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vol. 21, issue 38 **INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST.** www.kyivpost.com **September 16, 2016**

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Freed Captives Of Secret Prisons



Viktor Ashykhmin, who says he spent nearly 600 days in a Security Service of Ukraine secret detention centers in Kramatorsk and Kharkiv, speaks by phone from his home in Ukrainsk, a Donetsk Oblast city of 11,000 people located 640 kilometers southeast of Kyiv on Sept. 9. (Anastasia Vlasova)

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO
GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

UKRAINSK, Ukraine – When Nelia Shchogoleva was traveling to Kostiantynivka in Donetsk Oblast late on July 25, she was so agitated

that the driver of her taxi wondered if she needed sedatives. Shchogoleva, 53, was being driven to meet her husband Viktor Ashykhmin, 59, released after spending, he says, almost 600 days in secrecy captivity of the SBU, Ukraine's state security service.

Ashykhmin, who is openly pro-Russian, was arrested on Dec. 7, 2014, under charges of separatism at his home in Ukrainsk, a city of 11,000 people located 640 kilometers southeast of Kyiv and 40 kilometers from the separatist stronghold of Donetsk.

In the almost 20 months he spent in SBU detention centers, initially in Kramatorsk and then in Kharkiv, Ashykhmin never went to court or saw a lawyer, he says. Instead, he

more **Prisons** on page **9**

Trust ebbs in Lutsenko as general prosecutor

BY OLEG SUKHOV
SUKHOV@KYIVPOST.COM

Trust is waning in Yuriy Lutsenko's performance as prosecutor general because he has failed to fire prosecutors accused of corruption or bring any major corruption cases to trial since taking over in May.

All the while, Lutsenko continues to display political subservience to President Petro Poroshenko, who appointed him, and the president's controversial allies. Even Lutsenko's focus – creation of a new Inspectorate General to investigate prosecutorial corruption vice – is being panned.

Critics say that the new Inspectorate General will not have any significant powers. They dismiss it as a public relations stunt. The authorities have emasculated the current Inspectorate General by expelling reformers and blocking criminal cases, critics argue.

more **Lutsenko** on page **8**

Kyiv Post hits 100,000-follower mark on Twitter

BY KYIV POST

The Kyiv Post passed the 100,000-follower mark on Twitter on Sept. 11, with social media users from all around the world opting to see the newspaper's content on their timelines.

Despite Ukraine having faded from international attention since the September 2014 Minsk peace agreements were signed, the Kyiv Post has steadily increased follower numbers, and is now gaining them

more **Twitter** on page **6**

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CURRENCY WATCH
Hr 26.1 to \$1
Sept. 15 market rate



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Засновник ТОВ "Паблік-Медіа"

Головний редактор Брайан Боннер

Відповідальний за випуск

Люк Шеньє

Адреса видавця та засновника

співпадають: Україна, м. Київ, 01004,

вул. Пушкінська, 31А, 6-й поверх.

Реєстраційне свідоцтво

Кв № 15261-3833ПР від 19.06.09.

Передплатний індекс ДП Преса 40528

Надруковано ТОВ «Новий друк»,

02660, Київ, вулиця Магнітогорська, 1,

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Замовлення № 13-8040

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Poroshenko basks in positive TV coverage

BY BERMET TALANT
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President Petro Poroshenko rules Ukraine's television airwaves, a new study suggests.

But opinion is divided on whether the survey indicates top-down control of the media by the government, or self-censorship by a media fearful of damaging the image of the country's leader in a time of war in Ukraine.

According to the study by Eugenia Kuznetsova, a researcher with the University of Deusto in Spain, 98 percent of references about the president on Sunday news airtime in Ukraine are either positive or neutral.

Media too soft?

Kuznetsova analyzed references to the president on prime time news programs on the four most-viewed Ukrainian TV channels: 1+1, Ukraina, ICTV and Inter. The sample included all weekly news bulletins in the period from Poroshenko's inauguration in June 2014 until July 2016.

In her analysis, Kuznetsova accuses the media of being too soft on the head of state.

"Why is the president given a ceremonial role in the Ukrainian news?" Kuznetsova wrote in a report for news website VoxUkraine published on Sept. 7. "The president has entrusted, met, signed, visited, arrived, stated' – all this is reported as if the president were not an independent political figure who deserves to be judged on his policies."

Bad study?

But Oksana Romaniuk, the director of the Institute of Mass Information, a Kyiv-based media watchdog, is skeptical about Kuznetsova's



Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko is seen through the viewfinder of a TV camera during his annual press conference in Kyiv on Jan. 14 (Volodymyr Petrov)

analysis of her research, and its methodology.

"We think the study was very subjective, since the perception of the president's activities depends on the region and the political views of every individual," Romaniuk said. "Some of his decisions would be perceived differently in eastern or western Ukraine. Also I believe most TV channels generally cover the president's official meetings and visits just because this is the nature of his position. In order to speak about self-censorship on TV, one has to analyze content and journalistic work, not just the coverage of ceremonial events."

Television channels remain an influential element in Ukrainian politics because 83 percent of the population relies on TV as their primary source of information, according to a survey conducted by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology in 2014.

Favoring official sources

In June, the Academy of the Ukrainian Press conducted a content analysis of prime-time news bulletins on seven channels, including the four covered by Kuznetsova's research. The results indicated an imbalance of coverage in favor of official sources and the ruling authorities. Again, the academy found that over the last two years most attention in TV news was devoted to Poroshenko, with 10 percent of news airtime devoted to the president's activities – more than any other government official.

With Ukraine having had a history of television news being biased in favor of certain politicians or oligarchs, and the interests of business and government still being tightly intertwined, some fear that journal-

ists are again being pressured to produce coverage that is favorable to both channel owners and their political masters.

Challenging place

And over the past two years, Ukraine has been a challenging place to work for journalists. Although a 2016 report by U.S. democracy think tank Freedom House noted that, compared to 2014, the situation with media freedom in Ukraine has improved, journalists continue to face obstacles to reporting freely, particularly in the context of the current tensions with Russia. A recent incident - an arson attack on the Inter TV channel's news studio - highlights the pressures facing many journalists over coverage of Russia, with Inter being viewed by some in the public as overtly pro-Russian. And according to the Institute of Mass Information, in the first six months of 2016 the General Prosecutor's Office registered 113 criminal offences committed against journalists.

No criticism

Natalia Ligacheva, the head of the Kyiv-based media watchdog Detector Media, confirmed that the tendency to "either speak well, or say nothing" when it comes to reporting on the president's activities has long been a characteristic of central Ukrainian TV channels.

"The president has always been the only official figure who receives the least criticism on TV," Ligacheva told the Kyiv Post. "But I don't think this is the result of direct pressure from the president and his administration on the news editors."

Rather, Ligacheva said, the reason for self-censorship might be a

decision by news editors not to worsen the situation through negative reporting at a time of war. "It's important to mention that as Ukraine is going through difficult times, there must be at least one government institution that retains the public's trust," said Ligacheva. "Perhaps, TV news editors feel responsibility for this."

Still unpopular

The positive coverage hasn't boosted the president's poll numbers. According to a survey conducted in late August by the Social Monitoring Center and a sociology institute of Ukraine's National Academy of Sciences, only 12.5 percent of voters would vote for Poroshenko at the next presidential elections. Poroshenko won in the first round of the presidential election in Ukraine on May 25, 2014 with 54.7 percent of the vote.

However, Poroshenko is still the most popular possible candidate for the next head of state. Batkivshyna Party leader Yulia Tymoshenko is second, with 9.9 percent. ■

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A SWEET BUSINESS

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Volodymyr Avramenko: We overcame the difficulties and saved what we value most – our professionals, brand and business reputation



In his first interview in four years, the owner of confectionery company AVK Volodymyr Avramenko talks about his business, now 25 years old, and about the challenges of today's adverse market conditions.

Despite all the problems, AVK is growing and developing along with its age mate – Ukraine. In recent years, the national confectioneries producer has upgraded its manufacturing lines, increased its volumes of export, and created new product segments. The one thing that hasn't changed is the company's commitment to quality.

— In your last interview four years ago, you said that AVK was your first business, and at that time you considered it as the most successful. Since then, the situation in the country has changed dramatically. How has this affected the company?

— You're talking about three to four years ago – and then I felt warm inside, as though it was literally a breath of childhood. But that was another time, another country, another life. Since then, so many things have happened that my head is just spinning. First of all – a tragedy has occurred in the country. And as for AVK back then – it really was my first child (laughs). We put our soul into it. We had formed a team, attracted U.S. investors, we'd made great strides. Now the company is employing its third generation of staff, and this year we're 25 years old. That happens once in a lifetime! We had been making great preparations for this event, but now it's sad to see that things have not exactly turned out as we wanted.

In 2014, we lost the Russian market, and we had 6 percent of the chocolate products market in Russia. We have lost two thirds of our production facilities, in Donetsk and Luhansk. But despite all these catastrophic problems, we have survived. And now, year by year, we will recover our positions. Not in Russia, where we are now at zero, but in other countries (to which we export), of which there are already more than a hundred.

— What were the results of the company for the year 2015?

— Over the past two years (2014 – 2015 – Ed.) AVK produced 140,000 tons of confectionaries worth more than Hr 5.8 billion (\$232 million).

— How big is your share of Ukrainian confectionery market now?

— The Ukrainian market collapsed because of the economic decline, the drop in demand, and (the public's) low purchasing capacity. But my mother told me that even during the Great Patriotic War there was sweet candy available that was able to keep people's spirits up. So today we're offering people good quality but affordable

sweets. Obviously, we're trying to use more local raw materials, natural Ukrainian ingredients. Our share of confectionary market is about 7%. But we have always specialized mostly in chocolate manufacturing. In caramel and pastry we're at practically zero. But if we take the most important segment, chocolate, we've got about 20% of the market.

— You have already mentioned that you lost two factories in the ATO area. What happened to them now? Have these assets been retained, or has the equipment been taken from there, and only empty buildings left?

— You're asking complicated questions. You know that I myself came from Donetsk. I still own my parents' apartment in Donetsk. I do not know if it is empty or if there's someone living there, and what in general is going on there, or whether the building is even still standing. I haven't been there for two-and-a-half years, and I get to know what is happening there only from the press or from television.

We invested lots of soul and money in our production capacity. Some very expensive European equipment was installed there. And since September 2014, we were cut out of the Russian market (The Russian Federation imposed an embargo on the supply of Ukrainian sweets – Ed.). Apparently, our Russian competitors couldn't find any other way to compete with us, and they completely closed the border. And that was 70 percent of our income – an enormous figure. Then the ATO started, and since January 2015 an official ban on trading with the uncontrolled territories has been in force. We fired all of the employees who worked at AVK PJSC. And knowing that we cannot maintain financial and economic activities on those territories, we registered a new small company in Kyiv. In November it will be two years since our new Ukrainian company, AVK Confectionary LLC, was set up.

— What do you estimate to be the losses from the shutdown of the factories in the Donbas?

— In terms of money? You know, for me that's not the most important loss.

— And what is most important?

— The most important things that you can lose are the people, the brand, and your business reputation. We have retained all that. As for the money... Over 23 years we only paid out dividends once: everything was being reinvested into the best production lines. But if you count it in money, we've lost around \$150 – 200 million there. In addition, we lost working capital in form of finished products that remained in stock. I think everyone on the internet has seen mountains, piles of our products, just poured out onto the snow from trucks. And then everyone asks: what happens now?

— And in Russia? You had a powerful logistics operation there.

— In Russia we lost distribution centers, where the stock of finished products was worth about \$20 million. You could imagine the volumes, given at that time we had a 6 percent market share in Russia.

— In the State Register of court decisions there is a dispute regarding the assets in Dnipro, between your new legal entity and the one that was liquidated earlier. In addition, there are a lot of creditors' claims, in particular from Russian Sberbank and Prominvestbank.

— AVK PJSC was a leading business in those glorious years before the war. When the Russian and Donbas markets closed, naturally, this legal entity could not meet its financial obligations. Although I want to emphasize that for 23 years before the war, AVK PJSC, speaking the banker's language, had crystal-clear credit history. And then everything collapsed. During this time we didn't go into hiding, we tried to reach out to our creditors, assuring them that we are responsible for the debts of AVK PJSC. Although we have a new legal entity, we're not in hiding. Here I am, and here's my reputation, that's 25 years of quality history. Right now we're engaged in disputes with the banks, but we

have found some common ground and understanding with Sberbank of Russia. We agreed to play long and wait for everyone to set some perspective. There is a big question – whether the production facilities are alive and the collateral assets intact. God knows if it is alive or not. The main thing is that it is not cut up for scrap.

— What about Prominvest, which it was said intended to take over your business on account of its debts?

— It was difficult to communicate with Prominvestbank, because we couldn't get through to the previous management. Thank God there are proper, professional people there today, Ukrainian managers. We struck a chord with them. We said, "here is a new legal entity, here is a business plan, we can take this many obligations and repay this much." We've established a good, working relationship. I am sure that in the next few weeks we will close the books on the obligations and will continue to grow and develop together.

— There are reports that the Donetsk factory is still operating now, it is called Lakond and it manufactures products under the AVK brand. What do you know about it?

— I know as much as you, from the media. There were even some openly malicious, fraudulent articles claiming I have something to do with it. I want to say again that I have not been there for two-and-a-half years. We made a formal appeal to the authorities and issued a press release that stressed that we are not responsible for the actions of those people. It's same situation is with my parents' home: I have no idea who is there. Maybe people are being poisoned with these sweets, maybe something else. Even if someone found there our packaging, our certificates, our recipes, we've openly stated – it's not us. We are AVK Confectionary, which operates on non-occupied territory. At the same time, we've put orders into not only the Dnipro factory, but also into another three Ukrainian factories, as well as abroad – for example in the Czech Republic. Besides, we've nothing to do with what's going on in the uncontrolled territories, no contacts and no engagements. Period.

— At the moment, are you the sole owner of AVK Confectionary? You had a partner, Valeriy Kravets. Tell us how he left the business?

— The fact is that in recent years he, as financial experts say, was a "sleeping partner" and he was residing on that territory. I have been living in Kyiv for 20 years now, my children went to first grade at school No. 25, and now they are over 30 (laughs). I have not talked to this shareholder for more than two years, I don't see him and have no idea what he's up to now.

— So he went out of business?

— We had three shareholders: apart from us there was the Western NIS Enterprise Fund, headed by Natalia Jaresko, who named us the best investment – we raised \$9 million, and returned \$45 million. In 2013 they left with that return. After that, we were left with the partner you mentioned. But he was not engaged in active business. And then the ATO started and we completely broke off communications. However, in 2014 a law was passed that prohibits changes in the register of enterprises registered in the ATO area for the duration of the anti-terrorist operation. Therefore, legally Mr. Kravets and I remain shareholders of AVK PJSC, and we cannot take any kind of legal action regarding the company at the moment. At the same time, I now own a private company, AVK Confectionary, through which I revived the AVK brand.

— Another unpleasant memory for AVK from that time is the court litigation with Russian producers regarding trademark rights.

— The Russians are another story. You know, I cannot bear to talk about it, because we put a lot of soul and energy into the Russian market, from Kaliningrad to Sakhalin. We used to compete fairly, and I had a good relationship with the top managers and shareholders of the chocolate companies in Russia. We used to find common ground. Yes, we had trademark disputes. A major Russian producer claimed all that is said to be the Soviet legacy. There were several brands that belonged to our

Ukrainian enterprises, but were produced in Russia too. They tried to seize them by court action. And then there was the ATO. But from 2015 the legal disputes stopped, and they've not being considered to date.

— Have the Russians tried to persuade you to sell your confectionary business to enter the Ukrainian market? As we know, one of the Russian factories several times offered to buy the assets of Roshen – so far, however, only in Russia. And the company's management has repeatedly claimed there have been attempts to seize the business in Russia.

— Over 23 years of work (before the war – Ed.) it happened a few times, and at a very high level – they reached out to our President through the Russian State Duma.

— To the ex-president?

— Yes, and the one before him. This happened more than once. But my decision was, as you can see, firm.

— What is AVK's value today?

— You know, I could only tell you how much AVK was worth in 2013.



— So how much?

— We had offers from American Hershey, Turkish Ulker, there were offers from European companies, such as Nestle ... But why do you want to know?

— Why didn't you sell?

— I will explain. Firstly, we had three shareholders, who pursued their own goals. The American venture capital fund entered and went out. The strategists had other interests, and I had still others – to develop the company further. But the important thing is that everybody was fine with everything and the company was growing. The main thing was to find a reason to sell. We did not manage to find one, although the price was good. And I'm proud of the fact that we parted well with our American partners. And even if I had known there would be war, I would still have paid up. So, as for the company's value today, I know as much as you do. I don't know how much it's worth now, but I'm sure that the knowledge, people, staff – are the most important. Money comes afterwards. Now there are no buyers at all.

— If there was a buyer, would you agree to sell the company?

— If it were sold into good hands and for good money, certainly. But there are no good hands and good money today.

— What's the amount of investment into AVK for the current year?

— AVK has the task of increasing its capacity and evolving. But the resources are insufficient: 70 percent of our production capacity is lost. And while we previously relied on foreign equipment suppliers, we are now actively ordering from our domestic engineering firms – in Kharkiv and Dnipro. Four Ukrainian production lines are already working at our site. In total, the amount of investment over the year will not exceed \$50 million. We can't afford any more.

Author: Maria Brovinskaya

Original Source: LIGABusinessInform

Editorials

A 16-year stonewall

Perhaps no case better represents how far Ukraine has yet to come as a democracy than the unsolved murder of journalist Georgiy Gongadze on Sept. 16, 2000. The anniversary will take place at the same time as the Yalta European Strategy conference in Kyiv.

The 13th annual YES event is sponsored by billionaire Victor Pinchuk, the father-in-law of ex-President Leonid Kuchma. In a society with rule of law, Kuchma would have stood trial long ago for conspiring to order the murder of Gongadze, along with his top subordinates, including ex-Interior Minister Yuriy Kravchenko, who committed "suicide" with two gunshot wounds to the head on the day in 2005 when he was scheduled to testify in the case. Kuchma has always denied the charges, but evidence of his involvement has always been strong.

Only through sustained pressure and the persistence of many people, including Gongadze's widow, Voice of America journalist Myroslava Gongadze, and her attorney, Valentyna Telychenko, have convictions been obtained. Serving prison sentences are Gen. Oleksiy Pukach and three police officers. The four men carried out the gruesome crime of kidnapping, beating, beheading and burying Gongadze, the founder of Ukrainska Pravda news website.

The farce of an investigation that followed is not ancient news – it reveals that there is still no rule of law today under President Petro Poroshenko, who has obstructed justice and meaningful law enforcement changes while keeping a facade of "reform." His approval rating of 11 percent shows he's not fooling many people. So does the scorecard of no criminal convictions for murder and major corruption.

The nation keeps making halting progress, nonetheless. Much of that is due to Western conditions and Ukrainian civil society, not Poroshenko.

Ukraine raised the price of natural gas, reducing the schemes that made oligarchs such as fugitive Dmytro Firtash wealthy and powerful. But Ukraine has failed to follow the lead of the United States, which accuses Firtash of bribery, in prosecuting him – despite evidence of crimes. The reason? Firtash still has clout. He summoned Poroshenko and Vitali Klitschko to Vienna, where he backed one for president and the other for Kyiv mayor in 2014. Although denied, a "Vienna Agreement" appears to remain in force in which Firtash keeps all his industrial and media assets while facing no criminal investigations in Ukraine, despite owing the National Bank of Ukraine \$500 million and costing Ukrainian taxpayers \$150 million for his failed Nadra Bank.

Today we pause to remember Gongadze, even as more in the nation forget him. Kuchma, who ran the nation from 1994 to 2004 like a mafia boss, will strut in undeserved freedom at his son-in-law's conference, trying to perpetuate the fiction that he is a "statesman" rather than an unindicted criminal who almost drove the nation to ruin. We will remember those who continue to obstruct justice, starting with the man at the top of a political pyramid where corruption remains rife.

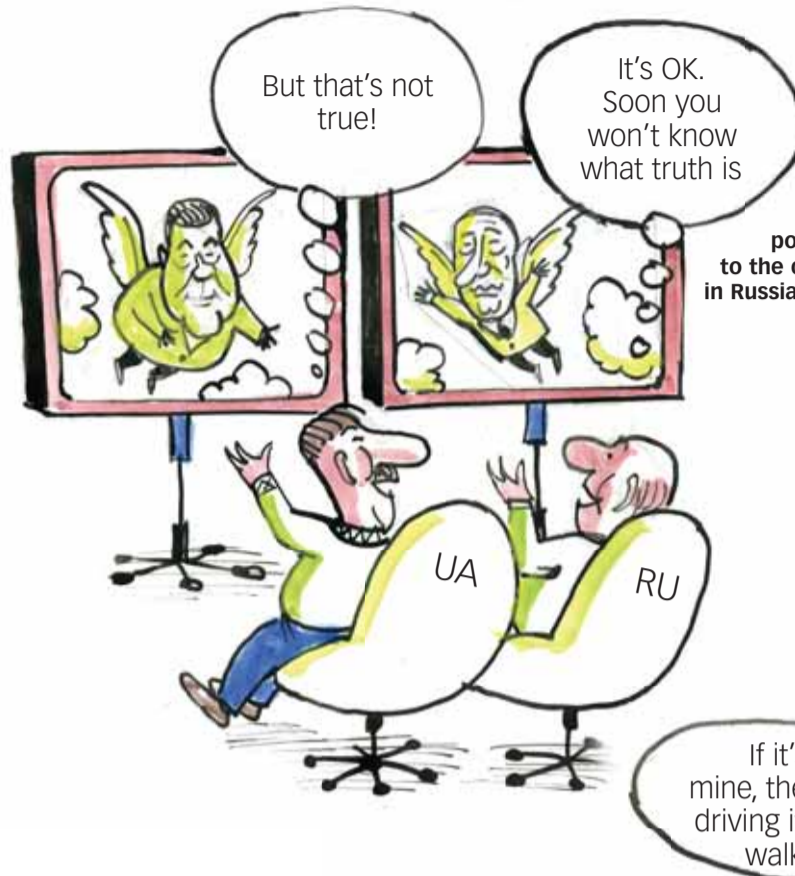
Wrong priorities

Sergii Leshchenko, a reformist lawmaker from President Petro Poroshenko's Bloc, has been criticized for buying a \$281,000 apartment in downtown Kyiv. He should be held accountable for his property and income like any other politician. The purchase of the apartment raises many questions, including the transparency and legality of the incomes of Leshchenko and his girlfriend. Yet we should not miss the bigger picture.

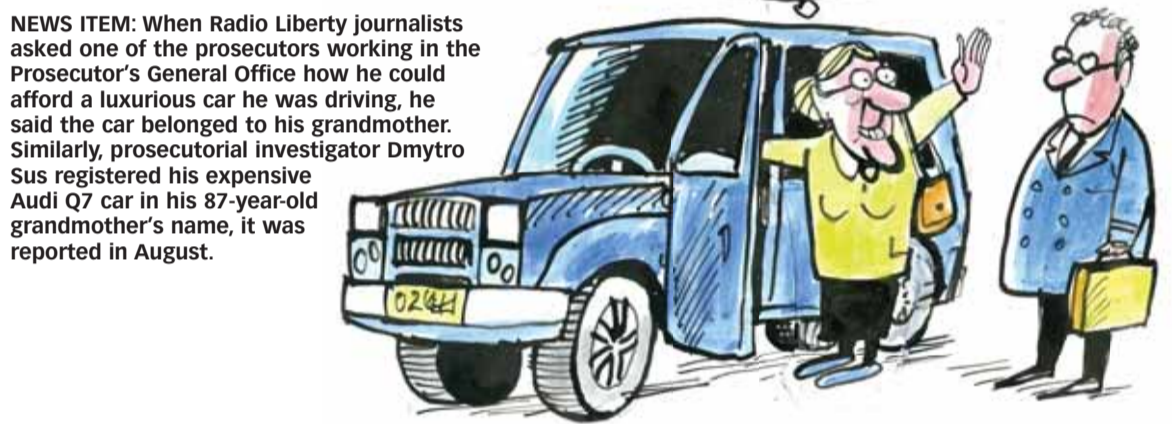
The unprecedented social media attack on Leshchenko was not due to his alleged legal violations but to his achievements. He has come under fire from media and bloggers protecting the interests of President Petro Poroshenko and the People's Front party because Leshchenko has ruthlessly attacked corruption.

Instead of focusing their attention on investigating high-profile murders, and multibillion-dollar theft by both ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's associates and incumbent top officials, the authorities are channeling their energy into smearing and punishing their critics. Apart from Leshchenko, reformist lawmaker Svitlana Zalishchuk, investigative journalist Dmytro Gnap, the Yevropeiska Pravda newspaper and comedian Volodymyr Zelensky have all become targets of well-coordinated witch hunts.

The accusations against Leshchenko should be investigated, but they are far from being a top priority. We call the authorities' bluff: they should quit smearing their opponents and clean up their own act.



NEWS ITEM: According to a recent study by Eugenia Kuznetsova, a researcher with the University of Deusto in Spain, 98 percent of the references to President Petro Poroshenko on Ukrainian Sunday news airtime are either positive or neutral. Some compared it to the coverage of President Vladimir Putin in Russia.



NEWS ITEM: When Radio Liberty journalists asked one of the prosecutors working in the Prosecutor's General Office how he could afford a luxurious car he was driving, he said the car belonged to his grandmother. Similarly, prosecutorial investigator Dmytro Sus registered his expensive Audi Q7 car in his 87-year-old grandmother's name, it was reported in August.



NEWS ITEM: Ukraine's Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman, who started his career as the director of a city market in Vinnytsya, lost his temper during a parliament meeting on Sept. 9, where the Cabinet was answering a lawmaker's questions. After Deputy Prime Minister Hennadiy Zubko said the question that Groysman forwarded him wasn't his responsibility, Groysman, thinking that he wasn't heard by parliament, threatened Zubko, saying he would "kick you the f*ck out of here if you say something like that again."



NEWS ITEM: Ukrainian comedian company Kvarstal 95 brought public outrage when they jokingly compared Ukraine to an adult film star, "ready to take foreign aid of all sizes, from any direction" at their show abroad in Latvia, performed in July but televised in Ukraine on Sept. 10.

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Reformer of the week

Andriy Slyusar

Andriy Slyusar, a law enforcement expert at the Reanimation Package of Reforms and former prosecutor, wrote on Sept. 14 that Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko had failed to deliver on his promise to fire Yuriy Sevruk, a controversial loyalist and deputy of discredited ex-Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin. Instead, he was sent to the Prosecutorial Academy on an assignment and may resume his duties as a deputy of Lutsenko.

Lutsenko has also kept two other controversial Shokin deputies accused of sabotage, Yuriy Stolyarchuk and Roman Hovda, in top prosecutorial positions, Slyusar wrote.

Moreover, Lutsenko has hired several former police officials who served under him when he was interior minister. These officials, including Konstyantyn Morgun, Volodymyr Bedrykivsky, Ihor Tsyuprik and Pavlo Kononenko, have a controversial reputation and have been accused of corruption, according to Slyusar.

Lutsenko has also been lambasted for keeping controversial allies of President Petro Poroshenko's grey cardinals Ihor Kononenko and Oleksandr Hranovsky, and for failing to dismiss prosecutors subject to the lustration law on firing officials who served ex-President Viktor Yanukovich. Lutsenko has denied that he is sabotaging reform.

— Oleg Sukhov



Anti-reformer of the week

Arsen Avakov

The Prosecutor General's Office said on Sept. 14 it had closed a criminal case against Interior Minister Arsen Avakov, saying that the accusations against him were "fiction."

The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, which is investigating the case, said on the same day that prosecutors had no right to close it. Avakov is accused of illegally acquiring 18 hectares of land in Kharkiv Oblast.

The authorities are trying to emasculate the bureau by passing a bill that would deprive the chief anti-corruption prosecutor of powers to identify which cases the bureau can take and let the prosecutor general alone decide on that, Vitaly Shabunin, head of the Anti-Corruption Action Center's management board, said on Sept. 14.

Avakov has also been investigated by the anti-graft bureau for alleged involvement in supplies of backpacks to the Interior Ministry. Moreover, he has been accused of tax evasion in natural gas production and involvement in an undeclared transfer of \$40 million abroad.

Critics also argue that Avakov is killing police reform by depriving civil society of influence over the police vetting process and protecting corrupt and unprofessional officers.

Avakov denies all the accusations.

— Oleg Sukhov



VOX populi

WITH MARIA ROMANENKO



Did you find Kvartal 95's jokes in Latvia to be offensive?

Editor's Note: At a comedy show in Latvia on Sept. 10, Ukrainian comedy company Kvartal 95 jokingly compared Ukraine to an actress in pornography films for soliciting Western aid, provoking the outrage of fellow Ukrainians.



Zinaida Kravchenko, retiree

"These are the topics that we can discuss between ourselves in our country, but

to take it out to the international public is wrong. We know things are not perfect at the moment but this is why we dream and aspire for change."



Serhiy Martynenko, IT entrepreneur

"Of course, we live in a free country and (Volodymyr Zelensky) did not break any laws. But how should

we react to comments like this? In my opinion the best way would be to boycott Kvartal 95 shows."



Alina Maksymova, college student

"I think it is inappropriate to compare the country you were born in and live in to a porn actress.

It is disrespectful to both Ukraine and its citizens. This whole case may be forgotten over the next couple of months, since Kvartal 95 has always been very popular."



Vira Hambarska, college student

"As the saying goes, there's a grain of truth in every joke."



Borys Balanenko, psychology student

"Absolutely yes and I was surprised in a bad way to hear this joke

by Kvartal 95. The audience of this festival is international and includes many Russians."



Artem Kuras, university lecturer

"I've never liked Zelensky, and I find his sense of humor cheap and provincial. He's a showman, not

a serious comedian, and unfortunately there are currently no great living comedians in Ukraine, such as the 20th century's Pavlo Glazovyi and Ostap Vynshnia."

Time to ease the pain of relatives of the missing



ALAIN AESCHLIMANN

Maria has never seen her father. He disappeared when her mother Olena was pregnant. For this reason, the pregnancy was complicated, and it's a miracle that Maria is alive. When she was born she weighed 1.4 kilograms. Now Maria is a healthy and smart two-and-half-year-old girl, but she still does not know where her father is and whether he is alive or not.

For Olena and Maria, and for thousands more people, including around 500 families who have registered the disappearance of their loved ones with the International Committee of the Red Cross, there is an urgent need to act. They have a right to know what happened to their loved ones.

According to the cases registered with the ICRC, 46 percent of those missing have no military status, but no one knows exactly how many people have disappeared as a result of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. The total number is also not known because there is no exchange of information between those involved in the conflict. No system of centralized information exists yet. We at the Red Cross think that at least 1,000 families still do not know the whereabouts of one of their relatives.

The families themselves feel abandoned, because they receive neither financial nor information support. According to our data, more than two thirds of the missing people's relatives think their loved ones are still alive.

This could be true, as not a lot of time has passed since their loved ones disappeared. Unlike the situation in many other countries in which the ICRC is active, it is possible in Ukraine to start working and searching for missing people while the crisis and fighting are not yet over. In comparison, in Bosnia Herzegovina, this process could only begin after the signing of the Dayton peace agreement. As a result, 21 years after the end of the conflict, there are about 6,000 people still unaccounted for. That is why it is so important to start the search for the missing, and the identification of mortal remains as soon as possible.

Some of the missing persons might have been detained. The ICRC is always ready to offer its services to visit persons deprived of liberty in relation



Olena (L) hasn't seen her husband for over a year. He disappeared when she was pregnant with Maria, becoming one of the hundreds of people who went missing in the Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014. (Brendan Hoffman/Red Cross)

to a conflict, especially whenever humanitarian needs arise.

The suffering and anxiety of the families of the missing persons are not restricted by contact lines or boundaries. Bereaved families have the same pain in Lviv, Odesa, Kyiv, Mariupol, Sloviansk, Horlivka, Luhansk and Donetsk. They have all been waiting for many months and years, searching endlessly for their loved ones, and they often face isolation, insomnia, depression and economic hardship.

Dealing with the issue of missing persons is very complex and requires a comprehensive and integrated response, as several ministries and agencies are involved. The creation of a National Commission on the Missing is an urgent necessity in order to concretely clarify the fate of the missing, and to provide support to their families. The objective would be to coordinate more efficiently the efforts of all entities and ministries involved in the missing file.

Such a commission could also play a key role in

reinforcing the trust between the families of the missing and the authorities, and would involve families in the entire process by giving them explanations about the official procedures that are being followed (in particular with regard to the search for the person and the recovery and identification of mortal remains).

Finally, a multilateral mechanism platform with all those involved in the conflict to exchange information on the missing, establish a common consolidated list of missing persons and agree on common procedures would be the most efficient way to obtain a significant decrease of the number of the missing on all sides of the conflict. We are ready to facilitate this dialogue as a neutral intermediary.

Action cannot wait. Every child in the world should know their fathers. Maria has a right to know what happened to her dad!

Alain Aeschlimann is the head of the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Ukraine. ■

IT / Hi-Tech Education

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Multimillionaire building IT school of the future

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV
KRASNIKOV@KYIVPOST.COM

Multimillionaire Vasyl Khmelnytsky, 50, couldn't even wait for the construction workers to finish the new IT school that he's building in the northwest part of Kyiv.

Reflecting the fast pace of the IT industry, Khmelnytsky went ahead and opened the first classroom in the semi-constructed building in August.

Today, 300 applicants are sitting in the large classroom, taking tests to get into the school, with construction work still going on in the building around them.

In two months, the finished school will open as the Unit Factory, an IT school of the future, where there will be no teachers, no books and no admission fees.

Second attempt

Khmelnytsky – a developer, the owner of Kyiv Zhuliany Airport and an ex-lawmaker – wasn't lucky with his previous IT-related project.

In 2013, he wanted to build Ukraine's first Silicon Valley-type IT park. The project's total investment was expected to reach \$1 billion, but as constructors started to drive in the first piles, some activist groups took the millionaire to court, accusing him of misappropriating the public land for the IT park.

Khmelnytsky eventually won the case at the beginning of 2016, but

the project was dead anyway – it was aimed at foreign companies, some of whom had already lost interest in Ukrainian market after the political crisis of 2014, according to the millionaire.

So Khmelnytsky switched his focus to IT education.

School of the future

He calls his new project, Unit Factory, an IT school of the future. Courses last from one to three years. The school's free training program is based on gamification, and includes computer game features such as quests, riddles, scores and leveling up.

"The world is changing very fast, like an iPhone," Khmelnytsky says. "We have to adapt."

Khmelnytsky promises to invest over Hr 100 million (\$4 million) in the school. He thinks that the school will attract the attention of IT companies, which he reckons in about five years will want to rent offices in his premises just to be closer to skilled programmers.

"It isn't a business where we're just pouring money down the drain," he said. The students, he believes, will be an investment in the future.

The problem is, many of the best IT students Ukraine produces are tempted abroad by higher wages and better conditions. In the last three years, around 9,000 IT professionals have left Ukraine. Most of them went



Ukrainian millionaire Vasyl Khmelnytsky poses for a picture in the first classroom of Unit Factory, an IT school he is building outside Kyiv, on Sept. 14. (Volodymyr Petrov)

to Poland, Germany and the United States.

Khmelnytsky believes that his initiative can encourage more of these talented Ukrainians to stay: students who get a free education at the Unit Factory have to agree to work in Ukraine for at least three years after graduation.

"I hope I will create conditions that won't differ from those in Silicon Valley," Khmelnytsky says. "There will be no sense (in moving) – you'll be able to find a decent job with a decent salary here."

Political past

Another reason for Khmelnytsky to spend his millions on such schools,

he says, is to meet society's demand for education in a way the traditional universities can't. He thinks the Ukrainian educational system is flawed because teachers are extremely badly paid.

"Why should a young energetic fellow go and work for Hr 3,000? If it was \$1,000, there would be a motivation," he says.

But Khmelnytsky, a seasoned politician, thinks government is unable to fix the educational system's flaws, and because of that he won't go back into politics.

To get into parliament, Khmelnytsky allied with various political forces, including those of both Yulia Tymoshenko and her

political foe, ex-President Viktor Yanukovich. He says people still become lawmakers just to achieve their business goals.

"I was in politics, but only indirectly," he claims. "I wasn't a real bandit."

Instead, Khmelnytsky says he needs to gain more experience of the educational sphere in order to implement effective educational reforms outside of politics.

"And in order to have more experience in this sphere, I need to build my own school," he adds.

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Kyiv Post makes massive leap on Twitter

Twitter from page 1

at a rate of between 2,000 to 4,000 a month.

Chief Editor Brian Bonner said he was proud that the newspaper, which has a weekly print run of 9,500 copies, had built up such a large audience on the internet.

"We have more than 100,000 Twitter followers for our news coverage, which is more than many larger news organizations in larger cities, and more than many newspapers in the West with much larger circulations than we have."

On Twitter, the Kyiv Post has overtaken the much larger Moscow Times, another leading regional English-language newspaper, with the Russian newspaper having 98,000 followers as of Sept 15.

"The credit goes to many people – our readers around the world, first and foremost," Bonner said. "There have also been many events, from revolution to war, that prompted people to follow us. On the staff, the greatest rate of growth occurred when Christopher Miller, now at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, was on our staff at the height of the revolution and the start of Russia's war in 2014. Since then, our social media managers Euan MacDonald and Iryna Savchuk have promoted the staff coverage that has prompted such a large following."

Before the EuroMaidan Revolution in the winter of 2013-2014, the Kyiv Post had a much more modest following on Twitter – 4,908 followers on Oct. 11, 2013.

Followers numbers exploded as

Ukraine descended into political crisis, with massive street protests against the government, and bloody clashes between protesters and riot police. By Sept. 17, 2014, after the annexation of Crimea and the start of the Russian-instigated conflict in the Donbas, follower numbers had risen to 52,500. A year later, in September 2015, as fighting in the east of Ukraine eased down, the number had risen to 64,800.

Bonner reckons the large growth in the Kyiv Post's Twitter follower numbers since then may be down to greater use of the social medium, although growth in Twitter user numbers flattened out in the first quarter of 2015, at 302 million monthly active users. As of the second quarter of 2016 some 313 million people were daily users of Twitter. ■

Lviv IT school offers free online courses to meet growing demand for specialists

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV
KRASNIKOV@KYIVPOST.COM

The information technology era has created huge demand for computer science specialists worldwide – from programmers and hardware engineers to testers and software architects.

Ukraine is no exception, and responding to this demand, dozens of private schools have been set up around the country to train workers for the hi-tech industry.

Lviv IT School, or LITS, is one of them.

LITS teaches more than 1,000 students per year via its educational centers in five Ukrainian cities. But that's just offline. Now, through its online educational platform, Prometheus, the school reaches hundreds of thousands of people.

Lviv IT Cluster CEO Stepan Veselovskyi told the Kyiv Post that LITS' free internet courses are the feature that distinguishes this school from others. Two published courses by LITS, Web UI Basics and Testing Basics, have attracted about 60,000 online students, and 6,000 of them have already completed their studies and earned certificates.

Prometheus CEO Ivan Prymachenko says the launching of online courses by a school or university is a sign that the institu-

Students of the Lviv IT School, LITS, hang out in the school's lounge zone on May 17. In addition to their IT classes, the school offers several free online courses in Ukrainian. (LITS)



tion is positive about the quality of the courses it offers. "Before buying something, people (often) want to see a trial version," Prymachenko told the Kyiv Post. "So if an IT (school) creates a free online course, it means they're sure about its quality."

Conversely, if a company or university does not go online, that indi-

cates that it's either in the dark about innovations in online teaching, or that it knows its content is low-quality, and its teaching is poor, Prymachenko said.

According to a survey by online tech journal DOU, private schools now educate one-fourth of the total number of tech students in Ukraine

– about 25,000 people graduate from private educational institutions every year. The number was many times lower when LITS was founded in 2012.

And in contrast to the many private schools that opened after it, LITS was not primarily intended to be a high-profit educational compa-

ny. Rather, the school was set up by specialists who were looking for ways to improve their own skills through exchanging experience.

The school's founder, Dmitry Kosarev, told the Kyiv Post that the starting goal was simply to provide Lviv's IT industry with more testers: There weren't enough program testers in Lviv, so the community decided to train some. The idea was to train up people and help them enter the IT industry as quickly as possible, with the focus being only on practical skills.

And the idea worked for LITS.

"Within a year-and-a-half of LITS operating, we oversaturated the market with testers," he said. "After that, we decided to move forward to other areas."

To retain teachers for longer, LITS started charging for its courses.

"At first, people (teach others) purely out of enthusiasm, but it's an exhausting activity," Kosarev said. "That's why we created a model that helps people to work comfortably."

All of the people that now teach at LITS are from the tech sphere, and the school now employs about 150 of them. All are part-time teachers, combining their regular full-time job with teaching two or three evening classes at LITS.

more **School** on page 8

ADVERTISEMENT

EDUCATION EVANGELISTS



Mykhaylo Antonovych,
Head of Sigma Software University

Good roads are the backbone of economic growth. Similarly, high-quality education is the key to changing people's mindset.

Sigma Software come through the points of no return in independent Ukraine's history, such as the Orange Revolution, the Euromaidan Revolution, and various economic and political shifts. At this point in time, we at Sigma have found ourselves at a position in which demand for change and development from young people in Ukraine has become overwhelming.

Our exposure to modern knowledge and technologies, along with strong belief in knowledge sharing and the sustainable professional growth of our personnel as part of our corporate DNA has made it our responsibility to help make a difference for the next generation of Ukrainians.

The rapid advancement of information technologies is starting to affect all spheres of our everyday life. But IT specialists will only be in demand when they are up to speed with the constantly changing IT environment. Thus, they have to keep pace with technological development by constantly learning. IT education in Ukraine often cannot keep up with the fast evolution of technology, so IT graduates soon discover that the skills they obtained at university are insufficient to meet the requirements of the job market.

For years, Sigma Software has contributed to the development of IT education, bringing educational programs in line with the needs of business, building bridges between businesses and universities. We have achieved significant progress; today we cooperate with 12 higher educational establishments and a number of schools, run joint projects and courses, organize and support events and competitions for students, and much more. To unify all these activities, we have created the Sigma Software University, a platform where we run numerous activities for different age groups, ranging from kids of 7-8 years old, to those who already have years of experience in IT.

Corporate universities are not uncommon. Dozens of commercial schools, academies, and courses exist in Ukraine, offering students opportunities to master the basics of almost every IT profession. The Sigma Software University it is not an educational establishment in the traditional sense. It's not just about running courses either; it is something more: It is a significant part of our corporate social responsibility, aimed at creating a better, more sustainable future.

The main thing that distinguishes us from the majority of IT schools is our goal. When we conceived the university, our main intention was not to earn money. Our focus was to ensure the ongoing training of young specialists in those fields that are in the highest demand by businesses. Therefore, our educational programs fully meet the requirements of the market. Suffice it to say that many Sigma Software University graduates become members of our own team, and our company has very high requirements for IT professionals.

It would take hours for me to describe every activity within the Sigma Software University. Therefore, I will focus on the two most interesting projects that were launched this year.

This summer the company established a scholarship award for applicants of the Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv). It includes full coverage of tuition fees for the internal form of training for four years for a talented and motivated young student. Furthermore, program winner receives the opportunity to participate in Sigma Software University classes, training sessions, and workshops from the company's leading experts for free. The winner was selected in close

cooperation with UCU representatives and had to be constant participant in regional and pan-Ukrainian competitions in mathematics and computer science, have the highest scores according to external testing, and also possess such soft skills as the desire for continuous learning and development, commitment, and dedication.

Ukraine is known for its talented people, though there are a lot of truly gifted boys and girls who cannot afford to study at a good university. It is quite challenging to help everyone, of course, and it is a task for the whole of society. But a start has been made, and this is wonderful.

Another endeavor we are proud of is the opening of a new Sigma training laboratory in the famous Lviv Polytechnic University. This educational establishment is listed among the top 15 Ukrainian universities that train IT professionals. The university has a long history, since it was founded 200 years ago. Despite this respectable age, it still remains one of the most advanced universities in the country in terms of training future IT experts. For the new academic year, the company has prepared a special gift for its students. We have equipped a classroom with all of the necessary appliances. The lab is located in an old construction that was built back in times when Lviv was a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. On the one hand, this gives the institution a special flavor, combining centuries of history and the latest cutting-edge technologies. On the other hand, it influences the whole project greatly: we had to think about every aspect of turning these old premises into a cozy and comfortable place to learn. In addition to repair work, the training laboratory was supplied with air conditioning, all of the necessary furniture, eleven laptops, a projector and screen, and a whiteboard. This is the sixth class launched by Sigma Software. Over the past few years such training labs have been opened in Kharkiv and Odesa universities. We are proud that our company is among those that influence the develop-

Sigma Software provides cutting-edge technology solutions within IT. We provide superior quality IT services, keeping the focus on helping our customers to reach their business goals.

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ment of education in Ukraine. We keep on moving and exploring new opportunities. What is most important – we're definitely seeing positive results.

We believe that one day educational centers like the Sigma Software University will become the locomotive of IT education development in the country, as they are more flexible than traditional universities, are able to respond faster to changes on the market, and can adapt more easily to the current requirements for IT specialists. Surely, these corporate centers cannot replace traditional higher education, but may enhance and improve it in order to help Ukrainians become a technology nation!

To make this happen all of us – businesses, universities, research institutes – have to join efforts. Together we can bring IT education in the country to a new level, and through this contribute to the successful development of the very promising IT sector.



Critics: Prosecutorial service unreformable

Lutsenko from page 1

"The Prosecutor General's Office should be cleansed starting from the top. But they're not doing that. Instead, Lutsenko is saying that there are no demons or angels at the prosecution service," Vitaly Kasko, an ex-deputy prosecutor general who now works at Transparency International, told the Kyiv Post.

The view that the prosecution service is unreformable and needs to be replaced with a completely new institution has been gaining ground for years. However, some are still trying to salvage the current institution.

Bohdan Vitvitsky, an ex-U.S. prosecutor, is the latest one. Vitvitsky's task is create a new Inspectorate General. He dismissed criticism of the prosecution service, saying reform was a challenge, but possible. "If I didn't believe things could be changed, I wouldn't be here," he told the Kyiv Post.

Inspectorate General

In August, a competition began for jobs at a new Inspectorate General to replace the current discredited one.

"It's something similar to the U.S. system of inspectors general," Vitvitsky said. "The Inspectorate General will be expected to monitor and root out corruption within the Prosecutor General's Office."

Lutsenko has created a commission to select the inspectorate. Three members – Angela Strizhevskaya, Maxim Kutergan and Valentyna Telychenko – are seen as representing the interests of the Prosecutor General's Office. Another member from the Security Service of Ukraine may also be appointed.

Two members – Yaroslav Yurchyshyn, head of Transparency International Ukraine and Yuri Belousov from the Human Rights non-governmental group – represent civil society, and one – Vitvitsky – is a foreigner.

Kasko argued that it would be easy for a majority loyal to the Prosecutor General's Office to push



Ex-U.S. prosecutor Bohdan Vitvitsky. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

for their candidates. "Most members are under control," he told the Kyiv Post. "They will appoint whoever they are told to appoint."

Kasko said the inspectorate will not be able to investigate major corruption cases because it is an exclusive function of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, while smaller graft cases and non-corruption cases will soon be transferred to the yet-to-be-launched State Investigation Bureau. The only meaningful function that the Inspectorate General may have is internal security, including checks on prosecutors' declarations, he said.

Botched attempt

The current Inspectorate General was created last year by then-Deputy Prosecutor General Davit Sakvarelidze, who was charged with reforming the prosecution service. Last July his team arrested top prosecutors Oleksandr Korniyets and Volodymyr Shapakin, reportedly protégés of then Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin, in a bribery case.

However, Sakvarelidze told the Kyiv Post his efforts had been blocked by Shokin, who Poroshenko fired under pressure in March, and by his protégé Maxim Melnychenko, who now heads the Inspectorate General. "Shokin was doing his best



Ex-Deputy Prosecutor General Davit Sakvarelidze. (Volodymyr Petrov)

to strangle it," Sakvarelidze said.

Shokin fired Sakvarelidze in March. Kasko and ex-Security Service of Ukraine Deputy Head Viktor Trepak, who also participated in the arrest of Korniyets and Shapakin, have also been forced out.

"There's no political will to make this service work," Sakvarelidze said.

Other aspects

Another move that Lutsenko has touted as reform is his appointment in May of Petro Shkutyak to head a unit checking prosecutors' asset declarations for signs of corruption.

The Prosecutor General's Office told the Kyiv Post that the unit had found untrustworthy information in 94 prosecutors' declarations. The office failed to explain, however, whether anyone had been fired or prosecuted.

"It still remains a PR stunt," Yurchyshyn told the Kyiv Post. Moreover, Shkutyak has no right to hold state jobs under the lustration law on firing top officials who served under ex-President Viktor Yanukovich.

Additionally, a competition was held last year for top local prosecutors' jobs but it failed miserably, with almost all of the jobs going to incumbents due to obstruction by Shokin, Sakvarelidze said.



Ex-Deputy Prosecutor General Vitaly Kasko. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Grey cardinals

One litmus test for Lutsenko's willingness to reform came in August, when employees of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine said they had been tortured by a prosecutorial unit headed by Volodymyr Hutsulyak and Dmytro Sus. The unit has been accused of fabricating political cases on behalf of Poroshenko's grey cardinals, Ihor Kononenko and Oleksandr Hranovsky. The prosecutors denied the accusations, saying that they were beaten by bureau agents.

Lutsenko has resisted demands to fire Sus and Hutsulyak, prompting accusations that he is dependent on Hranovsky and Kononenko.

'Limited role'

Even Vitvitsky, hailed as the latest reformer, has only a limited role of "trying to be helpful," he said. "I'm not trying to be a commentator. I realize you want me to say more. That's not my role here."

Vitvitsky said that "skepticism is good, healthy," but not "cynicism."

Yurchyshyn said the fundamental question with Lutsenko is "whether he will be independent when making those decisions or whether he will further listen to certain Poroshenko allies like Hranovsky and Kononenko, in which case we can forget about reform." ■

Top training needed since knowledge devalues fast in IT sector

School from page 7

"Those who have achieved something in the IT industry want to share their knowledge," Kosarev said. "And that's good, because knowledge devalues very quickly in the fast-moving IT industry. It's impossible to just employ classical theoreticians, because they will become isolated from the real profession."

According to the company's CEO, Anna Kosareva, most students do not drop out, because the competition to gain a place on a course is tough: potential students have to undergo an interview, and their selection is based on two main criteria – their motivation and their English skills. Course teachers also decide whether they will employ this person in their own company afterward.

LITS is now generating enough money not just to break even, but to invest in expansion. Kosareva thinks the company may even transform into a college in the future.

"That's a distant dream. But our teachers' programs are already used in various universities."

A course in LITS lasts from two to three months and costs from Hr 9,000 to Hr 10,500 (\$360 to \$420). Due to the strict selection process, most students finish their courses.

Ukraine's private educational centers are also opening up opportunities for young students of IT. According to DOU, Ukraine's biggest schools, such as Step IT Academy, the IT Education Academy, and CyberBionic Systematics train up to 10,000 people every year, and almost all of them have special courses for children.

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Former captives of secret SBU prisons seek justice

Prisons from page 1

says he was first tortured and then several times almost exchanged for Ukrainian soldiers.

It was only after the United Nations, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch issued reports about the SBU's secret detention centers this summer that Ashykhmin, along with about a dozen other captives, was finally released. He said he knows of five other people who remain in SBU detention.

SBU chief Vasyl Grytsak denied on Sept. 1 that the SBU had any secret prisons, adding, however: "I don't exclude that I might not be aware of something."

SBU spokesman Yuriy Tandit ignored Kyiv Post inquiries on the matter.

Police search

Ashykhmin said the SBU officers released him on a road near Kostiantynivka, gave him \$4 to get home, and said: "tell your relatives you spent all this time earning money abroad."

Now Ashykhmin and 10 other former captives are preparing a lawsuit against the Ukrainian authorities, while military prosecutors have started investigating the issue.

"If he was guilty, then why didn't they put him in jail, where he could see a lawyer or where I could visit him," said Shchogoleva.

During the 20 months of her husband's captivity, she wrote letters to law enforcement and international human rights groups.

Police said that they searched for Ashykhmin, placed his photos on a missing person's list and once invited Ashykhmin's wife to identify a dead body, saying it could be her husband. The SBU claimed they had no information about his whereabouts, but Shchogoleva knew he was in Kharkiv after exchanged captives told her by phone from Donetsk that he was there.

'Exchange material'

At the end of 2014, hundreds of Ukrainian soldiers were being held in separatist prisons in Russian-controlled areas, and the country's authorities badly needed some captive separatists to carry out prisoner swaps.

Ashykhmin, who was among the main organizers of the separatist referendum on May 11, 2014, in Ukraink, seemed to fit the bill.

Ashykhmin said when eight armed and masked men detained him, they found anti-government messages on his social network pages on his computer and cell phone.

Then they handcuffed him, put a black plastic bag on his head, and took him to the SBU office in Kramatorsk, where he claims they tortured him for the next three days.

"They had the metal-and-plastic tubes filled with the lead shot... They beat me with this on the heels, sometimes they missed the heels, and hit me on the legs," Ashykhmin said.

After the beatings, they made him write a confession and filmed it.

In the Kramatorsk prison, Ashykhmin saw Mykola Vakaruk, 34, another man from Ukraink, with whom he had sometimes discussed pro-Russian topics. There were also several local women in what Vakaruk called the "discussion club," two of whom they also later saw in detention.

The masked men, who said they were from "military intelligence," detained Vakaruk on Dec. 9, 2014, saying they suspected him of being a spotter for separatist artillery.

Vakaruk said he openly spoke against the government, but has never been involved in any anti-government conspiracy and didn't even vote in the separatist referendum.

On Dec. 23, 2014, soon after his arrival at the SBU's detention center in Kharkiv, Ashykhmin said he was brought before a detective, who said, after looking in his file: "I don't



Mykola Vakaruk (R) talks to a neighbor next to his apartment building in Ukraink of Donetsk Oblast on Sept. 11. He was detained in December 2014 after Ukrainian authorities suspected him of helping the Russia-backed separatists. He spent 19 months in detention and was released on July 25. (Anastasia Vlasova)

want even read this nonsense. Any lawyer would easily destroy this case. So we will use you in a (prisoner) exchange."

"We were exchange material," said Vakaruk.

'You don't exist'

On Dec. 26, 2014, Ashykhmin was brought to a minivan along with other prisoners, prepared to be exchanged for the Ukrainian soldiers kept in the separatist prisons. But 10 minutes later he was returned to his cell. "It's so depressing when people come and go and you just stay there. I was afraid I'd never see my wife again," he said.

The second Minsk peace deal, signed Feb. 12, 2015, linked prisoner exchanges with political chang-

es to establish peace. But failure to implement the new agreement drastically slowed the exchange process.

In the rare cases that there were exchanges, the separatist officials required the Ukrainian authorities to swap soldiers for separatist fighters. Neither Ashykhmin nor Vakaruk met this requirement. The former miners were of no interest to anyone.

"The SBU didn't know what to do with us for the whole of 2015," Vakaruk said. Once in October 2015, the SBU even allowed the prisoners to make short phone calls home to ask their relatives to pressure the separatist authorities to put them on exchange lists, he added.

Surprise inspection

Ukrainian ombudswoman Valeria Lutkovska told the Kyiv Post she had received the first reports that the SBU were secretly keeping captives and torturing them in 2015, but she couldn't collect any proof. She added that in 2016 she made a surprise inspection the SBU's detention center in Kharkiv, but she was persuaded that it was used as a dormitory for SBU special forces officers.

Ashykhmin said that in April the SBU officials drove the captives around the city for several hours, and on their return the prisoners saw that their cells were unusually clean, and their beds had fresh linen.

Another inspection took place in May. The captives were taken to a shooting range for hours, they say. "One of the officers told us -- guys, you don't exist here," Vakaruk said.

International scandal

Meanwhile, alarming reports about secret detentions were reaching international human rights organizations. In late May, a special delegation of

the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture tried to check the SBU detention centers, but were refused access in Kharkiv and Kramatorsk. The delegation then suspended its work in Ukraine.

Then on July 21 Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch issued a joint report, accusing both sides of the war of torturing their captives and keeping them in secret detention. The report claimed that the "unlawful, unacknowledged detention centers" existed on SBU premises in Kharkiv, Kramatorsk, Izyum and Mariupol.

"The allegations of secret detention by Ukraine are compelling and serious, and they merit thorough investigation," said Denis Krivosheev, deputy director for Europe and Central Asia at Amnesty International.

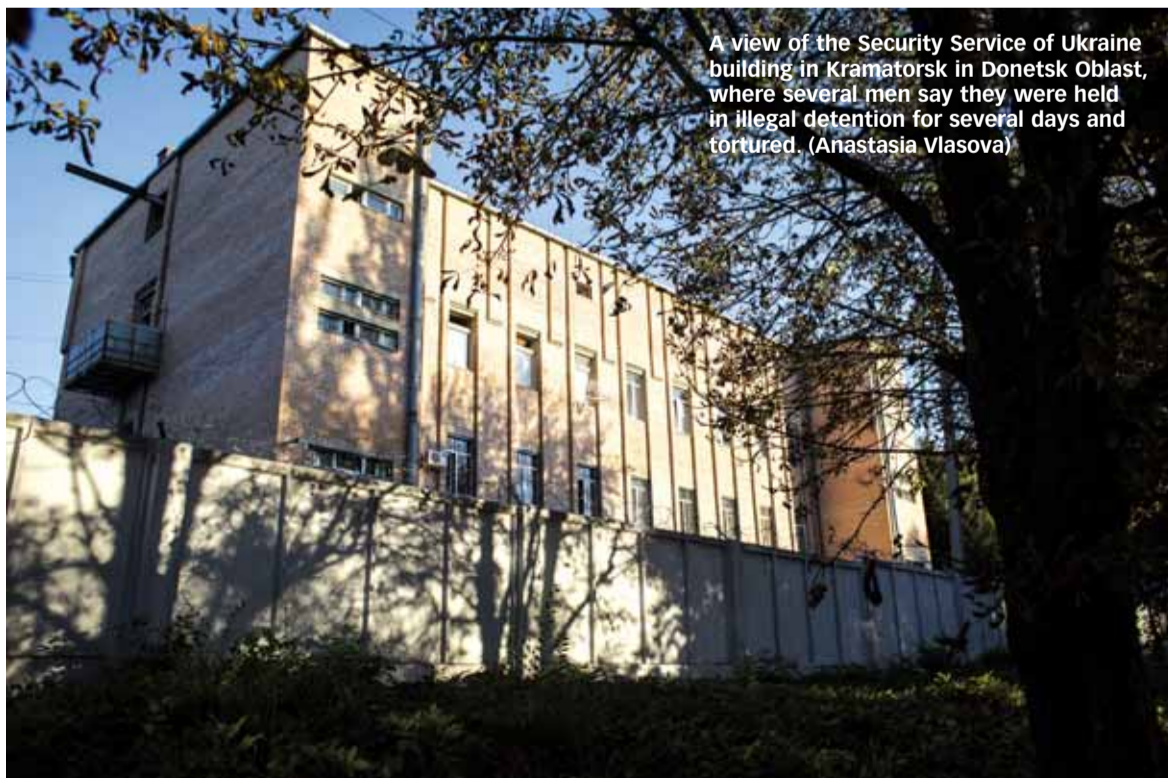
Ashykhmin and Vakaruk believe it was the international scandal that made the SBU authorities finally decide to let them go on July 25, just in four days after the report was published.

A second group was released on July 26. But as of Aug. 29, there were five prisoners still kept at a secret SBU compound in Kharkiv, Amnesty International says.

On arriving home, Vakaruk, said he had to introduce himself to his 3-year-old son, who didn't remember him. He spent the first two weeks constantly talking to his wife, friends and relatives.

Ashykhmin is trying to limit his contacts with openly pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian acquaintances. But he is also determined to bring his case to the Ukrainian courts or the European Court of Human Rights.

"We're also citizens of Ukraine. How can they kill us, just because we think differently?" he says. ■



A view of the Security Service of Ukraine building in Kramatorsk in Donetsk Oblast, where several men say they were held in illegal detention for several days and tortured. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Piskun: 'Kuchma's children' still run politics in Ukraine

BY ISOBEL KOSHIW
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Svyatoslav Piskun has kept a low profile over the last decade. A key figure during the presidencies of Leonid Kuchma and Viktor Yushchenko, as general prosecutor he oversaw the investigation into the 2000 murder of journalist Georgiy Gongadze and the poisoning of Yushchenko during the 2004 presidential campaign. Neither incident has ever been fully resolved.

On July 13, Piskun talked to Kyiv Post about his time at the heart of Ukraine's political life, shedding light on the murky workings of the country's elite.

Victim of system

Read any interview with Piskun and it quickly becomes apparent that it's tough to get a straight answer from him - except when it comes to assessing his own work, which he cannot find fault in. In Piskun's eyes, he was as much a victim of Ukraine's Soviet-era prosecutorial system as anyone else.

Piskun denies being a political instrument of either president, as Ukrainian prosecutor generals to this day have widely been perceived. Proof of this, according to him, were his dismissals. From 2002 to 2007, he was fired three times. Twice over Gongadze, in 2003 and 2005, and the final time in 2007 because he failed to follow Yushchenko's orders, he says.

Piskun shakes off any criticism of his work, including his inaction over Gongadze's murder after Kuchma left office. According to Piskun, Yushchenko had "some sort of agreement" with Kuchma not to investigate the case.

Kuchma is a father-like figure in the Ukraine's political elite, says



Former General Prosecutor and current chairman of the Ukrainian Union of Lawyers Svyatoslav Piskun talks to Kyiv Post on July 13 in Kyiv. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Piskun. "They are all (Kuchma's) children, they are all his pupils. All of them are his comrades up to the present day," Piskun told the Kyiv Post, referring to the Ukrainian presidents who came after Kuchma, including current President Petro Poroshenko.

It is not clear whether Piskun also classes himself as part of Kuchma's family.

Part of the family?

In a recording leaked right at the end of Kuchma's presidency, in 2004, a

voice resembling that of Piskun can be heard talking to a voice resembling that of Kuchma's son-in-law, Viktor Pinchuk. On the tape, Piskun's voice can be heard promising that he will continue to be a "great friend" of the "family," and hints that the situation could develop badly for Kuchma if someone else were to be appointed general prosecutor.

Piskun: "Vitya (diminutive for Viktor) I talked to those guys from Viktor Andreevych's (Yushchenko) team. They aren't against me becoming (general prosecutor.) I'm telling you, they will be putting such cases in front of the general prosecutor and in front of the high court, that I'm starting to think, maybe I don't even need this? Do you understand what I'm talking about? But I think that these tasks will be carried out in a timely way by Mr. (Yuriy) Karmazin (a politician who was then a candidate for the post of prosecutor general), and with a frozen face. And every day the television will show what he's doing in that case, and who are the enemies of the state."

Pinchuk: There won't be any cases carried out against us by you?

Piskun: Even if they're opened, they won't be investigated.

The next day, on Dec. 10, 2004, a court ruled for Piskun be re-appointed as prosecutor general. When asked about the recording in 2005, Piskun called it a "hoax." At his Kyiv office in July, however, Piskun told the Kyiv Post he had reached out to Pinchuk to get Kuchma to reappoint him as prosecutor - through the courts. When asked if the conversation took place, he gave a characteristically vague answer:

"I don't remember. He (Pinchuk) said that the conversation occurred. I don't remember it. Maybe it hap-

pened, because I remember that I talked to Pinchuk when the topic of my return was being discussed. I talked to Pinchuk. Why? Because for me Pinchuk seems more democratic, a more righteous person than Kuchma. Do you understand? So, as I understood it, Kuchma was a Red Commissar, a Red Director - his had the soul of a communist. I considered Pinchuk a more Western person. But there was one part in that conversation: 'I beg you on my knees.' I never say things like that. I haven't even knelt down in front of my own mother."

Pinchuk has never confirmed the authenticity of the recording.

Gongadze

One of the main obstructions to the prosecution of the Gongadze case was doubt over the authenticity of the so-called Melnychenko recordings, alleged to have been secretly taped by Kuchma's bodyguard in the president's office from 1999 to 2000. No senior official or politician, including Piskun, would confirm the tapes are real, meaning that they were not to be used as evidence. Piskun now says that he is convinced of their authenticity, and has been since the FBI conducted its analysis of them in 2003.

However, he says they are not evidence that Kuchma ordered Gongadze's murder, as Kuchma did not use the word "kill." Instead, he says a case needs to be opened to establish and investigate "causal links."

Eventually, Ukraine's Constitutional Court ruled in 2011 that no evidence could be used in the case unless it had been collected with consent, which meant the tapes were not admissible as evidence. The 500

hours of recordings, which allegedly detailed schemes of mass corruption and human rights abuses run from Kuchma's presidential office, became meaningless according to Ukrainian law.

Piskun: If I say that these tapes are evidence that Kuchma killed someone, that would be a big mistake, because they aren't accepted as evidence in the case.

Kyiv Post: That's just laughable. It (the 2011 Constitutional Court decision) is a laughable decision, I'm sorry.

Piskun: There have been lots of laughable decisions. If this was the first that you have smiled at, then I will give you another thousand.

Piskun maintains that the Gongadze case was investigated only while he was prosecutor general so much so that he felt as if was Gongadze's "relative."

Georgiy Omelchenko, the head of the parliamentary investigation into the murder, claimed in 2005 that Piskun's reappointment was part of the agreement between the two presidents to protect Kuchma.

Donetsk clan

Piskun was also criticized for failing to bring to justice those responsible for poisoning Yushchenko during his campaign for president in 2004. But Piskun claims that, in hindsight, it seems that Yushchenko was not interested in having those who poisoned him brought to justice:

"He didn't want to give evidence. His people - whom we needed in order to put events together - stopped coming to see us. And I got the impression that (Yushchenko) himself didn't want it to be investigated. Listen: when the victim doesn't want it, we don't do anything."

Yushchenko, according to Piskun, became "arrogant" and "very greedy" after being elected as president. After Piskun's third dismissal in 2007, less than a month after he had been reinstated by the courts, he said he was tired of fighting for his position in the courts.

"I understood that people from Donetsk were in charge of him (Yushchenko)...I saw that everything was leading towards an agreement with (former President Viktor) Yanukovich. And naturally, Yanukovich didn't want me to be the prosecutor," Piskun told the Kyiv Post.

Though he portrays himself at the time as being in opposition to the so-called Donetsk clan (and he refrained from "naming the names" of those influencing Yushchenko), during this period Piskun served as a Party of Regions deputy. The party was founded by the Donetsk clan and led at that moment by Yanukovich.

As his reason for Piskun's final dismissal, Yushchenko said that holding both the position of prosecutor general and a lawmaker was a conflict of interests.

Piskun is now the chairman of the Union of Ukrainian Lawyers. ■

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Lviv's Jewish heritage comes alive with memorial at synagogue site

BY YULIANA ROMANYSHYN
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LVIV, Ukraine – Dr. Leszek Allerhand, from Zakopane in southern Poland, stands on a wooden walkway constructed over the ruins of Lviv's Golden Rose Synagogue, destroyed during World War II. His gaze turns to a four-story house nearby – his parents' house, where he was born and from where he watched the synagogue being destroyed.

The Golden Rose Synagogue, built in the 16th century, had been the oldest synagogue in Ukraine. It was destroyed along with other Jewish buildings next to it – the Beth Hamidrash (House of Learning) building, and the Great City Synagogue. In the next few years, most of Lviv's Jewish inhabitants were wiped out as well.

Until 2008, the sites of the former synagogues were virtually abandoned – one was overgrown with trees, and the other used as a restaurant's terrace. However, the city center sites have now been cleaned, renovated, and as of August transformed into a memorial space for remembrance and contemplation about the fates of the Golden Rose and Great City Synagogues, and the city's Jewish community.

Community destroyed

Born in 1931 in Lviv into a family of Polish Jews, Allerhand was 11 years old when the Golden Rose Synagogue was burned to the ground in 1942. German soldiers knocked on the door of his family's home on Brativ Rohatynsiv Street, in Lviv's Jewish quarter, and ordered Allerhand and his family to remain quiet and stay inside. The entrance to the building was blocked.

The family watched through the windows as the synagogue burned. The flames spread quickly, Allerhand remembers.

He and his family tried to escape through a different exit but were stopped by the German soldiers. On the first floor, they found the synagogue's rabbi, lying on the floor, sobbing.

Soon after the destruction of the synagogue, Allerhand and his family were driven into the Lviv Ghetto, set up in 1941 after Germany invaded the Soviet Union. The ghetto operated until 1943, after which its inhabitants were loaded into cattle trucks and sent to the Nazi death camps.

Of 30 people in Allerhand's immediate family, only three survived the Holocaust – Allerhand and his mother and father. They survived only because they escaped the ghetto and hid in the city, repeatedly changing their hiding places until Lviv was liberated from German occupation by the Red Army in July 1944.

Before the war, there were around 100,000 Jews living in Lviv – about a third of the city's population. With some 200 synagogues, the city was an important center of Jewish life.

But by 1944, only a few hundred Jews were left in Lviv.



Visitors attend the opening ceremony of the Jewish memorial in Lviv on Sept. 3. The memorial, called The Space of Synagogues, opened on the site where Lviv's two biggest synagogues used to stand before the Nazi destroyed them in the years of WWII. (Iryna Sereda)

After the war, the ruins of the synagogue near Allerhand's home were neglected and blocked from view with a corrugated metal fence. In 2000s, a restaurant named "At the Golden Rose" opened in the next building, with outdoor seating on the ruins of the synagogue.

Common heritage

It was not until 2008 that Lviv City Council, together with the Center for Urban History and the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), called an international competition to design a memorial at the site of the destroyed Golden Rose Synagogue.

"People from all over the world come here looking for traces of their families and the histories of their ancestors," Mayor of Lviv Andriy Sadovyi wrote in a booklet about the project. "It is therefore incumbent upon us, the current citizens of Lviv, to preserve and cherish the memory of Lviv's Jewish community and its contributions to our common heritage."

The Space of Synagogues memorial opened on Sept. 4. Designed by a Berlin-based architect Franz Reschke, it includes part of one of the walls of the Golden Rose Synagogue, a wooden walkway on the site, and a "Perpetuation" memorial installation, consisting of 39 stone slabs, inscribed with quotations of Holocaust survivors from Lviv and their descendants, with a lot of space left for the future inscriptions.

"I return in my imagination to Lwów... I return, knowing that my Lwów is everywhere; it speaks to everyone who has been forced from their village or town, everyone who has lost their family in violent circumstances," reads one

of the quotes. It belongs to Janina Hescheles, a famous Israeli chemist and a Lviv-born Holocaust survivor.

The first visitors to the memorial put stones on these slabs, a tradition that honors one's ancestors.

Next to the memorial, there are stone slabs indicating the original outline of the learning house Beth Hamidrash, and the empty land lot where Great City Synagogue used to be.

Reconciliation

The opening ceremony for the memorial was attended by Jews, Poles, Ukrainians, the German ambassador to Ukraine and representatives of GIZ.

Historian Yaroslav Hrytsak, speaking to the Kyiv Post by phone, said the opening of the memorial would help improve relations between Jews and Ukrainians. He said that a radical change in these relations had started with the EuroMaidan Revolution, in which Ukrainian Jews had participated alongside people from the rest of Ukrainian society. Also important, Hrytsak said, was the visit to Israel in December 2015 of President Petro Poroshenko, during which he apologized for the crimes committed by Ukrainians during the Holocaust.

And the commemoration at the end of September of the 75th anniversary of the Holocaust massacres at Babyn Yar in Kyiv by the Nazis will be another step towards the improvement of relations, Hrytsak said.

"The history of the Jews is a part of Ukrainian history," Hrytsak said. "We cannot understand and write Ukrainian history correctly if we exclude the Jews. That is what the Soviet Union did." ■



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Best museums in Kyiv to visit with children



Salsa heats up dance floor at Buena Vista

The first thing one sees at 8/14 Velyka Zhytomyrska St., where the Cuba-themed Buena Vista restaurant and bar is located, is a tiny terrace out front, with a few tables set out on the sidewalk, the area delimited by some flower boxes. At first glance, it doesn't promise more than ordinary pub in Kyiv.

But a neon sign reading "Latin House" on the bar frontage is a clue that there's a lot more to this place than meets the eye. By day, Buena Vista is a bar and restaurant offering various Cuban and Mexican dishes, but by night it becomes a packed dancehall with live music: the house band perform famous Latin songs, such as Duele El Corazon by Enrique Iglesias, and covers of songs by pop stars like Adele.

Entering Buena Vista, one finds a regular bar with furniture made out of dark wood. But the real action is downstairs, where there is basement area with a small dancefloor, a bar, and a seating area.

It's not big – the tiny dance floor between the tables takes up most of the available space. On a busy night, getting to the bar can involve being bumped into by enthusiastic salsa dancers, or inadvertently becoming involved in the dancing oneself while sliding, dodging and weaving around those on the dancefloor.

It's small size might seem like one of Buena Vista's flaws, but in fact the cramped space also brings this place its special atmosphere, making it seem like an underground dancing club that only a special few know about. However, the place is regularly packed and there are often no free tables on weekend nights, so be sure to order one in advance.

Buena Vista is popular among Kyiv's Latin American expat community, and some of the staff speak fluent Spanish. A menu in English is also available, however.

The place attracts both professional and amateur salsa dancers, but even those who have never danced salsa shouldn't worry: moving to the beat is just fine.

To get into the mood for dancing, try the bar's most popular Cuban cocktail, the Cuba Libre (cola, lime, and rum) for Hr 75

more Salsa on page 13



Children enjoy the soap bubbles attraction at Kyiv Water Museum on Sept. 14. The museum is dedicated completely to water and is located in the capital's 19th century water tower. (Volodymyr Petrov)

BY NATALIYA TRACH
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As summer comes to an end, many options for keeping the kids entertained on weekends or holidays have already been exhausted, or will soon be curtailed by the colder weather.

But Kyiv still has plenty of indoor attractions to keep children amused. On top of the list are Kyiv's numerous museums, which are packed with unexpected wonders, breathtaking interactive experiments and fascinating artifacts.

The Kyiv Post has picked out the capital's best museums to visit with kids this fall.

Experimentarium

The Experimentarium is an exciting science museum and a great place for 7-13-year-olds to learn more about the world around them. The museum's permanent exhibition includes around 250 interactive exhibits that demonstrate the achievements of modern science in various fields. The inspiring experiments in chemistry and physics, the exhibition in

the anatomy hall, and the surprising aural effects in the acoustic room will be long remembered by any child. Among the best activities are creating a cloud and launching it up to the ceiling, painting an intricate pattern with the help of just a pendulum, building a bridge without nails, and wandering through a mirror maze.

2A Verkhniy Val St. Open Tues. – Fri. 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m., Sat. – Sun. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Entrance fee is Hr 60 to Hr 155. Tel. 044-425-6581

Pharmacy Museum

This museum is dedicated to the history of Ukrainian pharmacies, and fully reproduces the interior of a European pharmacy in the 18th – 19th centuries. In those times a pharmacist commonly used to be a doctor as well, so the pharmacy museum also includes a shop, a laboratory and waiting rooms.

The museum has more than 2,000 exhibits containing all kinds

more Museum on page 13

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Five museums where kids won't be yawning

Museum from page 12

of containers and bottles for the preparation of various herbal mixtures, old prescriptions, pharmacists tools from centuries past, and even bottles with snakes preserved in alcohol.

In addition to medicines, there are jars of face powder and face cream, bottles of perfume, tooth cleaning powder and even ink, as all of these things used to be sold exclusively in pharmacies in the 18th and 19th centuries. The thick 19th-century antique pharmacy book, filled with prescriptions, medicine formulas and prices – all written in Latin – is one of the most interesting exhibits there, but both children and adults will find the rest of the museum's vast collection interesting as well.

7 Prytytsko-Mykilska St. Open Mon. – Sat. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tickets are Hr 20. Tel. 044-425-2437

Water Museum

One of Kyiv's most popular museums is located not far from the European Square in the building of the city's 19th century water tower – the city's first centralized

water-supply system. The museum is, of course, dedicated to water, and it covers the entire hydrological cycle, from evaporation of water from the sea, to condensation of water vapor into clouds, precipitation onto the land, and the return of water from land to sea via rivers.

There are a number of dynamic exhibits here, depicting heavy rain, storms, and waterfalls. In particular, there is an artificial river where visitors can create their own river bed. The bubble exhibit and the huge toilet seat are the kids' favorites, but there's lots of information about the history of Kyiv's water supply system to keep adults interested as well. In addition, there is a children's play-park outside for younger visitors.

1 V Hrushevskoho St. Open Mon. – Fri. from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m., Sat. – Sun. from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. Tickets cost Hr 20 for children, Hr 30 for adults. Tel. 044-279-5333

Natural History Museum

The more than 30,000 exhibits in this museum paint a complete picture of the flora and fauna, tribes and peoples that have inhabited the territory of Ukraine from ancient

times until the present. All the exhibits are authentic – children of any age will be excited to see with their own eyes an original Cro-Magnon's human's hut constructed out of mammoth tusks and bones, a huge mammoth skeleton, as well as a vast collection of skeletons of fish from the Paleozoic era and mammals from the Neogene period.

The museum has geological, zoological, botanical, paleontological and archaeological sections. But be warned: the rules are very strict in this more traditional museum – running, making too much noise and touching exhibits are strictly forbidden.

15 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St. Open Wed. – Sun. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tickets cost Hr 35 (\$1.40) for children, and Hr 60 for adults. Tel. 044-235-6266

Kyiv Planetarium

Kyiv's planetarium allows its visitors to "travel to the stars" while still keeping their feet on the ground. The planetarium's projector can display nearly 7,000 stars located in the northern and southern hemispheres. Children can also observe and learn about the causes of meteor showers, solar and lunar eclipses, discover the secrets of comets, and find out what causes the northern lights.

The planetarium also has a spherical cinema that shows films or digital slide shows on various topics, such as interesting facts about the planets of our solar system, the origins of our home galaxy, the Milky Way, astronomical seasons, and much, much more.

Children can also take a break from filling their heads with the wonders of the universe in the planetarium's café or in its play zone.

57/3 Velyka Vasylkivska St. Open daily from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Hr 80 for children, students, pensioners, and Hr 100 – 120 for adults. ■



Kyiv Pharmacy museum has more than 2,000 exhibits and fully reproduces the interior and atmosphere of the European pharmacies of the 18th and 19th centuries. (Anastasia Vlasova)



People dance in Latin House Buena Vista in Kyiv on Sept. 14. The bar offers various Cuban dishes and drinks and holds salsa and tango dancing nights. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Night Owl: Cuban life comes alive at club on Velyka Zhytomyrska

Salsa from page 12

(\$3). A set of 10 Cuba Libres costs Hr 300 (\$12), but the portions are smaller than those sold separately. A set of 10 tequila shots costs Hr 400 (\$16).

Along with the popular Latin-style cocktails, the barmen can mix almost all of the classic European cocktails for Hr 70-100 (\$3-4), which is cheaper than the average price in most of Kyiv's bars.

The bar doesn't have its own

website, so for a schedule of upcoming parties and events check its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/buenavista.kyiv. To reserve a table, call +38-050-344-4812 or +38-067-328-3161. ■

Buena Vista

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CLASS OF 2016

Pechersk School International, Kyiv, students averaged 34 points on the International Baccalaureate Diploma examinations, which is well above the world average of all IB Schools. Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2016 on these very successful results.

Sept. 26 - Oct. 14



(Courtesy)

Pop-art exhibition

The Kyiv-based National Academy of Arts will exhibit works by American pop artist Mel Ramos, along with pictures by Ukrainian artists Victor Sydorenko and Valentin Popov. The works of all the artists on display are united by a common theme – portraying superheroes.

Pop-art exhibition. Sept. 26 - Oct. 14. National Academy of Arts (20 Bulvarno-

Kudriavska St.) Free

Sept. 18



(Courtesy)

Music concert

Three Ukrainian music bands, The Erised, Alloise and Cepasa, will perform at the Platforma Art Factory as part of the GogolFest modern art festival. The Erised performs electronic vocal-driven pop songs, Alloise specializes in soul and R&B tunes, while the headliner of the evening, Cepasa, will play his electronic hits.

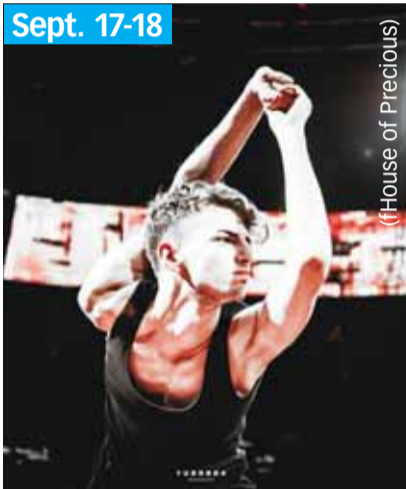
Erised, Alloise and Cepasa (music performances). Sept. 18. 8 p.m. Platforma Art Factory (1 Bilomorska St.) Hr 200

Vogue dance festival

At this festival fans of the vogue dance style, a highly stylized type of modern house dancing, can visit dance workshops, take part in a dance off, or just watch performances by Ukrainian and international vogue dancers. The price of all the master classes and participation in a dance off is Hr 800. A one-day ticket for to watch the show is Hr 120.

Vogue dance festival. Sept. 17-18. Sentrum (11 Shota Rustaveli St.). Hr 120 – 800

Sept. 17-18



(House of Precious)

Vsi Svoi furniture market

More than 100 Ukrainian producers of furniture and home accessories will gather at Vsi Svoi market. The visitors would be able to buy upholstery, beds, wooden tables, cupboards and wardrobes along with crockery and home decor.

Vsi Svoi Furniture Market. Sept. 17-18. 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. D12 Art Center (12 Desyatynna St.). Free

Sept. 17-18



(Courtesy)

Sept. 17



(Marco concert)

Jazz concert on the roof

As the warm weather comes to an end, jazz music club Roof holds its last outdoor concert

of the season on Sept. 17. The Kyiv-based Ocean's Symphony Orchestra will play a range of popular jazz hits.
Jazz at Roof. Sept. 17. 6 p.m. Roof (37-41 Sichovykh Striltsiv St.) Hr 250 - 450

Sept. 17-18



(Kosyantyn Chernichkin)

Vegan food festival

Vegan Boom, a street food festival in Kyiv, will offer more than just meals for vegetarians: there will be live music, lectures on healthy lifestyles, movies and a sports zone with yoga classes, Frisbee games and training for climbers. Entrance is free, but donation is requested. A one-day pass to lectures costs Hr 99 (\$4), and for two-days is Hr 149 (\$6).
Kyiv Vegan Boom. Sept. 17-18. 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Lavra Gallery (9 Lavrsky Lane). Entry: a donation of any size

Compiled by Anna Yakutenko

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MORE DETAILS:

art-green-fest.com.ua

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Full job descriptions can be found at:
www.globalcommunities.org/careers

Candidates are asked to submit resumes and cover letters in English to: **UkraineHR@globalcommunities.org** indicating the position title in the subject line by **September 20, 2016**. Only applicants selected for interviews will be contacted. No telephone inquiries will be accepted.

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- Education or professional experience abroad (English speaking countries, Germany or France) is a plus
- Fluent spoken and written English and German or French
- Outstanding analytical and methodological skills
- Advanced MS Office skills
- Able to work independently and self motivated
- Integrity and ethical approach to work

Skills/Experience:

- Knowledge of / experience with commercial databases is an advantage but not mandatory

To apply please forward your CV and a short cover letter in English stating clearly why you are suitable for the job to Tatiana.Sheremet@rolandberger.com.



Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, healthcare exclusion and natural disasters. We offer assistance to people based on need and irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation. MSF Ukraine is looking for:

DEPUTY MEDICAL COORDINATOR

Main duties:

- Ensuring regular contact with local authorities and institutions, other NGOs in the country and other MSF sections, for a better coordination in the implementation of health projects and programs.
- Negotiating with the authorities when necessary.
- Informing on MSF charter, values and principles
- Monitoring the project(s) implementation.
- Participating together with the Medical Coordinator in the definition and follow-up of medical staff needs, other medical resources needed, and budgeting.
- Collaborating and assisting in the production of medical reports.

- Ensuring proper induction of all MSF Staff.
- Supervising and carrying out technical evaluations.
- Promoting strict follow-up of MSF values and ethics by all staff and identifying any possible issue regarding this matter
- Reviewing medical orders.
- Supervising the monitoring of medicines consumption and stock levels of the different projects
- Promoting the compliance of all related protocols and procedures.

DESIRED ACCOUNTABILITIES AND EXPERIENCE RELATED TO THE JOB

- Extensive knowledge of key health actors in the country including the Ministry of Health and the major challenges faced by them.
- Good knowledge of the pharmaceutical industry and legislation regarding the importation of medical products.
- Experience with Hepatitis C is a major asset. One of the main responsibilities of the Deputy Medco will be to give advice and analysis on the implementation of a Hepatitis C program in collaboration with local stakeholders

REQUIREMENTS

Education

- Degree in medicine or other paramedical studies. A Master's Degree in public Health will be an asset.

Experience

- Essential 2 years' experience in relevant jobs, in MSF or other NGO's in Ukraine or in the countries in the region.

Languages

- English
- Ukrainian
- Russian

Knowledge

- Essential computer literacy (word, excel, internet).

Competences

- Strategic vision
- Leadership
- People Management
- Planning
- Teamwork
- Strategic vision
- Computer Literacy (Microsoft Office)

Please send CV and Cover Letter to:

msfch-ukraine-medco@geneva.msf.org

CLOSING DATE: September 23rd, 2016



гуманітарна допомога
та громадянський захист

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
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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.



The Kyiv Post is looking for a Digital Innovations Director.

Requirements:

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- Strong understanding of social media strategies and how to implement them;
- Good knowledge of analytics and how to decipher them into actionable tactics
- Knowledge of online readership/media/applications
- Base knowledge of programming
- Clear knowledge of working with outside suppliers for applications, website and 3rd party applications.

The most important quality: Strategic mindset for growing and cultivating a digital and targeted audiences worldwide.

For consideration, please send CV to **news@kyivpost.com**

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