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July 28, 2017

Victory Abroad:

Congress trumps Trump
on Russian sanctions



People walk past the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 25, 2016. (AFP)

BY **BERMET TALANT**
BERMET.TALANT@GMAIL.COM

The U.S. Congress sent a clear message to the Kremlin and U.S. President Donald J. Trump this week: America will keep toughened sanctions in place against Russia until federal lawmakers – and not the president – decide otherwise.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's blatant interference in the 2016 presidential election on behalf of Trump and his ongoing war

against Ukraine have united Congress in a way seldom seen in Washington, D.C.

The sanctions legislation, which lumps Russia in with North Korea and Iran, passed by veto-proof and near-unanimous votes: 98–2 in the U.S. Senate on June 15 and 419–3 in the U.S. House on July 25. Trump would seem to have no other option but to sign the legislation or face a near-certain override of his view.

It's also hard to see that the sanctions will

more **Sanctions** on page **7**

Defeat At Home:

Poroshenko moves to
sideline critics



Ex-Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili, who also served as governor of Odesa Oblast, speaks during a rally near the Justice Ministry on May 30 in Kyiv. (Oleg Petrusiuk)

BY **OLEG SUKHOV,**
OLENA GONCHAROVA
AND **OLGA RUDENKO**

President Petro Poroshenko on July 27 suspended the Ukrainian citizenship of ex-Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili, dealing a blow to one of his major political opponents.

The president cited Saakashvili's alleged legal violations when Poroshenko granted him Ukrainian citizenship in 2015.

But Poroshenko's critics saw the motive as

revenge for Saakashvili's opposition activities and criticism of authorities. Poroshenko's opponents accused the president of becoming more authoritarian and lawless.

"I have lived in Ukraine for more than 13 years, I participated in three revolutions. I have only one citizenship, that of Ukraine, and I will not be deprived of it!" Saakashvili said in a video statement on July 26. "I love Ukraine with my whole heart and I will con-

more **Saakashvili** on page **6**

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CURRENCY WATCH

Hr 26 to \$1

July 27 market rate



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Two Slavne residents handle medicine after emerging from a Doctors Without Borders consultation on July 7. The town was cut off from medical services for more than a year until the international NGO began to send a mobile clinic to the town on a regular basis.. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Gray-zone doctors serve patients trapped by war

BY JOSH KOVENSKY
KOVENSKY@KYIVPOST.COM

SLAVNE, Ukraine — In this village 44 kilometers south of Donetsk in Ukraine's embattled eastern Donbas, not everyone wants psychological help.

While people do seek out psychologists, "it's difficult for people to deal with their powerlessness before what is happening," said Viktoriya Druz, a psychologist at Doctors Without Borders.

A trauma psychologist, Druz is the only psychologist covering the Ukraine-controlled suburbs of Donetsk. Her potential caseload: Tens of thousands of people, including the 57 inhabitants of Slavne, 617 kilometers southeast of Kyiv.

But as Ukrainian government services no longer work near the gray zone between the areas controlled by Ukraine and Russia, organizations

like Doctors Without Borders take on greater importance.

"When we start to work in a given place, rumors abound about us," said Iryna Sergeyenko, a doctor at the organization. "But there are people here to work with."

Nerves

Yelena Alexeyeva is a longtime resident of Slavne, 617 kilometers southeast of Kyiv

Slavne was occupied by the Ukrainian military until 2016, and remains under government control. It has suffered continuous shelling, leaving its streets in ruins and homes abandoned.

"My nerves are still shot," said Alexeyeva said, standing outside the mobile clinic.

Druz said that many people she treats are prone to losing composure at unexpected sounds.

That they have trouble sleeping

is a given.

Slavne's population has declined to 57 residents from 230 before Russia launched its war in 2014. Doctors Without Borders started treating the village's residents in May.

Myriam Berry, the group's regional director, said that the organization launched its mobile clinic program there after realizing that the city had no direct access to medical care. The mobile clinic includes a doctor, nurse, and psychologist, as well as a set of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment.

"It's focused on treating the most vulnerable," she said of the program. Skeleton crew

But many in the region have come to cope with it.

Mykola Slyusarenko is head doctor at the Krasnohorivka Regional Hospital, which was shelled in May. The shelling, which knocked out a technical floor of the hospital and

left part of the building inaccessible, damaged the facility's outpatient center, the children's and trauma wards, and a neurological operating room.

Some of the hospital's services have been temporarily transferred to the nearby town of Kurakhove, out of shelling range and a hub for aid workers in its own right.

With a big gold chain around his neck and a beefy grin, Slyusarenko said that he had long grown accustomed to operating under wartime conditions.

"It was a skeleton crew," he said, pointing out that the shelling occurred at 6 a.m. on a Sunday. "There were few people here for consultations, so there were almost no injuries."

The hospital, which has 60 beds, performs general surgery, neurology and family doctor services, providing a crucial source of support for people in Krasnohorivka and the neighboring town.

But consequences of the shelling have rippled through the local community.

"It's been harder to get access to medicine since that shelling," said Pavel Grigoryevich, a Krasnohorivka resident.

"A lot of services have had to have been moved away," Slyusarenko said. "And work on rebuilding hasn't even yet begun."

For more information about Doctors Without Borders, go to the website: <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>

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ISO FAIM FIDI IAM

Sprawling Firtash investigation alleges new US, Spanish ties

BY JOSH KOVENSKY
KOVENSKY@KYIVPOST.COM

Dmytro Firtash — the exiled Ukrainian oligarch who allegedly rigged the Russia-Ukraine natural gas trade and played kingmaker for President Petro Poroshenko — sought financing in the United States for a corrupt scheme involving a mine in India, U.S. federal prosecutors say.

The 115-page document, filed in Chicago federal court on July 25, also alleges for the first time that Firtash intended to bribe persons in the U.S.

The fresh allegations come in a criminal case that has stranded Firtash in Vienna as he fights extradition to America on charges that he denies and dismisses as politically motivated.

Dan Webb, an attorney for Firtash in Chicago, said that the new allegations were baseless, and noted that they did not appear in the indictment against his client.

“As far as the government’s statement in its brief that Firtash had some connection to Russian organized crime, there is absolutely no evidence to support that allegation,” Webb wrote. “None whatsoever!”

The oligarch is accused of bribing Indian officials in a byzantine plot to control the supply of a form of titanium used to manufacture Boeing’s 787 jumbo jets.

U.S. prosecutors call Firtash an “upper-echelon” member of the Russian mafia.

He also faces extradition on a separate money laundering and organized crime case in Spain.

That Spanish case has tied the saga back to Kyiv, with the son of former Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetsky spending one month in a Barcelona jail last year. The son — Stepan — denied any ties to Firtash in an interview with the Kyiv Post.

“I am not even acquainted with Firtash,” he declared in his office at the top of the DTEK Tower in Kyiv. “I have not seen him once in my life.”

Origins in 2006

The alleged scheme dates to 2006, a time when Ukrainian oligarchs were spreading their wings and buying up assets around the globe.

Prosecutors say that Firtash began to look at India at the same time that Boeing, the U.S. plane producer, was starting to build a supply chain for its 787 jet, and needed titanium sponge.

Firtash swooped in, using an intermediary to sign a memorandum of understanding with an Indian provincial government to mine there.

From there, prosecutors allege that Firtash wired \$18.5 million in bribes through U.S. banks to corrupt Indian officials for permits, while sending a top aide — former Hungary Culture Minister Andras Knopp — to negotiate with Boeing in the U.S.

U.S. ties

In a bid to prevent Firtash and Knopp from having the criminal case against them dismissed, prosecutors hinted at unrevealed evidence.

The feds argue that evidence presented at trial will show “that multiple transfers of money into the United States from abroad were



Dmytro Firtash attends a court hearing on April 30, 2015, in Vienna. (AFP)

designed to finance or reimburse the expenses of a conspirator operating within the United States.”

The prosecutors suggest that some of the alleged bribes may have been marked for persons in the U.S.

“The government expects the evidence will show that other transfers were destined for the benefit of third parties located within the [U.S.] who were designated as third-party beneficiaries of the bribes paid in order to obtain approvals for the project,” Chicago prosecutors write.

As the scheme progressed, Firtash brought on another client for a separate U.S. project: Paul Manafort, then political consultant for the Party of Regions, led by deposed Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

In 2008, Manafort’s company scouted New York City’s Drake Hotel on behalf of Firtash for a potential \$850 million redevelopment project.

A letter filed as an exhibit in a civil lawsuit by ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko details a \$25 million escrow payment from Firtash’s firm to spur the project.

“DF is still totally on board and a wire will be forthcoming either the end of this week or next week as a partial payment on the 1.5,” Manafort wrote in one email, referring either to Firtash or to his company, Group DF, paying an increment of \$1.5 million.

This week’s filing says that Knopp, Firtash’s Hungarian deputy, recently got a government residency permit to stay in Moscow, where he has lived since Firtash’s indictment.

Spanish, Russian mob?

Spanish authorities want to try Firtash on money laundering charges as part of a three-year investigation into the Russian mafia’s presence in Spain called “Operation Variola.”

Three months before Firtash’s re-arrest in February, Spanish police in Barcelona named him as a suspect. The decision on where Firtash gets sent is up to Austrian Justice Minister Wolfgang Brandsetter.

The case has also ensnared Stepan Chernovetsky, son of former Kyiv Mayor Leonid Chernovetsky. “They followed me for three years, they wiretapped me, they knew everything about me,” the younger Chernovetsky said, calling his July 2016 arrest at gunpoint a “big shock.”

Prosecutors seized a sushi restaurant that he co-owned with an Armenian expatriate and detained 11 others, including Misbah Aldroubi, a Syrian businessman who served as CEO of Firtash associate Hares Youssef’s Hares Group in the mid-2000s. Chernovetsky denies any ties to Youssef.

A police report accuses Chernovetsky of heading “a criminal organization in Spain, whose activity is laundering money that comes from illegal activities from outside Spain.” It ties Chernovetsky to Aldroubi through a company called Cherd Investment, allegedly used to launder money into the restaurant.

Chernovetsky, whose stake in the 2008 sale of Praxev Bank earned him hundreds of millions of dollars, denies any wrongdoing. He was released on appeal by a three-judge tribunal in September 2016.

“The tribunal has access to everything,” he said. Once the judges saw the evidence, he said, “they released me without bond and returned my passport.”

“If there was a connection [to Firtash], so many months have passed,” Chernovetsky said. “Let them show it.”

Firtash had big influence in Ukrainian politics. He summoned Poroshenko and ex-boxer Vitali Klitschko to Vienna in spring 2014. He claims to have paved the way for Poroshenko’s May 2014 election by convincing Klitschko to run for mayor instead. “We got what we wanted,” Firtash told a court on April 30, 2015. ■

Russia’s war against Ukraine has killed at least 2,727 soldiers



People pay tribute to fallen 21-year-old soldier of the 128th Mountain Brigade, Serhiy Hladky, in Poltava Oblast on July 22. (UNIAN)

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA
GONCHAROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

A surge in fighting in several hotspots in Ukraine’s Donbas over the last three weeks — from Krymske village in Luhansk Oblast to Avdiyivka and Kransohorivka cities in Donetsk Oblast — cost Ukrainian army at least 17 soldiers killed and 96 wounded, according to a Kyiv Post count based on information from the military, volunteers and local media reports.

Read the full story at www.kyivpost.com



Oleksandr Sen



Viktor Chornobai



Oleksiy Kalabishka



Maksym Isayenko



Ruslan Konyusha



Illya Tymofiyev



Serhiy Hladky



Roman Netesa



Oleksiy Tymoshchuk



Vitaliy Babkov



Volodymyr Turchyn



Ihor Kysterny



Dmytro Naumov



Zoltan Balazh



Volodymyr Bulichenko

Editorials

Trump's tirades

The hopeful news is that, at the rate he is alienating people, the presidency of Donald J. Trump will end soon. He is unfit for the job and he will soon find that he has few allies. There's only so much chaos and injustice that the American people will tolerate. Until then, the world must endure him in the confidence that the United States will remain a strong nation, despite the failings of its leader.

In his blizzard of ever-more unhinged tweets in the last week, the one most alarming for Ukraine, of course, is this one on July 25: "Ukrainian efforts to sabotage Trump campaign — quietly working to boost Clinton." So where is the investigation A.G. @seanhannity"

So he wants Attorney General Jeff Sessions to investigate whether the Ukrainian government interfered in the 2016 campaign to get Hillary Clinton elected? It's a strange request coming from the man in the Oval Office.

This all goes back to a couple of items: The Aug. 14, 2016, disclosure that Trump campaign manager, Paul Manafort, received \$17 million in payments for work as a political consultant to deposed President Viktor Yanukovich. It was an expertly timed leak to the New York Times involving documents in the possession of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine.

These were suspicious and probably illegal payments to which Manafort finally admitted in June. Unfortunately, Ukraine's authorities, looking to placate Trump in the White House, said recently they are not investigating the payments.

Trump backers also say their allegations of Ukrainian government interference in the U.S. presidential election are bolstered by meetings that Democratic Party consultant, Ukrainian-American Alexandra Chalupa, had with the Ukrainian Embassy in the United States during the campaign.

Hold on! Ukraine had every reason to hope for Clinton's victory, considering Trump's fondness for Russian dictator Vladimir Putin and his waffling on the Russian-annexed Crimean peninsula. Putin had good reasons to hope for a Trump win. And campaigns always do opposition research on each other. But meetings and leaks are a far cry from Russia's illegal hacking of Democratic National Committee emails and Kremlin-connected oligarchs' bankrolling of Trump and his family, which appears to be the focus of the special investigation under way by special counsel Robert Mueller.

Trump's tirade against Ukraine is a warning that should not be ignored. He will return to the topic when convenient and his view that Ukraine helped Clinton is likely to badly color his foreign policy to the nation.

That is why it's gratifying that the U.S. Congress is making it more difficult for Trump to rescind sanctions against Russia or chart a Kremlin-friendly course. European allies are on board. It's regrettable that President Petro Poroshenko is squandering Western goodwill by obstructing domestic reforms and harassing critics. But it is gratifying that — no matter who is in charge on Bankova Street or Pennsylvania Avenue — the U.S.-Ukraine relationship remains deep and strong.

Stopping Nord Stream 2

Encouraging developments took place this week in Ukraine's quest to get European nations to back out of a partnership with Russia to build the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. The \$10 billion pipeline would transport up to 55 billion cubic meters of gas under the Baltic Sea, from Russia to Germany, and bypass Ukraine's gas transportation network. Nord Stream 2 could be completed by the end of 2019.

Morally, it's wrong to be helping Russia's economy while hurting Ukraine's simultaneously. But Europe also needs economic reasons to ditch the project. This is where U.S. help in supplying liquified natural gas and encouragement of other, renewable energy sources will help.

It was heartening to read the comments of Roderich Kiesewetter, the point person for German Chancellor Angela Merkel's bloc in parliament's foreign affairs committee on July 27. As reported by Bloomberg, Kiesewetter said Nord Stream 2 "mustn't come at the expense of Ukraine or Eastern Europe" and welcomed the U.S. Congress adoption of sanctions on Russia to rein in U.S. President Donald J. Trump. "The cause of the sanctions is the unlawful occupation of Crimea, is the destabilization of Eastern Ukraine," Kiesewetter is quoted as telling Deutschlandfunk public radio. Amen.



NEWS ITEM: U.S. Energy Secretary Rick Perry took a phone call earlier this month from Russian pranksters who posed as Ukraine's Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman. A detailed, 20-minute long conversation was then published by Russian media.

NEWS ITEM: Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko made an official visit to Ukraine on July 2 and met with President Petro Poroshenko. Lukashenko, who's been the leader of Belarus for 23 years, has been keeping a warm relationship with both Ukraine and Russia, despite Russia's war against Ukraine.

NEWS ITEM: Polish President Andrzej Duda said on July 24 that he will veto controversial laws that would have given government control over the judiciary, after the laws triggered mass protests in Poland and abroad. By contract, Viktor Yanukovich did not give in to protestors — and got driven out as Ukrainian president on Feb. 22, 2014.

NEWS ITEM: U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted on July 25 about "Ukrainian efforts" to sabotage his presidential campaign and boost his opponent, Hillary Clinton.

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Reformer of the week

Volodymyr Kryvenko

Volodymyr Kryvenko, a deputy chief anti-corruption prosecutor of Ukraine, has led the corruption case against lawmaker Boryslav Rozenblat in court in recent weeks.

Rozenblat, an ex-member of President Petro Poroshenko's Bloc, and People's Front lawmaker Maxim Polyakov are suspected by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine of taking bribes worth about \$300,000 to initiate laws on amber production, organize an illegal amber mining scheme and bribe other officials, judges and prosecutors for that purpose. Both have denied accusations of wrongdoing.

Parliament stripped both lawmakers of immunity on July 13 but refused to authorize their arrest, triggering accusations that it is covering up for corruption.

Rozenblat said on July 24 that his family had posted his Hr 7 million bail. Meanwhile, he refused to submit his foreign passport to the authorities despite a court ruling that required him to do so, arguing that it was illegal.

Meanwhile, Poroshenko has been accused of trying to install NABU auditors loyal to him so that he can control the bureau. The latest such attempt happened on July 13, though it was unsuccessful.

Reformist lawmaker Sergii Leshchenko argued on July 26 that Ukrainian authorities would also try to strip Gizo Uglava, a deputy chief of the NABU, of his Ukrainian citizenship. The Prosecutor General's Office has opened an investigation against Uglava, accusing him of hiding his Georgian citizenship and tax evasion.

— Oleg Sukhov



Anti-reformer of the week

Volodymyr Babenko

Volodymyr Babenko, chairman of Cherkasy Oblast's Court of Appeal, on July 25 stepped down along with the court's other top judges.

In June the High Qualification Commission asked the High Council of Justice to fire Babenko.

In 2015 Serhiy Bondarenko, a judge of Cherkasy Oblast's Court of Appeal, released a recording of Babenko pressuring him to make an unlawful decision in 2013.

Meanwhile, Sergiy Gorbatur, head of the department for trials in absentia at the Prosecutor General's Office, wrote in a July 26 letter to the AutoMaidan protest group that Babenko was under investigation on charges of embezzlement and issuing unlawful rulings against EuroMaidan demonstrators.

However, Deputy Prosecutor General Yury Stolyarchuk refused to approve notices of suspicion for Babenko and then took the cases away from Gorbatur's department, Gorbatur wrote. AutoMaidan lawyer Roman Maselko believes this to be an effort to cover up for Babenko.

The Prosecutor General's Office did not respond to a request for comment.

— Oleg Sukhov



What do you think of Russian tourists in Ukraine?



Pavel Troyan

Diplomat

"I have nothing against Russian tourists in Ukraine. By visiting our country, they can witness

that there is no presence of 'fascism' as the Russian propagandists spread among their citizens."



Alexander Tornoschyn

war veteran

"I do not have a negative attitude towards Russian tourists. But in fact, there are not

many of them due to the crisis between two countries."



Svetlana Krasnoslobodtseva

University lecturer

"There are not many tourists in Kyiv. Not only Russians, but other

foreigners also hesitate to come here. Some of them think that Kyiv is not safe. I also consider the city center as safer, than suburbs."

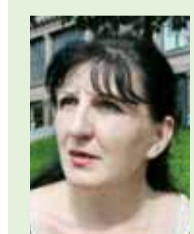


Anna Yarovskaya

Student

"I am from Odesa and I see tourists from Russia. For me this is absolutely normal and

profitable for our country. They, like any other tourists, spend a certain amount of money for having a rest here."



Tamara Zhuk

Cleaner

"I am not against Russian tourists. We used to live like three sisters: Ukraine,

Belarus, Russia. If I will be against having them here, in the future, in case of my visit to Russia they will show the same attitude to me."



Galina Skorogolyna

Cleaner

"For many years we were living in peace with Russians. Now we became enemies. Our

government is responsible for the current situation. Therefore, I am not against guests from Russia."

Ukraine's Friend & Foe Of The Week

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



Steven Pifer

Steven Pifer, a former ambassador to Ukraine (1998 to 2000) wasn't in Ukraine when the ill-fated 1994 Budapest Memorandum was signed or serving during the 2004 Orange Revolution, which brought Viktor Yushchenko to power, and the 2013-2014 EuroMaidan Revolution, which drove Viktor Yanukovich from power.

But he has kept a keen and friendly interest in the nation, even if what he says is hard for some Ukrainians to accept.

In an opinion piece in the Kyiv Post published on July 21, Pifer cautions Ukraine against having expectations of membership in the 29-nation NATO military alliance for the foreseeable future.

President Petro Poroshenko, in the wake of a visit by NATO General Secretary Jens Stoltenberg, said on July 17 that Ukraine would seek a membership action plan and wanted to be ready to join by

2020. Most Ukrainians now support joining the alliance. Not surprisingly, more than three years of war against Russia's invasion have shifted public opinion decidedly into the pro-NATO camp.

However, the alliance is not ready to let Ukraine join. Even if Russia's war in the Donbas settles down into a frozen conflict of the type the Kremlin keeps going in other parts of the former Soviet Union (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova and Georgia), Ukraine is likely to remain at odds with Russia.

Ukraine will not surrender its territorial claims to either the Donbas or Crimea in the near future, and almost certainly not by 2020.

The hard truth is, as Pifer writes, quoting European Parliament Vice President Alexander Graf Lambsdorff: "The West is not ready to defend Ukraine."

That is difficult to hear for many Ukrainians, who have seen thousands of their soldiers die defending Europe from

Russia. Ukrainians also died on the streets of Kyiv defending, as they saw it, European values, only to have the European Union continue to keep them

at arm's length with little prospect of joining the union.

The time for Ukraine to join NATO was in the early years of the century, when the three Baltic states joined. That opportunity was missed. A similar opportunity will not come for perhaps another generation.

In the meantime, Ukrainians should continue to pay heed to Pifer, who earns this week's Order of Yaroslav the Wise. True friends speak honestly, even if the truth is painful to hear.

— Euan MacDonald



Doug Bandow

Doug Bandow, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute and a former special assistant to U.S. President Ronald Reagan, has credentials to be taken seriously on paper.

But in his July 14 opinion piece for Forbes magazine, entitled "Ukraine In NATO? America Should Reject A Bad Idea That Only Grows Worse With Age," Bandow trots out the same tired old tropes that the Kremlin has been pushing since the Kremlin launched its war in the Donbas in 2014.

The issue of whether Ukraine should be in NATO is controversial. Ukraine would have been better off had it joined NATO as quickly as possible after gaining independence, as the Baltic states did. But that did not happen.

There are good arguments for and against Ukraine joining NATO, but in opposing Kyiv's accession, Bandow only uses bad ones.

For instance, Bandow states that "historically Washington had little concern about a territory which

spent most of the last two centuries as part of either the Russian Empire or the Soviet Union. Ukraine was viewed as a 'captive nation' whose liberation in 1991 was warmly welcomed. But its independence, though seen as a moral good, didn't matter much militarily."

What should we then say of the Baltics, which among them have three ancient T-55 main battle tanks, all used in Lithuania exclusively for training? They have all joined NATO, but are no military powerhouses. They joined not because NATO was pushing, but because they wisely understood that they would probably face a security threat from the Kremlin in future.

Yet Bandow justifies Montenegro's accession.

Bandow also seems to forget that Ukraine emerged from the rubble of the Soviet Union possessing the world's third largest nuclear arsenal. It was the United States and the United Kingdom that persuaded Kyiv to give up this arsenal, in return for security assurances, which then proved hollow. Washington's failure to recognize Ukraine's importance to European security has led us into the present situation.

Other Kremlin talking points Bandow spreads include the implication that former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was overthrown (he abandoned office and was legally removed), and talks of "Russia-supported separatists" rather than Russia's army of mercenaries, regular soldiers and local collaborators. So Bandow gets this week's Order of Lenin, for regurgitating Kremlin propaganda and misleading the public about Ukraine.

— Euan MacDonald



Order of Yaroslav The Wise



Order of Lenin

Poroshenko's sidelining of Saakashvili draws criticism

Saakashvili from page 1

tinue the fight here in our Ukraine regardless of any obstacles!"

Reactions

Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyi denounced the decision.

"Stripping the citizenship of a politician with a worldwide reputation, who after two terms as Georgian president agreed to be a governor in Ukraine, only because he became an opponent — this is the peak of political fear," Sadovyi wrote on Facebook.

Mustafa Nayyem, a lawmaker with Poroshenko's Bloc, called it "the silliest move possible, a sign of weakness." Nayyem compared it to then-President Viktor Yanukovich's imprisonment of his top opponent, ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, in 2011.

Tymoshenko, released after the Yanukovich regime was overthrown in February 2014, called Poroshenko's move "an attempt to set up a dictatorship by destroying political opponents."

Even billionaire oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky, an opponent of Saakashvili, spoke against the president's move.

"Stripping Saakashvili of citizen-

ship is a shameful stain on the reputation of our country," Kolomoisky said to TSN, a news website that he owns. "It's even more shameful that despite our European aspirations, it was done in a Soviet tradition."

Shady decree

On July 24, Poroshenko reshuffled the Commission on Citizenship in what critics saw as preparation for the suspension of Saakashvili's citizenship. He appointed three new members on the 15-member commission, including Oleksiy Takhtai, the Interior Ministry's state secretary.

A person who resembles Takhtai features in video footage of negotiations on a corrupt deal at the Interior Ministry leaked in 2015. He denies the accusations.

The State Migration Service submitted evidence that Saakashvili had given incorrect information when he applied for citizenship in 2015, Presidential Administration spokesman Yarema Dukh said. The newly reconstituted Commission on Citizenship approved suspending his citizenship, he added. Under the law on the protection of personal data, the decree cannot be published because it contains confidential information, he said.



Activists rally near the Presidential Administration after Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko signed a decree to suspend former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili's Ukrainian citizenship on July 26. The sign on the car says 'Petro, that's too much!'. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Dukh would not say what incorrect information Saakashvili allegedly submitted.

Unconstitutional?

Yulia Kyrychenko, a constitutional law expert at the Reanimation Package of Reforms, and Vsevolod Rechytsky from the Kharkiv Human Rights Group said that the refusal to publish a presidential decree is illegal.

Also, the Constitution bans authorities from stripping anyone of citizenship — a measure intended to prevent the resurrection of the Soviet practice when dissidents were deprived of their citizen status.

However, lawyers differ on whether this ban also applies to suspension. No president had previously applied this measure to his opponents.

Kyrychenko and Olga Poyedinok, an international law expert at Kyiv National University, argue that the constitutional ban does not apply to suspension.

But Rechytsky and Yevhen Zakharov from the Kharkiv Human Rights Group believe that suspending Ukrainian citizenship violates the Constitution since suspension is tantamount to being deprived of citizenship. Viktor Musiyaka, a legal scholar, thinks that a suspension can be challenged.

Poroshenko's critics also argue that the suspension of Saakashvili's citizenship is clearly political.

In April, Poroshenko also suspended the Ukrainian citizenship of Sasha Borovik, an ally of Saakashvili and a critic of the president, and Radical Party lawmaker Andriy Artemenko, because they allegedly have German and Canadian citizenships, respectively.

Poroshenko has been accused of using a politicized selective approach since he did not suspend the citizenship of State Fiscal Service Chief Roman Nasirov, a suspect in a corruption case who is a citizen of the United Kingdom. He also took no action against Kremlin-backed separatists. Under Ukrainian law, double citizenship is banned but the prohibition is widely ignored.

Extradition

Saakashvili went to the United States early this week and is planning to return, his spokeswoman Daryna Chyzh said, but did not say when.

Since Saakashvili is not a Ukrainian citizen anymore, authorities may refuse him entry. Saakashvili will also be banned from holding government office in Ukraine and taking part in elections. He had been gearing up for the 2019 elections, when Ukraine will choose a president and parliament.

Saakashvili also faces criminal charges in Georgia and was stripped of Georgian citizenship in 2015. But Ukrainian law says that a stateless person who "permanently resides in Ukraine" and commits a crime outside Ukraine may not be extradited. However, Ukrainian authorities may argue that Saakashvili no longer has permanent resident status and extradite him.

Ukrainian lawyer Andriy Tsygankov said that there are grounds for Saakashvili's extradition because official requests were received by the Prosecutor General's Office that indicate Saakashvili is charged with a crime in Georgia.

Saakashvili's wife, Sandra Roelofs, a Georgian politician, is a citizen of the Netherlands by birth. It gives him right to apply for a residence permit there, but it doesn't mean he'd be safe from extradition.

In an interview published by *Novoe Vremya* magazine on July 26, Saakashvili said that he would stay in Kyiv even without a Ukrainian passport.

Georgian charges

Georgian authorities have charged Saakashvili with embezzlement of public funds — something Saakashvili calls a political vendetta by his enemy, Georgian tycoon and politician Bidzina Ivanishvili.

"For four years, there have been criminal cases opened against me in Georgia," Saakashvili was quoted as telling NewsOne TV channel in Kyiv. "They have considered all the expenses of the presidential office to be embezzlement of state funds. They took into account some ban-

quets, my four suits and one coat that I bought for official events."

Georgia has also accused Saakashvili of abuse of power during a crackdown on demonstrators in 2007 and Georgia's opposition Imedi TV channel. He is also accused of ordering an attack on lawmaker Valery Gelashvili.

In June 2014, the Tbilisi City Court authorized trial in absentia.

He moved to Ukraine after he left the presidency in Georgia in 2013 after serving two terms.

Poroshenko's official visit to Georgia on July 17–19 is seen an effort to improve bilateral relations and reverse Ukraine's policy of not extraditing Saakashvili.

After Poroshenko's visit, Radical Party lawmaker Andriy Lozovy filed a request to the General Prosecutor's Office on July 20, asking to confirm whether they have received extradition requests from Georgian counterparts.

In a video address that appeared online on July 26, Saakashvili said that the decision to suspend his Ukrainian citizenship came after agreements between the "oligarch clans" of Poroshenko and Ivanishvili.

"They came up with the idea that the Prosecutor General's Office would provide new evidence in my case — this is another lie," Saakashvili said in the video.

Rival party

Saakashvili's troubles with Ukrainian authorities began after he stepped down as governor of Odesa Oblast last November and launched the Movement of New Forces in February.

The movement merged with the Volya party in April and created an opposition coalition with the parties of lawmaker Viktor Chumak, ex-Security Service Chief Valentyn Nalyvaichenko and ex-lawmaker Egor Firsov in July. Saakashvili has also been in talks with the Democratic Alliance and Samopomich parties.

Other crackdowns

Saakashvili is not the only opposition politician who has been targeted.

Critics of Poroshenko have faced criminal cases that they believe to be fabricated. These include ex-deputy prosecutor generals Vitaly Kasko and Davit Sakvarelidze, ex-reformist customs official Yulia Marushevskaya, National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine deputy chief Gizo Uglava and lawmaker Leshchenko.

Poroshenko has also been accused of cracking down on free speech, which he denies. The authorities have been reluctant to extend the licenses of Channel 112 and 1+1, initiated a criminal case against TV journalist Savik Shuster, banned Russia's Dozhd TV channel and stripped Ukraine's Radio Vesti of its license.

In March, Poroshenko also signed into law a measure that sets the same asset disclosure requirements for anti-corruption activists as for government officials. ■

Mikheil Saakashvili's path

Early years

1967 — Born in Tbilisi, Georgia.

1992 — Graduates from the National University of Taras Shevchenko in Kyiv; future Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko is among his classmates.

Life abroad

1992–1993 — Studies in Strasbourg, France; meets Sandra Roelofs, a fellow student and citizen of the Netherlands. They marry in 1993.

1993–1994 — Studies at Columbia University in New York and graduates with a master of law degree.

1995 — Admitted to the New York State Bar Association and practices commercial law with Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler in New York City.

Back in Georgia

1995 — Saakashvili returns to Georgia and gets elected to parliament with the Union of Georgian Citizens, a pro-presidential party. In 1998, Saakashvili becomes party leader.

2000 — Becomes minister of justice.

2001 — Quits government, accusing then-President Eduard Shevardnadze of corruption; starts an opposition party.

2003 — Leads Rose Revolution against unfair parliamentary elections.

2004 — Gets elected as president of Georgia with 96.2 percent of votes.

2007 — Forcefully disperses an opposition protest and calls for early elections.

2008 — Wins with 53.5 percent of votes; five-day Russian-Georgian War takes place as Georgia loses control of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

November 2013 — Leaves presidency after two terms and accepts a teaching job at Tufts University in the United States.

2014 — Georgian authorities launch criminal investigations against him for abuse of office and embezzlement. He refuses moves to Ukraine.

In Ukraine

February 2015 — Becomes an adviser to Poroshenko as Ukraine refuses to extradite Saakashvili to Georgia.

May 2015 — Poroshenko appoints Saakashvili as governor of Odesa Oblast and grants him Ukrainian citizenship.

December 2015 — Gets into public quarrel with Interior Minister Arsen Avakov and then-Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk during a meeting of the National Reforms Council.

November 2016 — Quits the governor's job, alleging obstruction by Kyiv of his anti-corruption drive.

February 2017 — Saakashvili registers the Movement of New Forces political party.

July 26, 2017 — Poroshenko strips Saakashvili of Ukrainian citizenship for allegedly lying on his citizenship application.

— Olga Rudenko

Tougher US sanctions against Russia limit Trump's options, rile Europe

Sanctions from page 1

be lifted anytime soon, since Russia shows no signs of returning the Crimean peninsula to Ukraine or ending its three-year war against the nation that has killed 10,000 people.

However, the European Union said it would retaliate if America didn't take their energy interests involving Russia into account, so the effectiveness of the new measures will depend on how the Trump administration implements the new measures.

Why and what

"Russian behavior has been atrocious. They deserve these enhanced sanctions. Relations with Russia will improve when Russian behavior changes and they start to fall back into the family of nations," Rep. Charlie Dent, a Republican of Pennsylvania said, according to the Associated Press.

Section 257 of the bill states that the U.S. supports the government of Ukraine in restoring its territorial integrity, will never recognize Russia's annexation of Crimea and condemns its invasion in eastern Ukraine. It calls on Russia to stop destabilizing nations in the region.

The U.S. also pledged to promote energy security in Ukraine. The sanctions would primarily hit Russian oil and gas companies and those firms in Europe which support energy export pipelines by Russia.

The measures would also shorten the duration of loans to Russian banks and freeze assets of Russian state-owned mining and railway companies, the BBC reported.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly, the new bill codifies sanctions into law by making them more difficult to remove without congressional approval.

Earlier in June, the U.S. expanded the list of sanctioned persons and organizations over Russia's invasion in Ukraine, which now includes 160 individuals and more than 400 companies.

Moscow reacts

Moscow reacted predictably. In an interview with Interfax news agency on July 26, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov called the sanctions bill "a brainchild of Russophobes" and said it closes off the foreseeable prospects for normalizing relationship between the U.S. and Russia.

"We are entering the uncharted waters in a political and diplomatic sense," Ryabkov said.

The EU has expressed concerns about how it will affect its energy security interests, especially the construction of Nord Stream II gas pipeline from Russia to Germany and a liquefied natural gas plant on the Russian coast of the Baltic Sea.

In a statement released on July 26, EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker didn't exclude the possibility of retaliation.

"If our concerns are not taken into account sufficiently, we stand ready



Allseas' Solitaire vessel on Nov. 24 lays pipes for the Nord Stream II pipeline. The \$10 billion, 1,200-kilometer project will be capable of transporting 55 billion cubic meters of Russian natural gas across the Baltic Sea to Germany when completed by the end of 2019. (Gazprom)

to act appropriately within a matter of days," he said. "America first cannot mean that Europe's interests come last."

London-based economist Timothy Ash thinks Congress has found a way to box in the unpredictable Trump.

"Despite Trump's own 'special chemistry' with President Putin, in the context of the Russia-gate scandal now engulfing the Trump presidency, it seems inconceivable that he would risk battles with Congress by not signing this bill into law," he wrote on July 26.

In any case, Ash wrote, codifying sanctions means they could be in place for decades and will likely deter foreign investment into Russia, unless Putin drastically changes his foreign policy.

Trump's accusations

Trump, however, still refuses to conclude that Russian hackers interfered in the 2016 elections, despite the unanimous opinion of U.S. intelligence agencies.

Before the House vote, Trump went on a Twitter rant, accusing his Attorney General Jeff Sessions of "weak position on Hillary Clinton's crimes" and not investigating "Ukrainian efforts to sabotage his 2016 campaign."

Trump's evidence of Ukrainian interference involves Democratic National Committee operative Alexandra Chalupa, who looked into the ties of former Trump campaign

chairman Paul Manafort to Russian government and Ukraine's ousted President Viktor Yanukovich.

Lethal weapons

Still, the Ukrainian government is hoping for yet tougher sanctions against Russia and more support from the United States, including supplies of modern defensive weapons.

Ukraine is more hopeful with the appointment of U.S. special envoy Kurt Volker, who has spoken favorably of weapons for Ukraine. The decision, however, will ultimately be made by Trump, whose predecessor, Barack Obama, refused Ukrainian arms requests.

"It would give Ukraine an opportunity to defend itself if Russia were to take further steps against Ukrainian territory," Volker said in an interview with Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Paris on July 25.

He added that the move wouldn't provoke Russia or embolden Ukraine to attack since "there already are more Russian tanks in Ukraine than in all western Europe."

However, State Department's spokesperson Heather Nauert said Volker's opinion is not U.S. policy.

"We are not there yet. Let me take out the word 'yet.' We are not there. The U.S. has not provided defensive weapons nor have we ruled it out to provide to the Ukrainians," she said at a press briefing on the same day. ■



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July 27



(Courtesy)

'Dunkirk'

This historical drama directed by Christopher Nolan revisits one of the famous episodes of the World War II: the evacuation of more than 300,000 Allied soldiers from the French Dunkirk in 1940. Tense and intriguing, the movie got excellent critic reviews. The music by Hans Zimmer got special praise.

"Dunkirk." Zhovten Cinema (26 Kostiantynivska St.). July 29-30. 4:20 p.m. Hr 60-80

Friday, July 28

Live music

Jazz on the Roof. Playing swing. Bel étage. 8 p.m. Hr 250-350. 📍

Miscellaneous

Instinct (art show). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free 📍

Artist and Time. Fedir Krychevsky (art show). National Art Museum. 12 p.m.— 7 p.m. Hr 40 📍

Mural. On U.S. streets (photo exhibition). America House. 12 p.m.— 9 p.m. Free 📍

Beach and Shore (art show). Russian Art Museum. 10 a.m.— 5 p.m. Hr 35 📍

Blossom Soul (art show). Zavalnyi Art Center. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free 📍

Shows

Virgo Four. Closer. 11:55 p.m. Hr 200 📍

Saturday, July 29

Live music

Jazz in the Garden. Playing all jazz genres. Gryshko botanical garden. 8 p.m. Hr 300 📍

Jazz on the Roof. Playing the hits of Ray Charles. Bel étage. 8 p.m. Hr 250-350 📍

Clubs

Deepflat — Black Sun (electronic music party). UBK Club. 11 p.m.

Hr 100 📍

Arctic Dreams (dance party). Indigo. 11 p.m. Hr 100. Free for women 📍

Cxema (electronic music party). Dovzhenko Film Studio. 11 p.m. Hr 350 📍

Miscellaneous

We Are Alive (photo exhibition). Izone. 4-8 p.m. Free 📍

Instinct (art show). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free 📍

July 27



(pitpony, photography)

Billy Talent (punk rock)

The Canadian band that plays punk and alternative rock is coming to Kyiv. Billy Talent are to present their latest album "Afraid of Heights." The band includes four friends - the lead vocalist, the guitarist, the bassist and the drummer. Founded in 1983, Billy Talent had no lineup changes since then.

Billy Talent (punk rock). Atlas (37/41 Sichovykh Striltsiv St.). July 29. 7 p.m. Hr 1,000-2,200

'Salomé' (British National Theatre Live)

The new retelling of the classic tale staged by the acclaimed director Yaël Farber is to be screened in Kyiv Cinema. Farber places Salomé in the center of a revolution in an occupied and suffering land. In this new story, Salomé changes the course of history.

"Salomé." Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) Aug. 1. 7 p.m. Hr 175



(nationaltheatre.org.uk)

July 27

Artist and Time. Fedir Krychevsky (art show). National Art Museum. 11 a.m.— 6 p.m. Hr 40. 📍

Beach and Shore (art show). Russian Art Museum. 10 a.m.— 5 p.m. Hr 35 📍

Vedalife. City (yoga and Vedic culture festival). Ukrainian House. 11 a.m.— 10 p.m. Free 📍

Blossom Soul (art show). Zavalnyi Art Center. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free 📍

That's Wassup (art party). M17. 12 p.m.— 1 a.m. Pay what you want 📍

Cheese Weekend (cheese fair). Vsi Svoi. 10 a.m.— 8 p.m. Free 📍

Shows

Billy Talent. Atlas. 7 p.m. Hr 1,000-2,200 📍

Movies

Dunkirk (action, history). Zhovten. 4:20 p.m. Hr 60-80 📍

Theater

Macbeth (opera). Multiplex. 3 p.m. Hr 175-225 📍

Sunday, July 30

Classical music

Classics in the Garden. Serenades Evening. Playing Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Schubert, Elgar, Dvorak. Gryshko Botanical Garden. 8 p.m. Hr 300 📍

Clubs

Crazy Dance Party. Caribbean Club. 10 p.m. Hr 100. Free for women 📍

Miscellaneous

We Are Alive (photo exhibition). Izone. 12 p.m.— 8 p.m. Free 📍

Instinct (art show). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free 📍

Artist and Time. Fedir Krychevsky (art show). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.— 5 p.m. Hr 40. 📍

Beach and Shore (art show). Russian Art Museum. 10 a.m.— 5 p.m. Hr 35 📍

Vedalife. City (yoga and Vedic culture festival). Ukrainian House. 11 a.m.— 10 p.m. Free 📍

Blossom Soul (art show). Zavalnyi Art Center. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free 📍

Cheese Weekend (cheese fair). Vsi Svoi. 10 a.m.— 8 p.m. Free 📍

Shows

5 Vymir (indie rock). Docker Pub. 9 p.m. Hr 100-125 📍

That's Wassup (art party). M17. 12 p.m.— 1 a.m. Pay what you want 📍

Movies

Dunkirk (action). Zhovten. 4:20 p.m. Hr 60-80 📍

I, Claude Monet. Exhibition On Screen. Kyiv. 3 p.m. Hr 150 📍

Monday, July 31

Clubs

Hot Dance Party. Caribbean Club. 10 p.m. Free 📍

Miscellaneous

We Are Alive (photo exhibition). Izone. 12-8 p.m. Free 📍

Instinct (art show). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free 📍

Blossom Soul (art show). Zavalnyi Art Center. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free 📍

Tuesday, August 1

Live music

British Invasion Symphonic Concert. Playing covers of songs by Elton John, Sting, The Beatles, Queen, Pink Floyd. Roof. 7 p.m. Hr 250-450 📍

Miscellaneous

We Are Alive (photo exhibition). Izone. 12 p.m.— 8 p.m. Free 📍

Instinct (art show). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free 📍

Beach and Shore (art show). Russian Art Museum. 10 a.m.— 5 p.m. Hr 35 📍

Blossom Soul (art show). Zavalnyi Art Center. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free 📍

Movies

The Hippopotamus. Kinopanorama. 3 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 50-70 📍

That's Wassup (art party)

That's Wassup is a networking party for young artists of all kinds. At the event, they will present their work and create new pieces: paintings, installations, music, and cinema. Attendants are welcome to take part in the Exchange Game - draw a painting and exchange it for another visitor's artwork. Apart from that, the visitors will have an opportunity to listen to the music, dance, get tattoos, try vegan food and drinks. **That's Wassup. M17 Contemporary Art Center (102-104 Antonovycha St.). July 29. 12 p.m. - 1 a.m. Pay what you want**



July 27

Theater

Salomé. British National Theatre Live. Kyiv. 7 p.m. Hr 175

Wednesday, August 2

Live music

Jazz on the Roof. Playing energetic African and Cuban jazz. Bel étage. 8 p.m. Hr 250-350

Poetry and Jazz on the Roof. Writer Irena Karpa reads her favorite poetry, prose to jazz music. Roof. 8 p.m. Hr 150-450

Miscellaneous

We Are Alive (photo exhibition). Izone. 12 p.m.— 8 p.m. Free

Instinct (art show). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free

Artist and Time. Fedir Krychevsky (art show). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.— 5 p.m. Hr 40

a.m.— 5 p.m. Hr 40

Beach and Shore (art show). Russian Art Museum. 10 a.m.— 5 p.m. Hr 35

Blossom Soul (art show). Zavalnyi Art Center. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free

Movies

Michelangelo: Love and Death. Exhibition on Screen. Multiplex. 7:30 p.m. Hr 150

Thursday, August 3

Live music

Jazz on the Beach. Playing Ella Fitzgerald, Shirley Bassey, Frank Sinatra, James Brown, Ray Charles, and Herbie Hancock songs. UBK club. 8 p.m. Hr 200

Miscellaneous

We Are Alive (photo exhibition).

Izone. 12-8 p.m. Free

Instinct (art show). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free

Artist and Time. Fedir Krychevsky (art show). National Art Museum. 10 a.m.— 5 p.m. Hr 40

Blossom Soul (art show). Zavalnyi Art Center. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free

Movies

The Hippopotamus. Kinopanorama. 3 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 50-70

Friday, August 4

Live music

Jazz on the Roof. Playing Ella Fitzgerald. Bel étage. 8 p.m. Hr 250-450

Miscellaneous

We Are Alive (photo exhibition).

Izone. 12 p.m.— 8 p.m. Free

Instinct (art show). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free

Beach and Shore (art show). Russian Art Museum. 10 a.m.— 5 p.m. Hr 35

Blossom Soul (art show). Zavalnyi Art Center. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free

Saturday, August 5

Classical music

Classics in the Garden. Playing Strauss, Saint-Saens, Tchaikovsky, Satie, Delib, Grieg. Gryshko Botanical Garden. 8 p.m. Hr 300

Clubs

DJ Zed Bias. UBK Club. 10 p.m. Hr 100-150

'We Are Alive' (photo exhibition)

The photo exhibition features photos made by eight teenagers between the ages of 14 and 16 that live in Maryinka, a front-line city in Donetsk Oblast. Their lives have changed irreversibly because of the Russia's invasion, and they have witnessed destructions of Ukrainian cities and villages. The photos feature children standing next to the ruined buildings of their town.

"We Are Alive." Izone (8 Naberezhno-Luhova St.). July 29 - Aug. 8. 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. Free



July 27



July 27

'Serenades in the Garden' (live music)

The summer season of classical music shows in Gryshko National Botanical Garden continues with serenades. The Kyiv Virtuosos Symphony Orchestra will play romantic compositions by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Pyotr Tchaikovsky, Franz Schubert, Edward Elgar and others. Set right in the middle of the garden, the stage will be decorated with lights to contribute to the romantic atmosphere.

"Serenades in the Garden." Gryshko National Botanical Garden (1 Tymiriazivska St.). July 30. 8 p.m. Hr 300

Sunday, August 6

Live music

Jazz on the Roof. Oleksii Kogan. Bel étage. 8 p.m. Hr 250-350

Clubs

Codex Rooftop II (techno party). K. Point. 12 p.m. Hr 120

Miscellaneous

We Are Alive (photo exhibition). Izone. 12 p.m.— 8 p.m. Free

Instinct (art show). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free

Beach and Shore (art show). Russian Art Museum. 10 a.m.— 5 p.m. Hr 35

Blossom Soul (art show). Zavalnyi Art Center. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free

Movies

The Hippopotamus. Kinopanorama. 3 p.m. Hr 50-70

The Curious World of Hieronymus Bosch. Exhibition on Screen. Kyiv. 3 p.m. Hr 150

Apartment 38 (party). Sandali. 9 p.m. Hr 300-450

Miscellaneous

We Are Alive (photo exhibition). Izone. 12 p.m.— 8 p.m. Free

Instinct (art show). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free

Beach and Shore (art show). Russian Art Museum. 10 a.m.— 5 p.m. Hr 35

Blossom Soul (art show). Zavalnyi Art Center. 10 a.m.— 7 p.m. Free

Shows

Panivalkova (indie pop). Bel étage. 7:30 p.m. Hr 350

Movies

The Hippopotamus. Kinopanorama. 3 p.m. Hr 50-70

Theater

Richard II by Shakespeare's Globe Theater (screening). Multiplex. 3 p.m. Hr 175-225

Venues

Classical Music

● Gryshko National Botanical Garden (1 Tymiriazivska St.) 044 285 4105

Live Music

● Bel étage (16A Shota Rustaveli St.) 067 171

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● Dovzhenko Film Studio (44 Peremohy Ave.) 044 454 1949 dovzhenkofilm-studio@gmail.com

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● America House (6 Mykoly Pymonenka St.)

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● National Art Museum of Ukraine (6 Mykhaila Hrushevskoho St.) 044 278 1357 info@namu.kiev.ua

● America House (6 Mykoly Pymonenka St.)

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How to avoid scams in real estate deals

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV
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Because of the sheer volume of lightly regulated transactions — measured in the thousands yearly even in a depressed real estate market like the one in Ukraine — it's hard to know whether illegal scams are common or rare.

Dmitriy Sykaluk, a lawyer with DLF firm, said that while no official statistics exist on how many people have been victims of fraud, he is confident that the number is large and growing.

And they can be particularly costly when it comes to real estate, with transactions in the tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars.

According to Sykaluk, scams and hoaxes go hand-in-hand with the economic and political turmoil in Ukraine since the EuroMaidan Revolution that drove President Viktor Yanukovich from power on Feb. 22, 2014.

He says that with the economy still sluggish and consumer confidence low, more people are looking to invest in property rather than keeping their money in cash or in bank accounts. At the same time, fraudsters are also looking to cash in.

"Ukrainian law makes it easy to

buy and sell property," said Sykaluk. "The government is trying to simplify the process. But such simplifications also bring new possibilities for fraud schemes. Every seventh deal is troubled."

Another problem, he said, is "legal illiteracy" of buyers and their unwillingness to pay for expert help. He said the relatively simple step of having a purchase agreement reviewed by a qualified professional would substantially reduce the risk of becoming a victim.

Top schemes

In his years working in real estate, Sykaluk has seen both buyers and sellers fall victim to all manner of schemes.

With new construction, a common trap is the "double sale," when the same apartment is sold multiple times to different people.

The fraud reveals itself, says Sykaluk, when the buyers attempt to register their ownership with authorities, only to find there are several people with the same claim on the property. Subsequently tracking down the company behind the construction is a long and often costly process.

The growing use of electronic registers, meanwhile, has helped elimi-



A building goes up in downtown Kyiv on May 15. Many Ukrainians, still distrustful of the banking system, use real estate as a means to store wealth. But property purchases are often made by people unfamiliar with real estate law, leaving them vulnerable to scams and hoaxes. (Oleg Petrusiuk)

nate scams which flourished in the past. But some still persist, including sellers using forged documents to stake claims to property.

Buyers who make purchases without the help of a lawyer, said Sykaluk, are especially vulnerable.

But even if the signing of contracts goes smoothly, problems can still arise.

A classic scheme is for one half of a couple to sell an apartment and accept payment from a buyer, only for their spouse to then claim they did not consent to the sale.

Such ploys are known as "refusal of transaction." For a buyer who has fallen to the scheme, getting their money back is far from easy.

"Even though most of the schemes are easy to recognize, they often require a long process of litigation to put right," said Sykaluk. "But if a scheme has been well-planned and executed, its victims might end up with nothing."

Bankruptcy of construction companies is also a potential hazard, although this can be counted as negligence and poor management rather than fraud.

"Builders go bust for different reasons," said Sykaluk. "If you see that a builder has financial trouble, you should find a lawyer and try to get your money back, at least partially. "Though in most cases money is not

returned."

Due diligence

One of the best ways to avoid any troubles associated with buying or selling a property is to have a knowledgeable specialist.

Auditors and lawyers are exactly those who are needed, said Lina Nemchenko, a lawyer with Baker McKenzie. She said different types of due diligence can "reveal legal problem zones and find a way to get rid of them before a contract is signed."

Lawyers conduct due diligence to independently examine a property or a business. Due diligence is needed for both sellers and buyers.

Part of the evaluation includes checking the property's court history, possible debts associated with it or rights that belong to third parties. Lawyers also research prospective buyers to check their reputation and financial ability to make the purchase.

"Due diligence is about understanding the risks, problems, and acquisition of comfort towards a potential purchase," Nemchenko told the Kyiv Post.

Due diligence looks into technical aspects as well, making sure buyers will be able to build on a land plot they buy or refurbish premises on the land.

"There might be underground wires or power lines that will prevent you from building anything," she said. "There was a situation when a person bought a plot which was included into a city plan for a new circular road." And examination by lawyers and auditors might have revealed that fact, she's sure.

Lawyers also look closely at the contract as well.

More about business

Eduard Brazos, head of committee of information systems and analytics at the Ukrainian Association of Realtors, thinks due diligence is especially needed involving business projects.

"You have to dig deep, especially about everything that concerns the tax history of a company to be sure your money is invested safely," he told the Kyiv Post.

Brazos said he's never really encountered any fraudulent schemes on the Ukrainian real estate market, nor have his clients.

"Businesses might have problems with unpaid taxes, but I've never heard any horror stories when a buyer saved \$500 on lawyers and someone stripped him of his property," Brazos said. "Usually when one hammers out a deal that costs several hundreds of thousands of dollars, one does not try to save some \$500." ■



Odesa Film Festival pageantry

A woman takes a selfie on the red carpet of Odesa International Film Festival on July 22. Hundreds of filmmakers and movie lovers flocked to Odesa National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater on July 22 to learn the names of the winners of 8th Odesa International Film Festival that took place on July 14-22. During the festival, 35 movies competed for the main prize, the Grand Prix Golden Duke, which is awarded based on the audience votes. This year's Grand Prix went to the Belgian film "King of the Belgians" by Peter Brosens and Jessica Hope Woodworth. The jury's award for the Best International Feature Film went to Catalan director Carla Simon's biographical piece "Summer 1993," while the jury of the national contest picked a documentary, "Dixie Land," by Roman Bondarchuk as Best Ukrainian Feature Film. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

BUSINESS ADVISER

Due Diligence

What's new for the last 3 years in Ukraine



Wolfgang Gomerik,
MBA

CEO & Partner of DELTA
Ukraine

The perception of conducting Due Diligence as a mandatory part of any project or object acquisition has changed according to our opinion. Ukrainian investors understand more and more the added value of conducting due diligence if you place your assets on the market for sale. Our international experience, backed with the feedback of other market players and institutional investors, shows an increase of purchasing price of 1.5% to 3% if the asset sold has also a proper documentation available. The more you look eastwards on the geographical map, the more important it gets. Ukrainian sellers cooperating with Western partners or buyers more often initiate a Seller Due Diligence or Audit about their product, hence providing the potential buyer or business partner with a comprehensive overview when initiating their own due diligence procedure. Essential output of this procedure – it builds trust through showing transparency and professionalism, which in turn speeds up the transaction process and potentially has positive impact on the sales price.

From the eyes of the Western investor

“Why is this handover act indicating a building on this land plot, but I don't see it in reality”? The reality is in the attitude of Ukraine and other former USSR-countries. Foreign direct investors which are on their first moves on former Soviet grounds often still struggle with basics such as the understanding of the interaction between an act of completion, invoices paid and the eventually constructed building, technical equipment, infrastructure, etc. Solution is a comprehensive approach of technical, legal and juridical due diligence with different experts in this field. One stamp in the hundreds of documents is always missing in Ukrainian real estate business and one shouldn't always get into any detail and try to do everything 100% right. The key to success is doing the right things, within compliance and code of ethics, commencing risk assessment on key attributes. Another approach, before getting in to detail, could be a Red Flag Report or as we call it the DELTA Quick Check, to indicate major deal breakers and exit strategies.

Data room – an everlasting hurdle

The nice-to-have scenario for any buyer is hard to achieve – anywhere in the world: Documentation provided in a hard copy and in a digital data room. As mentioned previously, it helps in speeding up the transaction process, hence shortens potentially exclusivity periods, enhances trust and optimizes the yields. Please be aware that the Ukrainian design documentation proven by state expertise is just 25% of what has to be checked. More important are, for example: Certificates, acts of works, photo documentation, as-built documentation, open issues with contractors, contracts with the facility or property management, contracts with infrastructure suppliers and obligations of the seller herein, etc. Mentioned documentation is always cross-checked by interviews with key players of the representatives of the seller. The sooner attention is to be paid for setting up a digital data room, the better. Ideally, during the real estate development phase.

“What on earth did we acquire?”

Post-acquisition due diligences that we have mostly conducted during hard times of the financial crises between the years of 2008 and 2009. During the years of 2006-2007 we often purchased real estate assets of different kinds, flushing them mostly into Western investment funds, banks of private investors. Reality crushed in, and suddenly we were busy for months to conduct post-acquisitions due diligences of objects and transactions, which have barely on the surface seen any due diligence before the acquisition. It seems these times have passed, according to our observation, and I hope they will not recur in the future.

Contents of a due diligence report

According to the requirements of the client, DELTA offers different aspects as a part of a due diligence report. The development capabilities (utilization concept and space planning, further development and functionality etc.) indicate aspects of future utilization or use of the purchased object and/or land plot. Public authority and infrastructure issues are always potential hidden deal breakers in Ukraine and need to be checked in detail. Elaborating facts with location and urban infrastructure topics, fire protection and escape routes or agreements (verbal or written) with utility providers are crucial for any future deal with the purchased real estate. Experts for ground water examinations, building structure checks, contamination, etc. are additional important deliverables. Together with third party experts we recommend to highlight and reflect major legal documents, acts and guarantee or warranty obligations of contractors, the general contractor or others.

Beyond the due diligence report

Additional added value for the vendor are usually feasibility studies, floor layouts and optimization strategies of both the building and facilities. CAPEX (Capital Expenditures) from the short, mid and long-term perspective are often included as a must have criteria into the main report, and essential for both future development decisions and – worth mentioning – negotiations with the seller. Topics like LCC (life cycle costs) analysis and Urban Living Studies are on the move in Western Europe but we haven't monitored it in Ukraine yet.



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Activist Pavlo Kaliuk stands outside the frozen Podil Prestige building on July 27. Activists allege the top five floors were added illegally and have a court order backing their claim. Activists want the top five floors of the currently unused building to be removed. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Activists say developer illegally added 5 floors in historic Podil

BY JOSH KOVENSKY
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The center of Kyiv's historic Podil district is at risk of destruction, allegedly because one developer failed to do its due diligence.

Atop Kontraktova Ploshcha Metro station stands the Podil Prestige residential complex, a sagging, yellow-and-brown 13-story monolith that was completed three years ago but is still not in use.

Podil activists and local city council members allege that the developer illegally added five floors to the apartment complex, placing the building at risk of collapse and threatening the surrounding area.

“It could be dangerous,” said Pavlo Kaliuk, a Podil activist. “The building destroys the integrity of our neighborhood. Podil is a historical area, and we need to preserve that.”

Building follies

The Podil Prestige complex stands on Nizhny Val Street, next to one of the entrances to the Kontraktova Ploshcha metro station.

Construction began on the complex in 2009, for an original

eight-story building.

But the heart of the controversy lies in what happened next – the developer added five extra floors to the building, allegedly rendering it structurally unsound while leaving it as a towering eyesore over Podil's historic skyline.

Former Kyiv chief architect Sergey Tselovalnik railed against the development for adding the extra floors. “It's a barbaric violation of the requirements of the law,” he said.

The building also violates municipal Podil ordinances which keep buildings at low heights in an effort to preserve the neighborhood's historical character.

The five floors are easily visible on what has come to be known as Podil's “monster house” – they jut out from what looks like the natural plain of the building's roof into the skyline above Podil.

“It destroys the horizon,” said Kaliuk.

Should the building be put into use, it could collapse inwards on itself, destroying the metro line that runs beneath.

The damage would cost millions of dollars, not including the destruction

of the center of one of Kyiv's most well-preserved historical areas.

Developer

The developer is a legal entity called Pateli Leasing, which owns other buildings in the Podil area. Podil Leasing is owned by a woman named Fedora Pateli. Pateli did not reply to requests for comment. Numbers listed for Pateli Leasing were disconnected.

Activists allege that Pateli is a front for corrupt officials from the era of ex-President Viktor Yanukovich, who fled power on Feb. 22, 2014, amid the popular uprising known as the EuroMaidan Revolution.

Ending the schemes?

According to Kaliuk and others, the danger motivated them to protest the building, supporting cases in court to first freeze the development and then remove the extra floors.

In 2015, the activists – with the help of lawyers from the Kyiv city government – won a court victory when a judge put a stay on the building, freezing it and preventing it from going into use.

From there, they moved to have the illegal five floors demolished.

A Kyiv city deputy - Olha Balytska - has helped by filing official requests on the activists' behalf.

But Aleksandr Voronyuk, an attorney for the activists, said that the building's “investors” have attempted to restart control of the building via a new scheme: by using supposed property rights obtained from their investment in the building's construction, they have tried to use their right to the property of separate apartments in the complex.

“It's a method of pressure,” Voronyuk said. “It's not likely they'll be able to use the building.”

Kaliuk said that while activists are trying to take down the remaining five floors, the court case has all but stalled.

“Kyiv has really changed, but we can still save Podil,” he said. ■



The Podil Prestige apartment complex stands on the corner of Kostantynivska and Nizhny Val in June 2015, after a court put a stay on the building amid an outcry from Podil activists. (UNIAN)

BUSINESS ADVISER

Advertisement

Specific shades of due diligence in Ukraine



Helen Volska
Managing Partner and Director, EBS

The reality of investment business in Ukraine is still such that the target investee companies quite often are undervalued for the reason that they are still not completely transparent, let's say, if they are not black, they are quite often somewhat grey. While on one hand this may be frustrating, on the other hand this is one of the factors which makes the targets interesting to potential committed investors who are capable of fixing such a problem and to grow value.

Often such target companies are Ukrainian businesses which have never been audited. At the initiation of discussion with potential investors, they present managerial accounts as a basis to prove performance and a built financial model and valuation. Depending on the real color of the business (i.e. real level of transparency), such managerial accounts may contain larger or comparatively smaller portion of accounts which can be confirmed by usual audit.

Such reality creates difficulties as potential investors who still want to be able to trust the numbers presented to them in managerial accounts. And, of course, in these situations the number of "skeletons in the box" may grow over time. The solution demands a creative approach on conducting the due diligence.

While the reliability of such due diligence should be lower, it is still worth doing for certain cases. While in terms of financial due diligence, usually one relies on standard audit procedures, in such cases more attention to alternative and analytical procedures should be given. In many transactional cases with declared related parties, including natural persons – entrepreneurs may be identified and confirmed. In such situation, the preference is on the side of companies with strong internal controls. The more the target company has internal control procedures and reliable IT infrastructure, the more credibility it gives, which is taken into account during due diligence. At the same time, certain operations, which have no legal background, remain unverifiable.

It should especially be noted that target companies who's usual valuation might be adjusted at least for this part of the business which is not verifiable. The decision on such an adjustment depends on the level on trust from a potential investor, and such trust may be supported by deferred payment terms. In addition, during the due diligence, additional value adjustments are usually made based on the estimation of the additional amount of accrued taxes, assuming that a new investor will insist on more transparency. In some situations, such adjustments might even be a deal breaker.

The nice surprise for both parties during due diligence maybe the identification of inefficiencies in the business process and operations, elimination of which may partly or fully compensate the transparency effect in the future. Such findings may be incorporated in future strategic and operational planning.

Much like other paradoxes in Ukraine: The non-transparency of Ukrainian companies harm to their owners in terms on valuation, on the other hand, such a valuation makes investment in those companies quite attractive.



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Buyer beware: What it pays to know about Kyiv property

BY RAHIM RAHEMTULLA
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Ukraine's status as an emerging market means any property transaction will always carry risk. Those risks can be mitigated with due diligence, but perhaps never eliminated.

Lawyers might research whether an apartment complex developer is financially stable or if there are any disputes surrounding ownership of a property.

But even the best advocate would have been unable to predict the 2014 EuroMaidan Revolution that ousted President Viktor Yanukovich. The revolution, which triggered Russia's war, also started a steep economic downturn from which Ukraine has only recently emerged.

Real estate was by no means insulated from the slump. Although now once again looking up, on average since 2011 property prices have dropped by 30 percent.

But macroeconomic shocks are, in some cases, the least of the worries of a potential buyer or investor.

A high-profile example of the risks associated with failing to conduct proper due diligence is the case of Oleksandr Klymenko, Ukraine's tax and revenue minister under Yanukovich.

Klymenko is accused of stealing hundreds of millions of dollars from the state budget and laundering the bounty offshore. Companies he allegedly used to funnel the money back into Ukraine were searched by police on July 14.

According to prosecutors, some of Klymenko's ill-gotten gains were used to buy real estate in Kyiv, much of which was later sold to others.

Today, those buyers have found themselves caught up in the investigation, with the properties they bought from companies linked to Klymenko being subject to searches and inventories by police. While the case continues, they cannot rent or sell the properties and are potentially facing long legal battles to assert their rights of ownership and clear themselves of any wrongdoing.

But had the buyers done their due diligence, it should have been possible to learn that the properties they were purchasing were coming from an untrustworthy source, says Igor Rubenstein, director of Kiev International Realty. He told the Kyiv Post that such information would have been revealed during the title search, when records are studied to determine claims on a property.

"At the time when a purchase is made, we have our legal team do the title search," said Rubenstein. "In case there are any question marks in regards to the ownership structures of the previous owner, of course they'll look into that. If there is even a hint of a red flag, we won't go through with the transaction."

Specialist work

In residential Kyiv real estate, "red flags" come in all shapes and sizes and are often more mundane than vast money laundering schemes perpetrated by high-ranking officials.

More common are family feuds over property or a spouse or even former spouse failing to give consent to a sale. Something as simple as



Officials conduct searches on July 14 at the Gulliver Business Center in Kyiv at companies linked to Ukraine's fugitive former tax and revenue minister Oleksandr Klymenko. (AFP)



Oleksander Klymenko. Ukraine's exiled ex-tax and revenue minister

unpaid utility bills – which an owner may not even be aware of – can also hold up a transaction.

Checking for the existence of such complicating factors is crucial, say brokers.

Given that in Ukraine there is no unified property register – and those that exist are often incomplete – such work is best carried out by seasoned lawyers able to make use of formal and informal resources, networks and contacts.

Broker Tim Louzonis, of AIM Realty Kiev, said that when it comes to finding out if a property is subject to any disputes, a good lawyer is like a private investigator.

"It would be great if we could all log in to an online database of court cases but that's not the way it works," Louzonis told the Kyiv Post. "But it is a necessary step. Finding a lawyer who will get down in the weeds and dig around is very important. If the lawyer says it's going to be simple, find another lawyer."

Deadbeat developers

Other due diligence concerns evaluating the architectural and structural elements. This is especially important when it comes to older apartments in Kyiv's historical center, built prior to the 1950s. It pays to hire a specialist to look into the condition of electrical, plumbing and heating systems before committing to a deal.

New developments, meanwhile, are not necessarily a safer bet. Among the most prevalent problems associated with them are apartment blocks constructed without the proper permits or with permits obtained through bribery.

Investors who put their money into such projects can often be in for a nasty shock when the build-

ing is nearing completion and the authorities refuse to connect it to the city's water or electricity networks because it does not meet the required standards.

Good due diligence can reveal such issues before they arise.

"There are builders who have good reputations," said Rubenstein. "I don't think you can do everything by the book in Ukraine, but you can be reasonable about what you do and don't do. And then there are some developers who just build without permits and sell to the population."

Worse still are developers who declare bankruptcy and leave construction incomplete.

One notorious case concerns the apartment block located at 58A Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street in the heart of Kyiv, where construction began in the mid-2000s. In 2008, the company behind the venture, Konsol Limited, said it could not afford to finish the building. Only this year did the initial investors manage to raise the needed funds.

The way to avoid getting caught up in such bad deals, say property agents, is to carefully evaluate any developer before committing.

"Approach things conservatively and take a low risk, lower return strategy, that is my advice," Rubenstein told the Kyiv Post. "Don't take a chance on unproven developers. If something looks too good to be true, it is."

Hiring right people

Local property experts say that in spite of all the risks, there are still good deals to be had in Kyiv residential real estate. But in what is a cash-driven environment, closing deals quickly is the key to success.

That applies to due diligence too, the bulk of which needs to be done within a week of identifying a potential purchase.

Given the chaotic nature of the market, that may seem an unrealistic timeframe, although industry insiders say it is entirely achievable.

The key is to make good decisions even when it comes to the first step of hiring the right people to see a transaction through to completion.

"Ukrainian brokers like to disappear into the night," said Louzonis. "They are not bound by laws or an ethics code. There's no licensing for brokers. You need to do your due diligence when you select a broker." ■

Taste different kinds of cheese produced at farms all over Ukraine at the Cheese Weekend in Kyiv. The event is a part of the summer food fair held at Vsi Svoi (12 Desiatyynna St.) on July 29-30, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.



Women in charge talk about gender roles



Left to right: Yana Minenko, general director of Renault Ukraine, Oksana Syroid, deputy speaker of Ukraine's parliament, Sofia Opatska, a founder and the dean of Lviv Business School at the Ukrainian Catholic University, and Nina Kuryata, editor-in-chief at BBC Ukraine (Kostyantyn Chernichkin, Oleg Petراسиuk, UNIAN, Courtesy)

Editor's Note: This article is a part of the "Journalism of Tolerance" project by the Kyiv Post and its affiliated non-profit organization, the Media Development Foundation. The project covers challenges faced by sexual, ethnic and other minorities in Ukraine, as well as people with physical disabilities and those living in poverty. This project is made possible by the support of the American people through the U. S. Agency for International Development and Internews. Content is independent of the donors.

BY MARIYA KAPINOS
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Society often encourages women in Ukraine to take the "traditional values" path in life: Get married, have children and take care of their bread-winning husbands.

Those who choose to live differ-

ently, often independently, encounter judgmental attitudes or worse.

When Anton Gerashchenko, an advisor to Ukraine's Interior Ministry, in a 2016 interview with Korrespondent news website was asked about ex-military pilot Nadiya Savchenko's political activity, he said that she should "take care of her

personal life and start a family."

Indeed, this is what many Ukrainian women choose to do.

According to the State Statistics Service of Ukraine, as many as 45 percent of Ukrainian women (6.8 million) aged 15-70 years were unemployed in the first quarter of 2016. For men, this index was lower – only 35 percent of men from this age group (4.3 million) did not have jobs at the same period.

But even when a Ukrainian woman works, she is often under-

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paid, earning 35.6 percent less than men.

Still, not everyone thinks there is a problem.

A 2016 opinion poll by Razumkov Center, a Kyiv-based think tank, revealed that 48 percent of women and 52 percent of men do

not believe that gender discrimination exists in Ukraine.

The Kyiv Post talked to four successful Ukrainian women about their journeys.

more **Women** on page 14

Made in Ukraine

WITH TOMA ISTOMINA
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Eccentric Ukrainian bookmarks conquer foreign markets

Those who tend to get lost in a book can now find their feet – literally.

A Ukrainian entrepreneur found success producing quirky bookmarks that look like legs sticking out of a book.

Olena Mysnyk has sold online 12,000 bookmarks worth \$150,000 in 2016 alone. Her bookmarks featuring human legs or animal paws and tails are now sticking from books all over the world.

While her handmade bookmarks are of high demand abroad, where they are sold for \$20-\$30, they are not quite as popular in Ukraine, even though they cost less here - \$15.

Artem Novitsky, a barista at a Kyiv bookstore My Book Shelf, where the bookmarks are sold, says that their price makes for bad sales.

"Most customers like the bookmarks. They look at them, but put them back right after seeing how much they cost," he told the Kyiv Post.

Etsy, a platform for selling handmade items, is the biggest source of customers for Mysnyk's bookmarks.

"You need to sort out the platform, speak English, write good descriptions and take good pictures," she says.

Artistic soul

Mysnyk, 32, says that it wasn't a surprise for anyone in her circle when some six years ago she came up with the idea for the unusual bookmarks. She's always been creative and loved to make things, like building houses on trees and creating jewelry out of wire found in her dad's garage.

Mysnyk holds a degree in architecture from the Kyiv National University of Civil Engineering and Architecture. She says that the college contributed to her creative skills.

The idea for the leggy bookmarks came to her in a very visual way.

"I was at my friend's home when in the middle of the mess in the kids' room I saw a doll lying in a book with its legs sticking out of it," Mysnyk said.

Instead of asking anyone their opinion about this concept, the entrepreneur decided to check whether they would buy it or not. She believes that this is the only effective way to see if the product will bring money as "simply talking about it is all theoretical".

more **Bookmarks** on page 14

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KyivPost

Female leaders discuss discrimination, stereotypes, gender barriers in Ukraine

Women from page 13

Nina Kuryata:

"A man would always ask for more money."

This woman remembers the time when she was holding her baby in one hand and making calls to political experts with another while also cooking soup. These efforts paid off: Today Nina Kuryata, 39, is an editor-in-chief at BBC Ukraine.

She is proud to say that gender is not an issue at the BBC: Here, no one will ask a potential employee how many children he or she has and if there is someone to watch them while parents are at work.

Kuryata has been working at BBC since 2011. Before that, she was a political journalist. In 2008, she was interviewing one of the top managers of the National Bank of Ukraine.

"When I came to him, I could immediately see his dislike," says Kuryata.

When she asked questions during an interview, he would keep repeating: "If you just knew something about the subject..."

Kuryata believes it was his misogynist showing.

"In Ukraine, the men in power are not used to women being in charge," she says.

Kuryata also notes that male job applicants at the BBC often ask for more money than women. "When a man comes to BBC for a job interview, sometimes he asks for a bigger salary than I have," she says.

If couples share responsibilities, Kuryata says, then women don't have to choose between work and home.

Oksana Syroid:

"Men compete with their bosses, women compete with each other."

She is the first woman to serve as the deputy speaker of Ukraine's parliament.

Oksana Syroid, 41, was raised in a family where her father adored

her mother.

"Thanks to my family, it never came to my head I would not achieve something because I was a woman," she told the Kyiv Post on July 7.

She believes that in Ukraine, women are not fighting for their rights, but rather are taking them back.

"During the Hetman State (1654-1764), Ukrainian women had the right to inherit property," Syroid said. "They didn't have it in most of the European countries. Our women were very independent."

Being a supervisor to both male and female lawmakers, Syroid sees the difference in their behavior.

"Men are trying to compete with me; women compete with each other," she said. Women, she said, should be more supportive of each other.

At the same time, Syroid wants the society to treat women according to their achievements, not gender, age or out-of-date prejudices.

"I remember when in March Natalia Boiko was appointed deputy minister for European integration, there were so many negative comments because she was a woman and because she was young," Syroid says.

Sofia Opatska:

"Misogyny often comes from other women."

Sofia Opatska, 41, is a founder and the dean of Lviv Business School at the Ukrainian Catholic University. She represents the western part of Ukraine where, Opatska says, people "are much more traditional."

"In the west of Ukraine, to be successful, a woman has to do everything at once, to succeed both at work and at home," Opatska told the Kyiv Post. "While for a man it's enough to have a good job."

She also noted that if something goes wrong, women tend to blame themselves while men blame everybody else, including the government, and "the system."

Opatska has two children and a loving husband, and sometimes spends seven days a week at work. She also gives lectures in Lviv Business School and says the worst environment for a woman lecturer is programs for women.

"With men, what's important is not to say silly things," said Opatska. "Women are usually more judgmental."

Opatska explained that, at the end of every class, lecturers ask students to grade their work, some of the harshest criticism of her comes from other women. "They usually give me lower grades than men," said Opatska.

Yana Minenko:

"Ukrainian Renault office has a global reputation for its women employees."

Only one of Renault car manufacturer's 128 global offices is run by a woman. Yana Minenko, 37, started to work in Renault Group in 2002, slowly rising to the top. In 2014, she became Renault Ukraine's general director.

During the interview with the Kyiv Post on July 13, Minenko called herself a workaholic, saying that her work defines her.

Jan Ptacek, a former general director of Renault Ukraine and Minenko's ex-boss, once told Minenko that he "used to promote women in Ukraine because here they are more ambitious."

While Minenko says she has not encountered gender discrimination, stereotypes remain.

In Renault office in Kyiv, the proportion of male and female employees is 50/50, more balanced than in other European offices.

Minenko believes men and women have different approaches to business: Women try to satisfy everyone, while men are more challenging and argumentative. However, Minenko has no doubts that both male and female qualities are vital for building a prosperous business. ■



Olena Mysnyk displays one of the bookmarks produced by her company MyBOOKmark. (Oleg Petrasuiuk)

Made in Ukraine: Bookmarks rack up online sales abroad

Bookmarks from page 13

Production

Having started with a couple of designs, today the company, called MyBOOKmark, sells more than 150 variations of handmade bookmarks and employs 14 people.

Their traditional designs are the ones with people's legs — men's and women's in different shoes, socks, and positions. They also produce bookmarks with animals and fictional creatures like mermaids, unicorns, and dragons. Apart from that, the company makes themed or seasonal collections, including a Christmas collection with bookmarks featuring Santa Claus, a gingerbread man, and a snowman.

Mysnyk is still the one coming up with the designs, but now she has a team of employees to make bookmark prototypes, replicate them, and do marketing.

The businesswoman says that the company did a research recently that showed that despite the original purpose of a bookmark, their customers don't read much and mostly buy the products as presents.

Orientation abroad

Mysnyk's MyBOOKmark was launched as an export-oriented company. Mysnyk says she is glad that they focused on the foreign audience right away as "otherwise the company might have not existed now."

She says that back in the days when she participated in fairs and exhibitions with her jewelry in Ukraine, she started showing her first bookmarks to customers but they didn't share Mysnyk's excitement about the product, saying it was too expensive for a bookmark.

Mysnyk says that today they see some sales in Ukraine but only in those places that manage to present them as "those legendary bookmarks that conquered the world."

"Our people need prestige," she says.

Nevertheless, the Ukrainian sales make for only a couple percent of the company's yearly income.

Mysnyk says that unlike Ukrainians foreigners understand that it is a spectacular present, and appreciate that it's handcrafted.

The company plans to expand the product range with magnets, brooches and more. ■

About MyBOOKmark:

Outside Ukraine, the MyBOOKmark sells on: www.mybookmark-shop.com, www.etsy.com, www.amazon.com.

In Ukraine, the bookmarks are sold at: My Book Shelf (7 Pushkinska St.) 9 a.m.— 9 p.m., Chikardi (86P Kazymyra Malevycha St.) Mon-Sat 10 a.m.— 8 p.m., or online at www.yakaboo.ua.

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Pact Inc. seeks candidates to fill the position of Anti-Corruption Expert for the USAID/ENGAGE activity in Ukraine

Anti-Corruption Expert will be responsible for coordination of anti-corruption programmatic and technical efforts for the project, under the supervision of the Strategic Communication Manager. S/he will be responsible for planning and coordinating anti-corruption and transparency program activities, developing and maintaining working relationships with civil society organizations throughout Ukraine, community groups, and other stakeholders. Roughly 80% of the Expert's time will be devoted to anti-corruption policies and the remaining 20% will be devoted to other relevant governance reform policies.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:

- At least 10 years of experience managing and conducting international development programs related to anti-corruption, governance and/or accountability;
- Minimum 7 years of demonstrated practical professional experience in designing, implementing and monitoring anti-corruption initiatives in particular sectors, including public administration, justice, education, etc.;
- Professional experience in working in or with relevant agencies such as anti-corruption, judiciary or oversight institution is highly desirable;
- Strong analytical and thought-leadership record, and problem-solving skills;
- Master's degree in Public Policy, Sociology, Public Administration, Political Science, Law, Economics or related field;
- Professional level of English, Ukrainian and Russian, both written and oral;
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For more information on this vacancy, please visit <http://bit.ly/ACExpert>

To Apply:
Please send your CV and cover letter to ENGAGEHR@pactworld.org with "Anti-Corruption Expert" in the subject line by COB August 11, 2017. Please include at least three contacts of your former supervisors who can provide reference for you. Only short-listed candidates will be invited for an interview.

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DAI GLOBAL, LLC, implementer of USAID-funded Financial Sector Transformation Project (FST)

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The Leasing Communication Assistant will assist FST with the promotion of leasing as a key financial tool for SME finance. This includes:

- Promotion of leasing as key financial tool for SME finance;
- Conducting anti-fraud public awareness campaign in leasing sector;
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- Update and maintaining of the of the web-site and Facebook page;
- Organization of the round tables, conferences, trainings and other events;
- Assist in other issues concerning leasing market development;
- Preparation of the reports to the USAID FST Project on the leasing market development.

This is a short-term assignment for up to 72 working days. Expected period of performance: September 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018

Please visit:
<https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/leasing-communication-assistant> for more details.

Candidates are asked to submit a CV and cover letter in English to RecruitmentFST@dai.com by August 10, 2017, 6 pm Kyiv time. Please reference the job for which you are applying in your e-mail's subject line.

Only applicants selected for interviews will be contacted. No telephone inquiries will be accepted.



Professionals for Reform Support Mechanism (PRSM) provides human resource support — from managers to technical experts — to critical reform initiatives undertaken by national governmental agencies. PRSM is currently seeking candidates to fill the following expert positions for the Government of Ukraine:

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 - ✓ **Responsible Community Lead.**
- For the International Maritime Organization Audit Project Management Office:
 - ✓ **The Quality management System Coordinator;**
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Senior Project Officer

IFES Ukraine is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Senior Project Officer who will design and implement IFES Ukraine's programmatic interventions and assistance to public authorities/institutions (such as election management bodies, the NAPC, and the judiciary) that are engaged in the areas of elections and political finance.

The full job description is available at:
www.facebook.com/ifesukraine/
<https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/senior-project-officer>

All qualified applicants/employees will receive consideration for employment/promotions and will not be discriminated against on the basis of disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, race, color, religion, national origin, veteran status, or any other legally protected characteristic. IFES encourages people with disabilities and from other diverse backgrounds to apply.

Interested candidates are invited to submit their CV and letter of interest, with "Application for Senior Project Officer" in the subject line, to Natalia Tarasiuk at ntarasiuk@ifes.org no later than **August 18, 2017.**

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