatsiya's project coordinator, during a Kyiv Post interview from the group's new headquarters – a former laboratory of Kyiv Shipbuilding and Ship Repair plant.

Russian-backed separatists seized the former insulation factory in Donetsk where the art center was located since 2010 and destroyed most of Izolyatsiya's artworks. The separatists have since turned the former art center into their training area, a prison and a storage site for weapons.

Hluboky said Izolyatsiya's portfolio made it a target. It used to organize Ukrainian literature festivals in Donetsk and various cultural and educational projects that "did not fit the separatists' ideology," according to Hluboky.

"We were allowed to take only something flat – mainly paintings and photographs. Most of our collection of art was lost," says Hluboky.

A giant lipstick, an installation by Pascale Marthine Tayou dedicated to the women of Donbas, was blown up for fun, while other metal objects, including a metal deer figure, a symbol of industrial beauty, were likely scrapped, Hluboky said.

Izolyatsiya is owned and sponsored by Liubov Mykhaylova, a businesswoman and daughter of the last Soviet director of the Donetsk insulation factory that hosted the art center. While in Donetsk, Izolyatsiya accepted donations from local businesses – but never from Rinat Akhmetov, the richest Ukrainian who hails from the Donbas.

Now, it has to seek grants from the European Union and private donations. Hluboky says that the lack of

money doesn't allow Izolyatsiya to operate at full capacity.

All of Izolyatsiya's 15 employees are Donetsk natives, though some of them are blacklisted by Russia-backed separatists and have not been to Donetsk for two years now.

Two years in exile have been fruitful, nonetheless.

In 2015, Izolyatsiya launched Izone, a creative space where anyone can attend workshops in photo, silkscreen decoration or lithography. This year alone, Izolyatsiya has already held seven art exhibitions.

In September, Izolyatsiya will set up an interactive sculpture and

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Book Review



WITH NATALIYA TRACH
TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM

'The Road to Donetsk' wins UK readership

"The Road to Donetsk," a fiction account of Western aid to Ukraine in the 1990s, suddenly became popular in Great Britain, surprisingly even for its author, Diane Chandler.

Recently the novel won the 2016 People's Book Prize for Fiction – one of the most prestigious literary awards in the United Kingdom where the winner is selected through online voting. Chandler explains such popularity among the picky British readers with the novel's vivid description of life in Ukraine to those who knew nothing about the country.

The book abounds with neat descriptions of Ukrainian landscapes, cities, family lives, fashion and leisure of Ukrainians in the mid-1990s which gives a reader a feeling of place. The author has lived in Ukraine for several years and inserted many of her real experiences in her novel.

In the 1990s Chandler used to work at an international aid program in Kyiv and vividly describes the country's social and political situation as well as the people's moods at those times.

"The novel is based on a mix of research, memories and imagination," she says.

The book's protagonist, Vanessa Parker, young and a bit naive, comes to Ukraine in 1994 as head of a British aid program. Vanessa is full of enthusiasm and has many ideas of how to help people in a country that faced hard times after the collapse of the Soviet Union – lots of state-run enterprises stopped operating and people stopped getting salaries and pensions while the national currency was rapidly depreciating.

Still, lots of Vanessa's plans for Ukraine never came true for many reasons including sluggishness of Ukrainian officials as well as the inefficiency of foreign aid programs in Ukraine back then.

The novel offers a captivating look into the backstage of the foreign aid programs in Ukraine in the 1990s. Chandler describes the failures and the shortcomings of the overseas aid programs in detail – including the corruption of Ukrainian officials who wanted to get rich by milking foreign donors, incompetent Western experts, many of whom were more interested in the

more Book on page 13

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"The Road to Donetsk," a novel about western aid to Ukraine in the 1990s by British author Diane Chandler has been awarded the People's Book Prize for Fiction 2016, one of the most famous and prestigious literary competitions in the UK. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Book Review: How British readers were enchanted by novel set in 1990s Ukraine

Book from page 12

local strip clubs than giving actual advice and helping the country. Also many foreign aid programs were not always well coordinated and duplicated each other back then.

And yet not everything was so bad. Vanessa finds many devoted people, both Ukrainians and expats, whose hard work leads to real change for the better.

The main character reaches success with her aid programs in a village in Donetsk Oblast in eastern Ukraine when Vanessa urges a group of miners' wives to take micro-credits from her aid program fund to set up their personal small businesses. Step by step these ladies turn into success-

ful and confident businesswomen.

"I wanted to highlight some of the problems and also some of the positives," Chandler says.

A beautiful love story of Vanessa and American Dan Mitchell, introduced in the book as a deputy bureau chief of the U.S. Agency for International Development in Ukraine, eases the hard business and social topics raised in the novel and enriches the book with another catchy plot line. The novel holds the reader's curiosity until the last page.

"The Road to Donetsk" can be ordered on Amazon.com for \$15. Chandler is currently seeking a 2,000 euro donation to translate her book into Ukrainian and publish it in Ukraine. ■

Small town in Chernihiv Oblast offers history, architecture

BY NATALIYA TRACH
TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM

Sedniv, a cozy little town in Chernihiv Oblast on the picturesque banks of the Snov River, is rarely mentioned in the travel guides. And this is a bit unfair to Sedniv, as it is the place of dramatic history, stunning architecture and beautiful landscapes.

Founded in the early 11th century, the town saw its peak in 16th – early 20th centuries when it was the family nest of the Lyzohubs, a Cossack dynasty. The history of this family is closely interwoven with the history of Ukraine.

The Lyzohubs took part in many historical battles, they influenced Ukraine's political and economic landscape for centuries till the beginning of the 20th century when Fedir Lyzohub, the family's last representative, who was Ukraine's Prime Minister briefly in 1917, fled to Serbia after the Bolshevik Revolution.

The memory of this glorious Cossack family now lives in several Sedniv buildings that form the picturesque architectural ensemble in the center of the town. One of those buildings, the one-domed wooden St. George Church, dates back to the 16th century. It is built without a single nail in so-called Cossack baroque style. Apart from the unique architecture, the church is known as a filming location for "Viy" (1967), the first Soviet horror movie and an adaptation of a story by Mykola Gogol. The church is open daily from 9 a.m. till 6 p.m.

Near the St. George church there is a so-called Lyzohub's Kamyanytsya, a white-stone 17th century house. Kamyanytsya is believed to be the oldest stone building in Sedniv. Its architecture combines fortification features and traditional Ukrainian berth's design – the building has four rooms while its exterior looks like a two-tier tower with merlons and counterforts.

The Voskresenska (Resurrection)



A romantic pergola was built on the bank of the Snov River in early 19th century. The pergola was a part of the 22-hectar landscape park that surrounded the Lyzohub family's manor in Sedniv, Chernihiv Oblast. (Dvdobraia)

Church which is not far from the Kamyanytsya is also worth visiting. The ancient church has beautiful baroque architecture and for centuries was used as the Lyzohubs' burial vault.

Time did not spare the Lyzohub palace. Today it is a shabby and empty building. However, the aristocratic balls and receptions of the past years echo within its walls. The palace is surrounded by a landscape park. It was built during the 19th century as a one-storied building with the oriel window in the center. After the Soviets came to power in 1919 the manor was looted and the park was destroyed. Nowadays the Chernihiv Historical Museum allocates money for the building's restoration.

One can order a guided English language tour at www.sedniv.esy.es for Hr 200 for a group on weekends only. It's recommended to book a tour a week in advance.

Where to eat, sleep and entertain

A café at the Kinniy Dvir (Horse

Yard) holiday cottage offers traditional Ukrainian cuisine – varenyky (dumplings) with various stuffing, Ukrainian beetroot soup borsch, salo (pork lard) with garlic, and a duck stuffed with apples. A dinner without drinks costs Hr 100 per person on average.

The highlight of staying at the cottage is the eco-friendly accommodation – guests can sleep on the mattresses stuffed with fresh hay. The room costs Hr 200 per night.

One may also take a horseback-riding lesson here for Hr 150 per hour. For more information visit www.koni.in.ua.

How to get there

By car. Take the E95 road from Kyiv to Chernihiv. From Chernihiv take road P13 to Sedniv. The drive is around 170 kilometers and 2.5 hours.

By bus. Take a Kyiv – Chernihiv bus from near Demiyaniivska metro station in Kyiv for Hr 174-188. Then take an hourly bus from Chernihiv to Sedniv for Hr 15. ■

Izolyatsiya dreams of going home to Donetsk

Art from page 12

architecture installation by Irish artists Brendan Jamison and Mark Revels called "Sugar Democracy" that refers to the historic houses in Kyiv, many of which are built by the Tereshchenko family, the wealthy sugar magnates of the early 20th century.

Also in September, Izolyatsiya is bringing 10 curators from around the globe to meet local artists and art collectors and get to know about modern Ukrainian art.

The foundation's events often cause a stir.

One of Izolyatsiya's recent installations was "Inhabiting Shadows," a metal staircase installed over the plinth of the toppled Vladimir Lenin monument in the center of Kyiv. It

provoked a discussion about what should replace the demolished monument.

In 2015, Izolyatsiya made headlines internationally when it staged an art performance "On Vacation" at the Russian pavilion at the Venice Biennale to mock Vladimir Putin's statements denying Russian military invasion into Ukraine's Crimea in March 2014.

Back then, Putin described Russian camouflaged military personnel in Crimea as tourists vacationing in Crimea and masquerading as the military. The performance featured a group of people handing out the military uniforms to Biennale visitors encouraging them to take selfies in camouflage and post them on social media with the #onvacation hashtag.

Hluboky says that the modern Ukrainian artistry is gaining more international attention.

"I'd say that because of the war people started to pay more attention to what has changed in Ukraine," Hluboky says. "It is very important for us to demonstrate to the West how Ukrainian artists see the events in their country."

The platform keeps close ties with the Donbas by organizing various art exhibitions and projects in the Kyiv-controlled cities of Sloviansk, Kramatorsk and Mariupol in Donetsk Oblast.

"We organize cultural events there because culture should be a bridge between the modern Ukraine and the Ukraine that we plan to rebuild in the east," Hluboky says, after the war. ■



French conceptual artist Daniel Buren works in Donetsk on his on-site installation for Izolyatsiya's project "Where is the Time?" on Aug. 6, 2012. (Ruslan Semichev/Izolyatsiya)



(Volodymyr Petrov)

Sept. 3-4

Designer market

Kyiv fashion designers will gather at the M17 Modern Art Center to sell clothes and accessories. The visitors on Fashion Air Days can also make use of services of professional stylists while shopping.

Fashion Air Days. Sept. 10. 11 a.m. M17 Modern Art Center (102-104 Antonovycha St.). Hr 80

Sept. 18



(Nick P)

Martial Arts Festival

The masters of martial arts Capoeira, Taekwondo and Kyokushin Kaikan Karate will demonstrate their skills at a gathering in Feofaniya Nature Park.

Martial Arts Festival. Sept. 18. 2 p.m. Feofaniya Nature Park (37 Academic Lebedev St.). Hr 50

Smooth Outbreak (jazz)

Ukrainian jazz band Smooth Outbreak will present its new show. Apart from original songs, the show will include the works of world famous jazz musicians such as Brian Culbertson, Dave Koz, Marcus Johnson into their song list.

Smooth Outbreak. Sept 5. 8 p.m. Caribbean Club Concert Hall (4 Symona Petlury St.). Hr 80-300



(pixabay.com)

Sept. 5

Sept. 10



(Charity Weekend)

Charity Weekend

Ukrainian TV presenter Masha Efrosinina together with the team of professional fitness and dance instructors will hold an outdoor workout session to raise Hr 1 million needed to buy ultrasound equipment for the children's reanimation department at the Mykola Amosov Healthcare Institute in Kyiv.

Charity Weekend. Sept. 3-4. 2 p.m. Sky Family Park (2 Vatutina Ave.). Hr 100-200

Sept. 5



(UNIAN)

Ukraine vs. Iceland (fan zone)

Ukraine's national soccer team will play its first game in the selection for the 2018 World Championship with Iceland in Kyiv on Sept. 5. No fans will be allowed into the stadium due to a FIFA sanction caused by the demonstration of the Nazi symbols by the Ukrainian soccer fans in a 2013 game with San Marino. But the fans are given an alternative – a fan zone near the stadium, where they can watch the game and enjoy the show by the Ukrainian hip-hop band TNMK.

Ukraine vs. Iceland (fan zone). Sept. 5. 7 p.m. Olympiyskiy Stadium (Troitska Square). Hr 40

Sept. 2-14



(Cajrttesy)

'Captain Fantastic' (in English)

"Captain Fantastic" is a family drama about a dad who taught his kids everything except how to deal with modern society. The film, starring Viggo Mortensen, won the "Best Directing" award at the Cannes International Film Festival in 2016.

"Captain Fantastic." Sept. 2-14. 4:50 p.m and 9 p.m. Zhovten (26 Kostyantynivska St.). Hr 40-80



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The EU funded Project: "Harmonisation of Public Procurement System in Ukraine with EU Standards" has operated in Ukraine since 2013 and is being led by Crown Agents Ltd. The Project provides support for the reform of public procurement regulation and operations in Ukraine in line with EU standards. At this stage, the Project wishes to recruit:

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The Project is seeking an enthusiastic Junior Expert to assist the Project Team in a range of operational areas related to the core business of the Project in advancing reforms in the field of public procurement in line with EU standards.

The successful candidate will work within the Project Team to ensure the timely delivery of operational results, the implementation of Project activities and specific assignments, including research.

Candidates are required to have a higher education diploma in law, economics or another discipline related to the work fields of the Project, a minimum of three years professional experience, full proficiency in English and Ukrainian languages, a good knowledge of EU/Ukrainian relations and at least a basic knowledge of the Ukrainian public procurement system. Preference will be given to candidates who can demonstrate a substantial knowledge of one or more of these fields.

(B) PROJECT MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT (Ref: PMA 1)

The Project Management Assistant will work closely with the Project Manager in key areas including organisation, planning, finance, personnel and logistics.

Candidates should be proven self-starters with a relevant higher education qualification, relevant previous experience, preferably as part of an international team or organisation and full fluency in English and Ukrainian/ or Russian.

Application details

To apply please send a CV in EU format (downloadable from <http://eupublicprocurement.org.ua/vacancy.html?lang=en>) with details of three professional references (or details of references from each employer if less than three) along with a letter of interest (and quoting the relevant job reference as above) to anna.styuart@ua.crownagents.com by 9 September 2016. Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)

is a non-profit organization working to strengthen democracy worldwide. NDI-Ukraine is currently seeking a Regional Program Coordinator for its Women's Political Participation Program, who will be based in Dnipro.

Interested applicants should submit CVs and motivation letters in English by email to the following email address: ukraine@ndi.org.

Deadline:

The deadline for the submission of the required documents is by close of business on

September 14, 2016.

Only selected candidates will be invited for written and oral tests and an interview

on September 21-22.

Full text of the advertisement can be viewed here.

MINI RESUME

Business assistance

Assistant to a foreign businessman or a company, setting up business in Ukraine, providing marketing research, information, translation (English-Russian) of documents, negotiations, web-sites. Knowledge of German. Promotion of a company and its products at exhibitions. Excellent communication skills, business and result-oriented, meeting deadlines.

Natalia
+38-098-293-38-33
Natalia.ukraine@gmail.com

MULTIPLE POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Global Communities is seeking qualified and experienced personnel for the five-year USAID-funded Decentralization Offering Better Results and Efficiency (DOBRE) project. This project will strengthen local governments in newly consolidated communities to effectively manage resources and services that respond to community priorities and improve citizen engagement and oversight in local governance.

Open positions are available:
www.kyivpost.com/payment/vacancy/486/
Full job descriptions can be found at www.globalcommunities.org/careers



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Brian Bonner, chief editor, bonner@kyivpost.com



National open tender for procurement of medical equipment, household equipment and medical consumables

Tender Reference N: KOS/PR/16/16052-1/022

Première Urgence Internationale intends to award a purchase contract for:

- Procurement of medical equipment, household equipment and medical consumables.

With financial assistance from European Commission Humanitarian Office – DG ECHO

The tender documentation can be received from PUI Office, 34, apt. 2 Gorkogo/Antonovicha st, 1st floor, Kiev, Ukraine,

+ 380 50 337 40 23
+ 380 63 314 71 81

log.officer@premiere-urgence.com.ua

The tender documentation can be received from 29th August 2016 until 23rd September 2016, during workdays from 09:00 to 17:00 at PUI office. The offers must be submitted on before 23rd September 2016 17:00.

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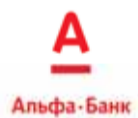
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