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Syria & Ukraine: United By War, Russian Atrocities



Members of the Syrian government forces inspect the damage of a street in the Hajar al-Aswad neighborhood on the southern outskirts of the capital of Damascus on May 22. (AFP)



People search for their belongings in an apartment after shelling in Avdiivka, a Donbas city 750 miles southeast of Kyiv, on Feb. 19, 2017. (Volodymyr Petrov)

The Kyiv Post on June 18 organized the

"Bringing Peace to Syria & Ukraine" conference

at the **InterContinental Kyiv**

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Radio NV takes to airwaves with aim of improving public dialogue

BY MARIYA KAPINOS
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For several months now, the weekly newsmagazine Novoye Vremya has been speaking to their audience – literally.

Because as the rest of the media world ventured into new digital formats, Ukraine's most popular current affairs magazine went for one of the oldest mediums – and launched its own radio station in March.

The new station Radio NV aims to bring quality talk radio content to the market dominated by music stations – and make some profit in the process.

For Vitalii Sych, the chief editor of Novoye Vremya since its launch in 2014, adding a radio station to the company's portfolio made a lot of sense. It gave the Novoe Vremya (New Time) access to the audience that is big and tough for a magazine to reach – drivers.

"Just think of it, you are informed on what is going in the world by the time you arrive to work in the morning, just by listening to the radio in the car," Sych says. "Isn't it comfortable?"

This audience attracts advertising clients, Sych told the Kyiv Post. If people can buy cars, they can afford products from radio commercials.

Thus Radio NV – a national 24-hour news and talk radio station – started broadcasting on March 12.

The new station is based on an old one, Radio Era, which was acquired in September by Novoe Vremya's investor, Dragon Capital. The Kyiv-based investment bank, headed by Czech national Tomas Fiala, paid an undisclosed sum for what had been Ukraine's oldest talk radio station.

The station, which had an audience of about 500,000 in 40 cities throughout Ukraine, was then rebranded, and Radio NV now has little in common with its predecessor. The new station partly mirrors the content of the Novoye Vremya weekly Russian-language magazine and bilingual news website, which reports on current affairs but also investigates Ukraine's top authorities and high-profile corruption schemes. Sych said that the priority now is to attract a new, younger audience to the station.

"The age of the Radio Era audience is 50-something, and we want to make it much younger, 30-something," Sych said.

Novoye Vremya was launched in spring 2014, in response to Russia's propaganda assault on Ukraine.

The core of the team, including Sych, are journalists who used



Novoe Vremya media holding chief editor Vitalii Sych (L) and Radio NV news and talk radio station chief editor Valery Kalnush (C) show their newsroom in Kyiv on April 16. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

to work together in Korrespondent, once the most successful weekly magazine in Ukraine. They fled the magazine after a close associate of then-President Viktor Yanukovich, Serhiy Kurchenko, bought it in 2013, understanding that the freedom of speech is over for the outlet.

A year later, the team and the intruder switched places. Kurchenko and Yanukovich fled the country in the wake of the EuroMaidan Revolution in February 2014. Next month, the journalists they once displaced started their new outlet.

Dragon Capital is the sole owner and investor in Novoe Vremya.

"Dragon Capital finances us, but they do not interfere in what we do," Sych says. "We see them once in a few months to discuss business questions, and that is all."

Due to the costly production and a struggling media advertising market, Novoe Vremya hasn't broken even since its launch. The radio station can bring it closer to being in the black.

"The project has to become self-sufficient," Sych explains. "The more profit we make – the less dependent we are on the investor."

Ethical position

While very much being a money-making venture, Radio NV also seeks to uphold good standards of journalism. Valery Kalnush, the former editor of news magazine Korrespondent and Radio Vesti, who is now Radio NV's chief editor, developed the station's program schedule from scratch over a period of six months. Kalnush joked that he now knows how to build a radio station with his bare

hands. His guiding principle, he said, is that facts are to prevail over opinions and personal feelings.

"If you think about it, you realize that people don't usually get to hear facts," Kalnush said. "Someone comes to a conclusion for them, and transmits that conclusion through the media, so people are left with only two options: to agree or not to agree with the conclusions."

In contrast, Radio NV aspires to provide double-checked facts.

"Trust me, this is a lot more difficult," Kalnush says. "At the same time, it's the only way to do this properly. We want people to think, to come to their own conclusions, even if not everyone likes that."

Up-to-date

Since its launch, Radio NV has from time to time received calls from former Radio Era listeners, demanding that the station return to its old format. Most of the callers are senior citizens, retirees, Kalnush said. He has little sympathy for them.

"They don't want to see reality," Kalnush said. "They live in their own universe, where the Soviet Union is the best country and everything is very cheap, and they don't support Ukraine as it is now."

Kalnush doesn't blame these people for having an opinion, but he won't be meeting their demands either.

Radio NV currently produces over 15 hours of original content every 24 hours, covering a wide range of topics, including politics, music, movies, books, and history. It even has a show on economics hosted by Ukraine's former Minister of

Economic Development and Trade Pavlo Sheremeta.

There is also a news broadcast every 20 minutes.

"We give the most up-to-date information on what is going on in Ukraine and around the world," Sych said. "We report on the situation in Syria and in Ukraine's war zone."

The station has also attracted some famous guests: During its first month on the air, the station interviewed Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman, Health Minister Ulana Suprun, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko, and former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

"When we invite people to come on the radio, they all usually agree to come," Sych said. "They come despite the fact that some of them aren't pleased with what we write about them in Novoe Vremya magazine."

Sych said Novoe Vremya magazine should not be compared to Radio NV: While they share the same themes, brands and ownership, the two media are different.

"The difference is colossal," he said. "To begin with, there's the schedule. Novoe Vremya is a weekly magazine and it has its own speed. Radio NV is a 24-hour radio station – some people come in to work at 5 a.m. and leave after 10 p.m."

And Kalnush said that even 24 hours a day is not enough time to fit all the content he wants to air.

"I try to rebroadcast the original shows at least a few times, so more people can hear them. But the competition between journalists is tough, as there's usually too much content for a 24-hour day," Kalnush said. "Some original programs with low ratings won't make it to the next season."

Radio NV is set to receive its first ratings statistics from TNS global research company in late June-July.

"Based on the results of the research, we'll decide in which direction to move further," Kalnush said.

"Thankfully, we've got a lot of plans and ideas. But our main goal is to make good-quality radio for people who are curious about the world and who always want to know more."

Radio NV's frequency is 96.0 FM. It can also be listened on the Novoe Vremya website, www.nv.ua. ■

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Stephane Derenoncourt: "I say bravo, SHABO!"

"Wine is a culture". Today the motto of the MAISON DU VIN SHABO is becoming more and more important for our country. Stephane Derenoncourt, the legendary French oenologist, who is included in the Top 50 influential people in the world of wine, has visited Ukraine. The reason for the famous expert to make a personal visit to the country were the GREAT WINES OF SHABO.



Stephane Derenoncourt:

- in 1982 he came to the Bordeaux region to harvest grapes and began to study oenology;
- over more than 30 years in the industry, he developed his own unique methods, based on a live wine approach, which gained success in such outstanding French wineries as Château La Gaffelière, Château Prieuré Lichine, Château Talbot, and others;
- in 1999 he established a highly specialized company SARL Derenoncourt, whose experts advise the vine growers and winemakers of the best wineries in Europe, Asia and America;
- in the world of high quality wines, Stephane Derenoncourt is known for his priorities: he never promises the impossible, and he is extremely selective about potential partners, making the highest demands for soil and production techniques.

On May, 2018, we met Stephane Derenoncourt in the tasting room of the MAISON DU VIN SHABO to find out the secrets of the "Derenoncourt method" and the prospects for the GREAT WINES OF SHABO.

– Monsieur Derenoncourt, is it possible to consider your visit to Ukraine, to the MAISON DU VIN SHABO, evidence of the fact that our region is becoming a new discovery on the winemaking map of the world?

– In fact, that's why I'm here. For me, from the very beginning, the MAISON DU VIN SHABO project was attractive. I was guided by several criteria when I chose this company among many other proposals for cooperation. Firstly, the peculiarities of the SHABO terroir: the favorable microclimate, excellent location of the vineyards in the immediate proximity to the sea and the estuary, and most importantly, a variety of unique local soils and the availability of autochthonous grape varieties. The presence of limestone in local soils is their distinguishing peculiarity. Although limestone is common in Europe, it is dispersedly contained in these local soils, and this gives a special freshness to the grapes, which is very important for creating the highest quality terroir wine. Secondly, the MAISON DU VIN SHABO is a family business, and I treat these enterprises with great respect and affection, because their atmosphere is imbued with a spirit of unity, which makes it possible to implement ambitious projects. By the way, the immediate objective of my first visit to Ukraine is the desire of the MAISON DU VIN SHABO to produce GREAT WINES.

– What is the concept of the GREAT WINES?

– GREAT WINE is not a metaphor. It is a special category of premium terroir wine, which has a high potential for long-term aging. GREAT WINES convey the maximum taste and emotional sensations, associated with the presence in the vine of the special spirit of the land that gave birth to it. I'm not talking about the degree of mineralization or salt content, although all this is also very important. But, in the long run, GREAT WINE implies something more. It leads you, inspires and fills you with energy of its homeland. The GREAT WINE is a symbol of its region, and its quintessence.

– Could Great Shabo Wines become the quintessence of Ukraine?



– Here, the whole series of terroir components successfully coincide: the microclimate, the close proximity to the sea and the estuary, the individuality of the grape varieties, and many local nuances. All this constantly surrounds you, and because of this you notice all these features, very clearly manifested in the wine. Meanwhile, a combination of all these factors creates that unique taste that an outsider, tasting the local cabernet, will exclaim: "Yes, here it is- the character of Ukraine!" It was not me, Stephane Derenoncourt, who, along with his participation, brought all this to the taste of the wine. Oh no! All this- is your terroir and its components.

– Nevertheless, what is the secret of your method?

– No secrets at all. Everything is based on observation and understanding. In different soils, the same grape variety shows itself in different ways. If the vine is growing in sandy soils, a strawberry tinge can appear in the wine. This same variety, but grown in clay, colder soils, will give the wine a cherry flavor. If the same grapes are grown in limestone loam, this will create a fantastic floral bouquet in the wine. I have been watching these processes for many years, and I understand what you need to do to get the desired qualities in the grapes and wine. For the grapes to reach maturity and give these qualities to the wine, the vine must preserve the memory of the magic of the earth. After all, wine is the meeting place of the vines and the earth. Balance is achieved through the relationship between the grape and the winegrower. Moreover, certain rigidity must be present in these relationships. Grapes are like a child: if everything goes easily in the process of growth and development, without overcoming difficulties, without suffering, then the adult will not be so interesting and strong in character. Therefore, the vine needs a certain severity. However, it is necessary to know exactly the measure of its upbringing. After all, eighty percent of the work on wine is work on the vine. If the grapes are great, everything else is very simple. Therefore, I can compare my method with the work of a good cook: if a cook has excellent ingredients, he is sure then that the dish will be wonderful.

– In what way, in your opinion, are the wines of SHABO remarkable?

– Local conditions predispose and encourage the production of original terroir dry wines, among which a special place is occupied by the wines made from the unique autochthonous grape variety of Telti-Kuruk. Today, we conducted a vertical tasting of all kinds of wine, starting with the harvest of the year 2013. The intensive progress is evident: the wines acquire an increasingly distinct individuality and characteristic flavors of the terroir. I'm amazed by their quality! All these wines have considerable potential for aging, and after decades of aging they will be truly priceless! It is not surprising that such wines win the hearts of consumers and do not linger on store shelves.

– What are your personal preferences among the SHABO wines today?

– I'm thrilled with the local Cabernet. Cabernet SHABO is a GREAT WINE! And I'm sure the white wines made from the autochthonous

grape variety of Telti-Kuruk will have a fantastic future on the world stage. They are saturated with the vigor of white grapes, which grow exclusively in this region. A unique and wonderful variety! You can say that when you try it, you get acquainted with Ukraine.

– Monsieur Derenoncourt, they say that you come to a winery to "wake a sleeping giant." Do you think the SHABO giant has already awakened, or it does not yet realize its own potential?

– I would say that SHABO has not been in need of awakening for a long time. I knew about the quality and scale of the vineyards of the MAISON DU VIN SHABO, and today I saw them- it's impressive. But I could not even imagine how highly modernized the winery is! Here they have the best equipment used in the industry in



the world. In addition, there is a well-established professional relationship between the winegrowers and the production, and this is extremely important. With a small renovation of the wine cellars you could get amazing results. To sum up, I can say that this Ukrainian winery is highly motivated and it can face the future with confidence, and needs only the right direction. Therefore, I see myself not so much as a consultant, as a good friend of the MAISON DU VIN SHABO. In most questions, we just need to concur. And then the Shabo team is able to work independently.

– Turning back to the GREAT WINES OF SHABO, what are their prospects?

– I can imagine the MAISON DU VIN SHABO having an exciting adventure when creating the GREAT WINES. The results already are simply amazing! And there is every possibility to improve them further. The potential of the MAISON DU VIN SHABO is ideal for producing a whole range of wines, each of which will have a unique individuality. Creating the first GREAT WINES in Ukraine is an ambitious project, and the creation of GREAT WINES is a long and continuous process. For a team that has set such a goal, this is a serious challenge, to which you dedicate your life for a long time.

– What would you like to wish the SHABO team?

– I wish SHABO success in promoting the culture of wine in Ukraine. I'm sure they will succeed. After all, wine is an endless story, and there is always room for creativity in this story.

Editorials

Wars in Syria & Ukraine

The excellent speakers at the Kyiv Post's June 18 "Bringing Peace to Syria & Ukraine" conference showed the clear links between these two long-playing and unresolved tragedies. Yet many people still refuse to see the connections because they are focused on the vast differences. No question, the dissimilarities are profound: Russia invaded Ukraine, while the Syrian civil war started as a popular revolt against Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad, an uprising he crushed with chemical weapons, barrel bombs and other war crimes. Ukraine has lost 10,000 people to Syria's 500,000. Ukraine has 1.5 million displaced by war compared to Syria's 11 million people. The conflict is much more complicated in Syria, where several nations are involved in the fighting. By contrast, all that Ukraine needs for peace is for Russia to leave.

Yet, the similarities are disturbing. The West's weakness in responding to Russian aggression in Ukraine and Syria has emboldened the Kremlin. The aims of Russia are similar in both nations — to weaken Western democracies and to create a refugee crisis that triggers political crises in the West. It is mission accomplished in that regard as anti-immigrant, nationalistic political parties gain strength in many European nations.

We can't turn back time. But we can do better in the future. Important principles at stake: In Ukraine, Russia must be held accountable for stealing the sovereign territory of another country. In Syria, Russia must become a pariah for the chemical weapons that its puppet uses. The Kremlin leaves trails of death and destruction in both nations. It will continue until Vladimir Putin is stopped. The moral challenge of the times is to defeat him. The idea for the event came from Kyiv Post publisher Adnan Kivan, who grew up in Syria. We're glad to be part of such a worthy effort and hope Ukrainians and Syrians can unite to bring peace to their lands.

IMF stands firm

The statements from the International Monetary Fund are almost always unflinching, including the much-awaited June 19 one from IMF managing director Christine Lagarde. But her message about what Ukraine needs to do is clear: Fix the flawed anti-corruption court law whose details only became known on June 13, raise household gas prices to market levels as Ukraine promised to do and cut the budget deficit to 2.5 percent of gross domestic product.

And, this time, no more political tricks, as the IMF said here: "It is now important for parliament to quickly approve the supplementary law submitted by the president to formally establish the court, as well as the necessary amendments to restore the requirement that the High Anti-Corruption Court will adjudicate all cases under its jurisdiction, including all appeals of relevant first instance court decisions, as it was in the draft law approved in the first reading."

Ukraine's lawmakers slipped in a hidden amendment at the last minute — tricking other lawmakers and the public. It would keep the current court system — discredited and unable to deliver justice — in charge of hearing appeals of pending corruption cases. Such a provision amounts to amnesty for these suspects, many of whom are politically powerful.

Ukraine's government has also reneged on its promise to raise domestic household gas prices to import price levels. The obstinance is not out of any concern for poor people struggling to pay their utility bills, but rather because energy barons want to keep buying gas from state monopoly Naftogaz at a deep 30 percent discount and selling it at market prices.

And, finally, re-election minded lawmakers are spending money the state doesn't have, running up a deficit of 4 percent of gross domestic product, or nearly \$5 billion.

When the history is written about the IMF in Ukraine, it will show that the lender should have been much tougher on Ukraine or never lent so much money to such a corrupt political elite. The IMF is still going easy on Ukraine's leaders — forgetting about 11 of 14 policy objectives, including creating an agricultural land market. The IMF shouldn't budge any more. The credit for reforms goes to the Ukrainian people, its Western friends and civil society — not the president or parliament.



NEWS ITEM: In his June 18 op-ed in the Washington Post, President Petro Poroshenko envisaged himself as a noble knight in Ukraine's battle against corruption. Despite the destructive efforts of internal enemies and Russia, Poroshenko writes, his party is committed to overcoming all obstacles on the path to reform.



NEWS ITEM: At a G7 summit in Canada, U.S. President Donald Trump allegedly told fellow world leaders that Crimea is part of Russia because "everyone there speaks Russian." To the delight of Russian state media outlets, he also commented that Russia should be let back into the group.



NEWS ITEM: Volodymyr Grinda, a priest and a member of Ternopil City Council, proposed to ban the sale of underwear on Sundays and religious holidays. Meanwhile, in reaction to Kyiv Pride, independent lawmaker Oleg Barna submitted a draft law that would criminalize "the public display of a person's sexual orientation."

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Ukraine's Friend & Foe Of The Week



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German politician lends support to Ukraine, and sets an example.



Vladislav Surkov
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VOX populi:

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Anti-corruption prosecutor Kholodnytsky clings to job

BY OLEG SUKHOV
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Almost three months after facing accusations of corruption, Chief Anti-Corruption Prosecutor Nazar Kholodnytsky is still on the job, digging in and fighting back.

In April the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine released recordings of Kholodnytsky pressuring prosecutors and judges to stop cases against high-profile suspects and tipping off other suspects about planned searches. He left a trail of destroyed investigations along the way.

Kholodnytsky has confirmed the authenticity of the recordings but said they were taken out of context.

The tapes got Kholodnytsky into trouble with U.S. authorities, and recently his U.S. visa was canceled, according to numerous media reports, citing anonymous sources. The U.S. Embassy to Ukraine said the information on the visa was classified, while the Special Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office declined to comment.

But Kholodnytsky looks to have support of top Ukrainian politicians.

A source at the NABU said Kholodnytsky is now obstructing the NABU's activities even more than ever.

Kholodnytsky didn't reply to the Kyiv Post's requests for comment. Before, he has repeatedly denied sabotaging NABU cases and recurring accusations that he is dependent on President Petro Poroshenko.

"Apparently Poroshenko gave an order to save him," the NABU source said. "I'm 100 percent sure that someone has given Kholodnytsky some guarantees, because over the past two weeks he's gone crazy."

Kholodnytsky's boss, Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko, filed a request to fire Kholodnytsky to the Qualification and Disciplinary Commission of Prosecutors in March. The NABU added a complaint with a transcript of the tapes from Kholodnytsky's office.

But three months later, the com-



Chief Anti-Corruption Prosecutor Nazar Kholodnytsky (L) and Artem Sytnyk, head of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (C), attend a Verkhovna Rada session on April 4. Kholodnytsky has been accused of obstructing the NABU, charges that he denies. (Volodymyr Petrov)

mission has yet to act on it.

The Prosecutor General's Office can investigate and bring criminal charges against Kholodnytsky, but has not done so. And while Lutsenko said he wanted Kholodnytsky fired for what he said on the tapes, he also said there was no crime in the prosecutor's actions.

On the tapes, Kholodnytsky was recorded obstructing corruption cases against Odesa Mayor Hennady Trukhanov; Natalia Korchak, the former head of the National Agency for Preventing Corruption, People's Front lawmaker Georgii Logvynskiy and other powerful figures.

Kholodnytsky, whose office was established in 2015 to prosecute top-level graft, has a history of failed investigations. Courts have ordered him to re-open some of the cases.

Zlochevsky case

Kyiv's Solomyansky Court on June 15 canceled Kholodnytsky's decision to close the criminal case into the allegedly illegal acquisition of natural gas production licenses by ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's Ecology Minister Mykola Zlochevsky. The Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office said it would resume the investigation once it gets the full text of the court decision.

Kholodnytsky closed the case 10 months ago, in August, arguing there was no evidence.

His office also investigated an administrative case against Zlochevsky, but failed to submit it to the court within the required time and had to close it. Vitaly Shabunin, head of the Anti-Corruption Action Center's executive board, has accused Kholodnytsky of blocking the administrative case against Zlochevsky for political reasons. Kholodnytsky has denied the claim.

Okhendovsky saga

In April and June courts also canceled Kholodnytsky's decision to suspend in 2017 the bribery investigation against Central Election Commission Chairman Mykhailo Okhendovsky, and ordered him to either send it to trial or close it. Kholodnytsky hasn't complied with the decisions yet.

His office declined to comment on the case.

The investigation against Okhendovsky started in 2016. Back then, the NABU charged Okhendovsky with receiving bribes worth \$100,000 in 2010 and \$61,000 in 2012 from Yanukovich's Party of Regions. The party's alleged off-the-book ledgers, published after its disbanding, mention Okhendovsky was paid the money to travel to the

million at a firm called Belvedere Ukraine, and Hr 18 million at Bank Stoltytsya.

According to the NABU, it recorded a conversation between Kholodnytsky and Logvynskiy in February. In it, Kholodnytsky told the lawmaker he had the case against him under control and would warn him if any investigative actions were to be taken against him.

After that, according to the NABU, Serhiy Kozachyna, an anti-corruption prosecutor in charge of the Logvynskiy cases, sought Kholodnytsky's authorization for a notice of suspicion for Logvynskiy. But Kholodnytsky told Kozachyna there was "a political aspect" to the case because of Logvynskiy's authority, and that he did not want to quarrel with the lawmaker's backers.

Kholodnytsky told Kozachyna that the Logvynskiy cases should be delayed or closed.

The Special Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office has also closed a NABU unlawful enrichment case against Pavlo Tkachuk, the head of Ukraine's Army Academy. In 2016 the Slidstvo.info investigative team published a report according to which Tkachuk uses two mansions, several apartments and a high-end Lexus car without having declared them.

The NABU source also claimed that Kholodnytsky had promised to close the corruption case against Interior Minister Arsen Avakov's son Oleksandr, who allegedly supplied the Interior Ministry with backpacks at an inflated price. Kholodnytsky's office did not respond to a request for comment on the claim.

Kholodnytsky is also a vice president of the Ukrainian Federation of Football, whose honorary president is businessman Grigory Surkis.

Surkis is under investigation by the NABU in a corruption case into his power company ZaporizhzhyaOblenergo. Anti-graft activists say there is a conflict of interest for Kholodnytsky, but the prosecutor denies there is one. ■

United States – allegedly in the interests of the party.

In June 2017, the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office suspended the case, claiming the investigation couldn't proceed because it never got responses about Okhendovsky's travel from foreign bodies.

NABU Chief Artem Sytnyk said that he disagreed with Kholodnytsky's decision to suspend the case, and that the Okhendovsky case should have been sent to trial.

Other cases

A video published on YouTube in February 2017 shows Kholodnytsky talking to Georgiy Logvynskiy, a lawmaker from the Rada's 81-member People's Front faction, in a bar in Washington, D.C.

Logvynskiy is under investigation for allegedly embezzling Hr 40

New tool to control NABU arrives: auditors

Anti-corruption activists allege that the authorities have used Chief Anti-Corruption Prosecutor Nazar Kholodnytsky to obstruct the independent National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine. If so, they are about to get another tool.

The Presidential Administration has denied using Kholodnytsky and auditors to obstruct the NABU.

The authorities could eliminate the NABU independence through an audit. NABU Chief Artem Sytnyk, who is seen as independent from President Petro Poroshenko, could be fired if NABU auditors recommend such a step. The law requires that three independent auditors of the NABU are appointed by the Verkhovna Rada, the Cabinet of Ministers and the president.

On June 19, Poroshenko appointed his long-time associate Pavlo Zhebrivsky as an auditor of the NABU. Zhebrivsky does not have experience in foreign law enforcement, judicial agencies or international organizations, and therefore his appointment violates the law, the Anti-Corruption Action Center and the NABU's civic oversight council said. He denies the accusations, saying he was a member of the Ukrainian parliamentary delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Previously, the Verkhovna Rada and the Cabinet of Ministers had selected their auditors for the NABU, Ukrainian human rights lawyer Volodymyr Vasylenko and legal scholar Mykhailo Buromensky. Both are former members of the Constitutional Commission, an advisory body for legal issues for the president's administration. Both were appointed to the commission by Poroshenko. Vasylenko was nominated as an auditor by Radical Party Leader Oleh Lyashko, who is himself being investigated by the NABU in a corruption case.



Protesters call for SBU reforms

Anti-corruption activists gather around the Verkhovna Rada on June 20, demanding that the country's legislators pass a bill that would deprive the Security Service of Ukraine of jurisdiction over financial crimes. Many in the business and civil society communities accuse the SBU of using its powers to shake down businesses for bribes. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



Supporting imprisoned Ukrainian hostages

Top: Musician and director Mark Kaufman-Portnikov plays the piano at a concert on June 21 on Maidan Nezalezhnosti in support of Ukrainian political prisoners on hunger strike in Russia. Oleg Sentsov, pictured in the photo, has been on a hunger strike for more than a month, demanding the release of 64 Ukrainian political prisoners held by Russia. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin). Below: People hold posters reading "#FreeSentsov" in Kyiv at a demonstration on June 2. (Oleg Petrasiuk). Sentsov was arrested in Crimea in May 2014, two months after Russia invaded and seized the peninsula. He was subjected to a sham trial by a Kremlin-controlled court on false terrorism charges, and on Aug. 25, 2015 sentenced to 20 years in jail. He was first imprisoned in Yakutsk, but in September 2017 he was reportedly transferred to Russia's northernmost prison in the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug. Russia refuses to extradite him to Ukraine, claiming he is a Russia citizen. Sentsov's release has been demanded by human rights organizations and Western governments, and Russian human rights organization Memorial has declared him a political prisoner.



3,500 in Ukraine attend LGBTQ rally in Kyiv on June 17

Top: Participants hold a rainbow flag as they march during the LGBTQ Equality March in downtown Kyiv on June 17. Right: Police officers carry a detained anti-LGBTQ protester as he fell unconscious before the beginning of the LGBTQ Equality March. Around 3,500 Ukrainians participated in the Equality March, a pride rally in support of the equal rights of lesbians, gays, bisexual, transgender and intersex people on June 17. The gathering was guarded by 2,500 police officers who blocked off some threats from far-right activists. This is the fifth year in a row that the Equality March took place in Kyiv. (Volodymyr Petrov)



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Ukraine Reform Conference will test nation's progress

BY BRIAN BONNER
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Ukraine's business and political leaders are preparing for a big international conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, on June 27 with three big question marks:

Will parliament pass legislation creating a genuinely independent anti-corruption court?

Will it raise household gas prices to market levels?

Will it cut its budget deficit to 2.5 percent of gross domestic product?

These are the three remaining conditions that the International Monetary Fund requires in order to restart lending from a \$17.5 billion program that ends in March. Ukraine's stalling and backsliding on these three key reforms froze lending last year at \$8.4 billion in the four-year program.

Ruben Madsen, Denmark's ambassador in Ukraine, was optimistic on June 19 that Ukraine will deliver on these key areas before coming to Copenhagen.

Denmark is picking up the baton from the United Kingdom, which last year hosted the Ukraine Reform Conference.

The annual event, which may be hosted by Canada in 2019, is a way for Ukraine's Western friends to discuss Ukraine's progress and chart reform priorities to get the nation closer to the standards of eventual membership in the European Union, which is the goal of most Ukrainians.

Madsen said the conference will focus on two themes this year — good governance and economic development. It appears that the Nord Stream 2 project, the expansion of a gas pipeline between Russia and Germany, will be discussed. Ukraine and some of its friends are adamantly opposed to the project because it would bypass Ukraine — depriving the nation of up to \$2 billion annually in fees from transiting gas from Russia to Europe. Denmark plays a pivotal role as one of three nations where the pipeline passes through territorial waters, so it could conceivably stop the project entirely. (The other two nations — Russia and Germany — are proponents.)

Madsen said he expects that Nord Stream 2 will come up on the sidelines. He said he doesn't know when



A sightseeing vessel is seen at Nyhavn Canal in Copenhagen, Denmark, on Oct. 9, 2015. (AFP)

Denmark will decide whether to approve or reject Nord Stream 2. The nation hopes for a European Union solution to the controversial project.

Madsen said Denmark is expecting at least 10 foreign ministers to attend the Ukraine Reform Conference, including those from the Nordic and Baltic nations, as well as Poland. Invitations have been sent out to nations part of the G7, NATO and European Union. Additionally, European Commissioner Johannes Hahn is expected.

Danish Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen and Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman will host the June 27 event.

The day before, June 26, will be devoted to strengthening business ties with meetings of representative of the Confederation of Danish Industry and Ukrainian businesses.

Besides Groysman, among those

making the trip from Ukraine, according to preliminary plans, include: Stepan Kubiv, vice prime minister; Oksana Markarova, acting finance minister; Francis Malige of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; Hlib Vyshlinsky, executive director of the Centre for Economic Strategy; Anna Derevyanko, executive director of the European Business Association; Ivanna Klymush-Tsintaszde, vice prime minister; Hanna Hopko, head of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Verkhovna Rada; and Lenna Koszarny, CEO of Horizon Capital and executive vice president of the Western NIS Enterprise Fund.

Ukraine could not have found a more supportive host — or a better role model.

The Scandinavian nation, with only 5.7 million people compared to Ukraine's 42 million people, has an economy three times the size of Ukraine's \$100 billion a year output. The Kingdom of Denmark is one of the richest, happiest, least corrupt and most generous nations.

Madsen is striking a "modestly optimistic" tone about the conference if Ukraine can get the right anti-corruption court legislation passed before the June 27 meeting. Ukraine's Western friends "would have liked to have seen" such an anti-corruption court "a long time ago," he said.

"We should be careful not to fall into the gloomy ditch," Madsen said from the Danish Embassy in Kyiv. "Every road has a ditch on each side — too gloomy and too rosy... Ukraine is on the road to getting rid of the 'old Ukraine,'" he said, and deserves support in reaching its des-

tinuations, he said.

But impunity for those "stealing the future of the country" must stop, he said. "They should be prosecuted. Nobody has been convicted. Ukraine must get out of the situation with this impunity — that anybody could steal and nothing would happen."

Nonetheless, Madsen said, Ukraine has achieved "remarkable results, not dramatic, but remarkable results" in reform, citing as last year's adoption of transparent value-added tax

returns that eliminate arbitrariness and reduce corruption.

Ukraine is "not at the point of no return," he said, and must reach that point "where the fruits are so clear and the costs are so obvious."

He cautions against pushing too hard.

"Western countries lose transition countries by asking too much," Madsen said. "We can't afford for Ukraine to slide away and into stability." ■



Danish Ambassador to Ukraine Ruben Madsen speaks with the Kyiv Post on June 19, offering a preview of the June 27 Ukraine Reform Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark. (Volodymyr Petrov)

ON THE MOVE

Advertisement

TOP 50 Ukrainian Law Firm EVERLEGAL strengthens its team and expands practices



Vsevolod Volkov
Partner at EVERLEGAL

Vsevolod Volkov, a well-known and internationally-ranked arbitration and finance practitioner, has joined EVERLEGAL as a Partner. Vsevolod will lead the firm's International Arbitration practice while co-leading the Banking and Finance practice together with Andriy Olenyuk.

Vsevolod has more than 18 years of professional experience acquired at the leading international and domestic law firms. He focuses on complex commercial and investment arbitration matters, cross-border disputes and cross-border financing, particularly with participation of IFIs and in the energy sector. His expertise spans across such industries as Energy, Banking, Machinery, FMCG and others.

As EVERLEGAL's partner Vsevolod will be responsible for developing the firm's International Arbitration practice and further strengthening EVERLEGAL's transactional practices, particularly in the renewables and other energy related projects.

Vsevolod received his LLM in International Law at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Institute of International Relations, in 2000 and the Magister Juris degree at the University of Oxford, Exeter College, in 2004.

He is fond of sports, coaching and mentoring law students participating in moot court competitions.



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Russia emboldened by West's weak actions in Syria, Ukraine



Russia Intervention

BY ILLIA PONOMARENKO
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The West's weak response to war crimes in Syria, including multiple chemical weapon attacks on civilians since the civil war started in 2011, encouraged the Kremlin to launch military interventions beyond Russia's borders — first in Ukraine in 2014 and then in Syria a year later to save the regime of dictator Bashar al-Assad.

The perception that Russia has succeeded in its military adventures will tempt others to launch their own interventions, warned panelists at the Kyiv Post's "Bringing Peace to Ukraine & Syria" conference, held in Kyiv on June 18.

A crucial turning point came in August 2013, when the administration of former U.S. President Barack Obama failed to take firm action after Assad's forces used chemical weapons against civilians. The use of such weapons was supposed to have been a "red line," which, if crossed, would lead to direct U.S.-led military intervention in Syria.

But when the line was crossed, Obama failed to act, and this brought far-reaching dire consequences, conference speakers agreed.

"There was no appetite for intervention in Syria (within the U.S. administration), that was pretty clear," Anna Borshchevskaya, a Middle East studies fellow at the Washington Institute, said during the "Russian Intervention" panel discussion, the first of three held during the one-day conference.

"Frankly, Obama... knew he would not get the authorization to use force (from Congress). And it is highly unfortunate, because (Russian President Vladimir Putin) perceived weakness, he read all these moves as weakness, and it was easy for him to step in and take advantage."

Moreover, the impunity for committing war crimes and waging undeclared wars also prompted other actors, such as Iran and the numerous Shia militias it backs, to expand their activities, thus breeding more violence and destruction in global hotspots, primarily Syria.



Anna Borshchevskaya, Specialist on Russian influence in Middle East (R), speaks during the Kyiv Post's "Bringing Peace to Syria & Ukraine" conference on June 18 in Kyiv. (Volodymyr Petrov)

"All look at the example of Russia in Ukraine and Syria, and say — if Russia can do that, why can't we?" said Kristina Dobrovolska, a representative of an open-source investigating community Inform Napalm.

Meanwhile, according to the United Nations, the ongoing multi-sided war in Syria has claimed at least 500,000 lives and uprooted more than 11 million people, sending half of them abroad as refugees.

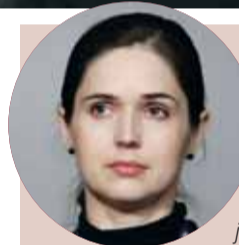
Russia, which intervened the conflict in late September 2015 to back the Assad regime, still continues delivering destructive air strikes on the remaining Syrian resistance forces, as well as on civilian targets. It's part of a calculated Kremlin strategy to create a refugee crisis that weakens the West with a political crisis, speakers said.

Due to the Kremlin's military and financial support for the Damascus regime, the devastating war in Syria continues with little hope of an end soon.

Tobias Schneider, a research fellow at the Global Public Policy Institute, said he is pessimistic that a peace settlement would be found soon to the Syrian war. The best thing the global community can do try to save as many lives of Syrian civilians as possible, he said.

Russian intervention "has transformed the nature of the conflict in Syria," he said. With the West unable to bring about an end to the war, it should concentrate on making the lives of those worst affected by the fighting more bearable, Schneider said.

"Peace in Syria might not come in our generation, but the lives of refugees can be made better. Bringing peace to Syria is unrealistic — both in terms of political will and actual capacity." ■



One similarity we see in the Ukraine and Syria wars is the same contingent. There are military units of the Russian army that actually fought in Ukraine who now fight in Syria. There are Wagner Group mercenaries who fought in Ukraine, Syria and other countries. There are Cossacks. We believe that behind every atrocity there's a commander with a rank and they have to be brought to justice. I would like to emphasize the pattern - Russia keeps using illegal armed formations and denies any involvement in a conflict. Those who think Putin will stop sponsoring wars because it's too expensive have to remember it's not Putin's or his cronies' money, but Russian taxpayers'.

Christina Dobrovolska,

member of the international volunteer intelligence community InformNapalm



Russians say their intervention into Syria is to keep Assad in power. But Western countries continue to believe that Russia's intervention was against ISIS terrorists. They (Russians) want to talk to Americans. They refuse to speak to Europeans who try to negotiate with them. Syria is on the last place on their list after Ukraine issue, Crimea, the Baltics, gas issue, NATO, return to the international diplomacy. They don't want to hear anything about the humanitarian issue.

Salam Kawakibi,

director of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies



I think Russia's intervention has fundamentally transformed the nature of the conflict. Not necessarily so much because Russian bombs really hit the opposition this hard. (It) reshuffles the strategic picture in the region. Peace is elusive.. we can try to save as many Syrian civilians as possible and make their lives as tolerable as possible. I look at the half of the population that can't live and doesn't have a future under the current regime. What will their politics be? Bringing peace to Syria is unrealistic but bringing peace to Syrians in dire situations would be the best project. We need to start re-engaging.

Tobias Schneider,

research fellow at Berlin-based Global Public Policy Institute, editor of Syria in Context weekly brief



Russia tests its new weapons in Ukraine and Syria. Its military personnel gains combat experience. Today, we have a very well trained and experience enemy. After the annexation of Crimea, Russian started to increase the presence of Russian troops on the peninsula and rebuild military facilities. Russia's main goal is to control the Black Sea region and pressure NATO states in the Black Sea region and Mediterranean Sea.

Vadym Skibitskyi,

deputy head of the chief directorate of intelligence of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense



The United States has to increase its presence in the region using existing infrastructure, supporting Syrian opposition, and assuring the Middle East and our allies that the US isn't leaving the region.

Anna Borshchevskaya,

fellow at The Washington Institute focusing on Russia's policy toward the Middle East

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Experts: Syrian refugee crisis can get worse if combatants continue targeting civilians

BY OKSANA GRYSSENKO

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After more than seven years of war, Syria is suffering the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with 500,000 residents killed, 5.6 million who have fled abroad, another 6 million internally displaced and 13 million in need.

Moreover, some 80 percent of the Syrian population — which may be fewer than 18 million people inside Syria — are living under the poverty line.

The bloody civil war between the dictatorial regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and those seeking to oust the regime has created an entire generation of children who have grown up to the blasts of bombs and shells and who know nothing but war.

Moreover, while the West is sending billions of dollars to help Syrians, experts say the challenge is getting it to those Syrians most in need.

Residents of the besieged areas and detention centers are deprived of the humanitarian support under Assad's regime, experts say, calling on the world to take more decisive actions.

"Humanitarian aid is not an ultimate solution without a political solution," said Mamar Merzouk, team leader of the Syria crisis at Directorate General



Syrian civilians evacuated from Eastern Ghouta reach out to receive food distributed by Syrian soldiers as they pass the Bashar al-Assad regime-controlled corridor opened by government forces on the outskirts of the capital of Damascus on March 18. Assad's crackdown on peaceful protests triggered a revolution against him and civil war that has killed more than 500,000 Syrians and triggered the involvement of such foreign powers as Russia, Turkey, Iran, the United States, Saudi Arabia and Israel. (AFP)



The numbers of young people who have known nothing but war and shelling and bombing and (being) separated from families - this is what concerns all of us. Is this the generation growing up now? And what type of Syria will they inherit? How will they live in the future?

Let's remember about all these people, this generation of people who have known nothing but war at such a fast scale. And we have to think about them. We all have to contribute to making the future at least a little bit better for them.

Nickolas Hawton,

diplomatic adviser to the International Committee of the Red Cross



What I see, unfortunately, in conflicts that we are addressing is the lack of access and protection of civilians and the growing politicization of the conflicts. The humanitarian aid must be based on principles that are not at all going to substitute the effective political actions... Humanitarian assistance has never been intended for more than giving aid to the suffering people. And to do so you have to have mechanisms that insure that aid reaches people in need.

Mamar Merzouk,

team leader of the Syria crisis at Directorate General of European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office



I keep on hearing that people need food, shelter. Yes, it's important to have these basic needs, but we are human beings, we are not just animals. We need not just food, life security, but also need to express (ourselves), (we) need to have basic rights... And if any solution is to happen in Syria without addressing these justifiable requests I think it's only bringing people back to slavery and into prisons. That's not a solution, that's not peace.

Mohammed Alhammadi,

head of a coalition of local Syrian non-government organizations



If we organize we could make a difference. Russians are investing huge resources to create some narratives. We can challenge these lies and present facts from the ground. We can present evidence, survivors. We need an effective framework in order to achieve something on this front... We cannot defeat Russia militarily but we can challenge their narratives and their propaganda. This is a field where we could achieve something.

Wael Aleji,

spokesman for the London-based Syrian Network for Human Rights



Averting Humanitarian Catastrophe

of European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office, speaking, during the "Averting Humanitarian Catastrophe" panel at the Kyiv Post's "Bringing Peace to Syria & Ukraine" conference on June 18.

The conflict, which started in 2011 with the peaceful rallies that demanded political change, eventually developed into the bloody war involving the global powers Russia and the U.S., as well as several regional powers — Iran, Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, said Wael Aleji, spokesman for the London-based Syrian Network for Human Rights.

"Who is paying the heaviest price here are the Syrian people on both sides," he said.

Mohammed Alhammadi, the head of a coalition of local Syrian non-government organizations that assists Syrian people in need, said the Assad regime withholds aid to people who live in areas that are not under the government's control.

He gave as an example the residents of Eastern Ghouta, a formerly opposition-controlled area in outskirts of Damascus, whose 400,000 residents had to live for five years under siege. While the government eventually forcibly evacuated the majority of the res-

idents from Eastern Ghouta in March, the remaining 100,000 people there are still cut off from any assistance.

"There's no hostilities anymore in Eastern Ghouta. Why don't we have access there?" Alhammadi said.

He also showed a picture of a Syrian doctor who had been working in an underground hospital in Hama northeastern countryside, when he was fatally wounded by a chlorine gas attack by Assad's forces in March 2017.

Aleji added that the Syrian war had led to a huge number of war crimes, and the number increased massively when Russia intervened in the conflict in 2015. Some 6,200 civilians have been killed in Syria by Russian airstrike attacks.

"Over the last few years the number of civilians killed by Russia has exceeded the number of civilians killed by ISIS," Aleji said, referring to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

Aleji's organization had recorded violations of human rights by all the sides of the conflict, but the greatest number of the human rights abuses, including torture, rape and forced disappearances, were committed by Assad's forces.

Nickolas Hawton, a diplomat-

ic adviser for the International Committee of the Red Cross, said his organization is providing humanitarian assistance to 13 million Syrians, including 5 million children, which is still a "drop in the ocean."

"Number one priority is a political solution," Hawton said.

He added the conflict has created a massive number of young people who know nothing but bombing and shelling. "What type of Syria will they inherit?" Hawton said.

Aleji believes that the European Union, which for years saw Syria as a sphere of first Soviet and then Russian political influence, should become more decisive and impose targeted sanctions against the businesses of the country's dictator Assad, his family, and his cronies.

"They continue to do business in Spain, the United Kingdom, and France. Something has to be done obviously," Aleji said, adding that Assad's corruption was costing the lives of Syrian people on both sides of the conflict.

Alhammadi added that Ukraine, a country that has also become a target for Russian aggression, should "stand along with the Syrian people" against their mutual attacker. ■

Syrian medical doctor Mohammed Alhammadi: Ending war is only way to solve refugee crisis

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV
KRASNIKOV@KYIVPOST.COM

Syrian medical doctor Mohammed Alhammadi has been involved in the Syrian crisis from its beginning in 2011, first as a doctor in hot spots around his war-torn country and then leading an alliance of nonprofit organizations to help Syrian refugees around the globe.

Alhammadi used to work in hospitals in the Syrian cities of Damascus and Aleppo as a surgeon. Now, however, he switched from operating rooms to meeting rooms, representing international and national NGOs to bring peace to Syrian people, including refugees.

Currently, he spearheads Syrian NGO Alliance, a coalition of 20 Syrian groups that work inside Syria and neighboring countries to provide humanitarian assistance in non-government controlled areas around Syria, some of the world's most dangerous places now.

Fed up with atrocities in his homeland, Alhammadi says that while the world is wasting time looking for a way to help Syrian people, there's already a perfect one – to end the war and let Syrians go home.

"The main solution for the Syrian refugees is to go back to their homes, safely and voluntarily," Alhammadi told the Kyiv Post after his participation in a panel discussion "Averting Humanitarian Catastrophe" at the newspaper's "Bringing Peace to Syria & Ukraine" conference at the Intercontinental hotel in Kyiv on June 18.

"Will that be feasible soon, I don't know?" he added. "It's up to politicians, for sure."

Helping Syrians

One part of Alhammadi's job is to find funding for Syrian refugees. And international organizations help Syrians by sending financial help. However, money can't solve all the problems.

The NGO Alliance "aims to find durable solutions for refugees, not just quick fixes," he said. "It's not all about money and direct assistance, it's also about the other issues like resettlement, integration with the communities they co-exist now."

Alhammadi particularly stresses the importance of an organized resettlement process to ease the burden carried by countries neighboring Syria.

According to him, one of the biggest issues of the Syrian refugee crisis is that a huge number of people fleeing from Syria to neighboring countries – Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey – need schools, workplaces, homes and human rights – not just shelter and food.

"But of course, one cannot immediately rebuild existing systems



A Syrian refugee looks on as buses with Jaish al-Islam fighters and their families arrive from their former rebel bastion of Douma in Eastern Ghouta at the Abu al-Zindeen checkpoint controlled by Turkish-backed rebel fighters near the Syrian town of al-Bab in northern Aleppo on April 14. (AFP)

from zero and build new ones," Alhammadi said. "So resettlement is important: take these people, distribute them elsewhere, help them integrate."

Another important step to help Syrians, according to Alhammadi, is to start working on awareness programs to persuade nations to accept refugees.

"They are... we are just normal people who were forced to leave. There are a lot of doctors, engineers, very well-educated, academics among us," he said. "Yes, helping is not only giving refugees money... it's also standing for these people."

International apathy

There's a lack of interest in Syria's problems internationally. The Russian propaganda is partly to blame.

"Globally, people are just used to seeing the suffering of Syrian people, no one reacts, no one's trying to say something," he said. "It's all in the hands of politicians, and the politicians are not doing anything."

In order the situation to change, "to move again," there has to be more pressure for the international community "to act, to stop these atrocities, and to end the suffering" of the Syrians, Alhammadi said.

"Otherwise, money is being provided, resolutions are issued from time to time. But what else can we do? We need more pressure, we need to feel this unity – we're

human beings, so it's not only our problems, it's a humanity issue," he said.

Meanwhile, Russian propaganda sends wrong, fake messages about the war in Syria.

The most common messages that Russians spread, according to Alhammadi, are that the war in Syria is a very complicated civil war; that it's easy to pick the "wrong side" of "extremists, terrorists;" and that one should keep away from Syria.

"And the Russians have played it very well," Alhammadi said. "If you tweet about Syria and you're a public

figure, you'll find hundreds of disturbing comments under your tweet. Russia has armies of trolls. It's really a media war now as well."

Ukrainians can help

And propaganda may be something Ukrainians can help Syria fight with, Alhammadi said. Ukrainians also suffer from Russia's powerful propaganda, something Alhammadi calls the main similarity in both wars in Ukraine and in Syria.

"We are suffering from the same external major actor. And our countries can help each other by being

allies," he said.

Ukraine is a bigger and more stable country than Syria and, therefore, has more to offer.

"We are unable to reach out to international community alone," he said.

But there's another factor – the language.

"Ukrainians speak the Russian language. And we're desperate to deliver our messages to the Russian people, who are hugely affected by the propaganda. So far, we have zero communication with the Russian people." ■

Bringing Peace to
SYRIA & UKRAINE
conference

Averting Humanitarian Catastrophe



Mohammed Alhammadi (C) participates in a panel discussion "Averting Humanitarian Catastrophe" at the Kyiv Post's "Bringing Peace to Syria & Ukraine" conference at the InterContinental Kyiv on June 18. (Oleg Petrasuiuk)

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Ambassadors differ over Syria policy at 'Steps for Peace' panel

Bringing Peace to SYRIA & UKRAINE conference

Steps for Lasting Peace

BY JOSH KOVENSKY
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Divisions in the Western alliance were on full display at the "Steps for Peace" panel at the Kyiv Post's June 18 "Bringing Peace to Syria & Ukraine" conference.

Ambassadors from Turkey, Germany, and the European Union argued over the Syria conflict with a longtime Middle East expert and a Syrian diplomat who defected from the Bashar al-Assad regime.

But it was questions around the issue of 5.6 million Syrian refugees that sparked the most debate at the panel.

"The real trouble is that the refugee crisis is still primarily in the Middle East, and will stay there, because these countries are facing the challenge and have accommodated a far greater number of refugees than the West," said Oleksandr Bogomolov, director of the Institute of Oriental Studies in Kyiv and a former Soviet operative in Yemen.

Turkish Ambassador Yonet Tezel suggested that the West only began to confront the humanitarian catastrophe of Syrian refugees when they began to appear in Europe.

"Unfortunately (our allies) only became more interested in the issue when they began to see migrants," Tezel said.

Tezel also defended the Astana process — a parallel to the Geneva talks that instead involves Russia, Iran, and Syria — while subtly placing blame for the region's issues on

Western intervention.

"We did not start the Arab Spring, or the Gulf War, or the Palestine-Israeli conflict, or the other conflicts," Tezel said. "But look at the map — we have to deal with this."

Ernst Reichel, Germany's ambassador to Ukraine, disputed Tezel's suggestion that Europe had been removed from the conflict.

"Germany has not been on the sidelines," he said.

Russia

Much of the discussion revolved around Western policy towards Russia, and the extent to which the Syria and Ukraine conflicts bear any similarities beyond the presence of Russian aggression.

"Russia being involved in both conflicts should not lead us to invent any kind of link," said European Union Ambassador Hughes Mingarelli, echoing Reichel's opinion.

The two non-ambassadors on the panel — Bogomolov and defected Syrian diplomat Hussein Sabbagh — argued in favor of a link.

"The international community should start thinking about linking both issues together in terms of policy responses," Sabbagh said.

"What I find bizarre is that the international community has chosen to rely on Russia to restrain the Syrian regime," he added. "The Russians are unwilling to stop the Assad regime from continuing atrocities against its own people."

Bogomolov said that the two conflicts are "related hour-by-hour and

day-by-day. Look at the timetable of the Geneva II talks — they started the same day that the first protester was killed outside my window on Hrushevs'kyi (Street)," he said, speaking of killings during the 2014 EuroMaidan Revolution in January of that year that ended in President Viktor Yanukovich fleeing power on Feb. 22, 2014.

During a question and answer session, one audience member accused the entire German political establishment of being in Vladimir Putin's pocket and therefore failing to resist Russian aggression in Ukraine and Syria.

Reichel replied indignantly, saying "it's more of an insult than a question. It's like asking, 'when did you stop beating your wife,'" he added.

After a follow-up question regarding former German Chancellor and current Rosneft chairman Gerhard Schroeder, Reichel replied that "the difference between Chancellor Merkel and Schroeder is that Merkel is in office."

Bogomolov added that the Assad regime is essentially a husk supported by the "Russian command and Iranian command. To a large extent this regime does not exist," he said.

And in a moment of reminiscence over his 1980s Soviet deployment to Yemen, he added: "I'm not proud of it, but (the Soviet presence) was rational — it was about promoting some sort of social justice. Russia now has no ideology to promote, nothing to offer — least of all social justice," he said. ■



The Soviet presence in the Middle East was different. I was a part of it, I'm not proud of it, but I learned something: that presence was rational - it was about promoting some sort of social justice.

Russia now has no ideology to promote, nothing to offer, not least of all social justice...it's only interest is to regain leverage via the United States.

Oleksandr Bogomolov

Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies



We feel we cannot reject people who arrive at our borders in dire situations. We feel we need to give humanitarian assistance to the best of our abilities, and should play a role in peace efforts, be it in Syria or be it in Ukraine.

The difference between Chancellor Merkel and Gerhard Schroeder is that Merkel is in office...one cannot identify Schroeder with the German political establishment.

Ernst Reichel

Ambassador of Germany to Ukraine



The situation in Syria has nothing to do with situation in Ukraine. In Ukraine, we have a transitioning country that is facing foreign military aggression. In Syria, we have people uprising against the Assad regime.

Because Russia is involved in both conflicts should not lead us to invent any kind of link.

Hughes Mingarelli

EU Ambassador to Ukraine



I find it bizarre that the international community has chosen to rely on Russia to restrain the Syrian regime. This is not a strategic policy but a wishful tactic...The Russians are unwilling to stop the Assad regime from continuing atrocities against its own people

I believe that the international community should start thinking about linking both [Ukrainian and Syrian] issues together in terms of policy responses.

Hussein Sabbagh

Representative of the Syrian National Coalition



The Geneva process does not contradict the Astana process; it complements and supports the Geneva process.

Unfortunately [our allies] only became more interested in the issue when they began to see migrants themselves.

We did not start the Arab spring, or the Gulf War, or the Palestine-Israeli conflict, or the other conflicts. But look at the map - we have to deal with this.

Yonet Tezel

Ambassador of Turkey to Ukraine

World in Ukraine: USA

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(Courtesy)

DEMOCRACY

A NEW?

June 23 - Jan. 6

'Democracy Anew?' (art exhibition)

Kyiv's top art venue Pinchuk Art Center is opening a new exhibition this week. "Democracy Anew?" combines various kinds of art work by 12 artists from all over the world including Francis Alys from Belgium, Allora & Calzadilla duo from Puerto Rico and Icelandic-Danish artist Olafur Eliasson. The exhibition explores modern democracy - its transformations, the threats it faces, its best and worst possible future.

Democracy Anew? Pinchuk Art Center (1/3-2 Velyka Vasylykivska St.) June 23 - Jan. 6. Tue-Sun. 12-9 p.m. Free

Friday, June 22

Live music

The Best of Hanz Zimmer (National Academic Brass Band of Ukraine.) National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 140-400

Music From Romantic Movies in the Garden. Gryshko Botanical Garden. 8 p.m. Hr 350

Jazz Arsenal - Laura Marti & Jazz Kolo. Mystetsky Arsenal. 8 p.m. Hr 200-350

Organ Show Interstellar. Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 150-400

NAONI (National Academic Orchestra of Folk Instruments of Ukraine). Playing symphonic rock hits. Roof. 7 p.m. Hr 300-600

Clubs

Low: Justin Strauss (electronic DJ set). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Visitors must be over 21

Apparat and Telefon Tel Aviv (electronic DJ set). Platforma Art Factory. 10 p.m. Hr 650-950

Dog Days (various dancing music). Khvylovyi. 10 p.m. Free

Miscellaneous

Christina Soiman (photo exhibition by Romanian artist Christina Soiman). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free

Anders Petersen. Café Lehmitz (photo series documenting the life of a Hamburg red-light district bar called Café Lehmitz). Mystetsky Arsenal. 12-8 p.m. Free

Where the Rivers Come Together (exhibition of photographs documenting Mykolaiv's diversity). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Notebook Without One Page (multimedia project featuring a notebook with sketches of future cities by Pavlo Makov). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Mykola Malyshko. Familiar and Simple (sculptures exploring global senses through details - familiar and simple things). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Nature vs. Architecture (multimedia exhibition exploring the role of nature and technologies in people's lives). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Kirill Protsenko. Ardent (photos, videos, movies and installations using the tools of mass culture). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for children under 12, students and retirees

The World of Giants (flower exhibition). Spivoch Pole. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 25 for kids, 50 for adults

Shows

Ai Laika Summer Reunion Show (pop-rock). Mezzanine. 7 p.m. Hr 100

BeLive (music and entertainment festival). Olympic Stadium. 3 p.m. - 12 a.m. Four-day pass - Hr 1,550-1,750. One day - Hr 999-1,199

Movies

The Verdict (drama). America House. 6 p.m.

By Toma Istomina,
Clara Marchaud,
Daria Shulzhenko

Free. Bring ID

Summer Shorts: Australia. Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 80

Theater

When the Fern Blooms (opera in Ukrainian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 80-1,000

Saturday, June 23

Classical music

Taras Stonda and Valentyn Dytiuk (concert with folk instruments, Ukrainian and Western composers). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-300

Concerts by the Stars of World Opera (performing opera arias). Sofiivska Square. 7:30 p.m. Free

Live music

Sax and Orchestra in the Garden (jazz). Gryshko Botanical Garden. 8 p.m. Hr 350

Kyiv Tango Project. Caribbean Club. 7 p.m. Hr 150-790

Eric Clapton Tribute Show. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free

Clubs

Worn Pop: Sean Nicholas Savage, Stepan i Meduza, Bichkraft (electronic, new wave). Closer. 8 p.m. Hr 350

Propaganda Night (electronic DJ sets). Lesnoy Prichal. 11:55 p.m. Hr 250-330. Visitors must be over 21

Logic: Stenny & Andrea, Ilian Tape (techno party). Mezzanine. 11:55 p.m. Hr 200

Concrete Bass (electronic music). Green

Theater. 11 p.m. Hr 200-500

Mesivo (electronic DJ sets). Plivka. 11:30 p.m. Hr 300-400. Visitors must be over 18

There Will Be Hip Hop (hip hop party). Bar Tvoh Druzey. 10 p.m. Free

Miscellaneous

Christina Soiman (photo exhibition by Romanian artist Christina Soiman). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free

Anders Petersen. Café Lehmitz (photo series documenting the life of a Hamburg red-light district bar called Café Lehmitz). Mystetsky Arsenal. 12-8 p.m. Free

Where the Rivers Come Together (exhibition of photographs documenting Mykolaiv's diversity). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Notebook Without One Page (multimedia project featuring a notebook with sketches of future cities by Pavlo Makov). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Mykola Malyshko. Familiar and Simple (sculptures exploring global senses through details - familiar and simple things). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Nature vs. Architecture (multimedia exhibition exploring the role of nature and technologies in people's lives). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Kirill Protsenko. Ardent (photos, videos, movies and installations using the tools of mass culture). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for children under 12, students and retirees

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free

Ethno (Vsi Svoi home decor market). D12 Gallery. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Kurazh Bazar Flower Power (boho clothing charity market). Platforma Art Factory. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Hr 150. Free for pregnant, children under 12, retirees and people with disabilities

The World of Giants (flower exhibition). Spivoch Pole. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 25 for kids, 50 for adults

Movies

Rope (crime, drama, mystery). Kinopanorama. 3 p.m. Hr 50

Summer Shorts: Australia. Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 80

Ocean's 8 (action, comedy, crime). Zhovten. 4:50 p.m. Hr 80-100

Shows

BeLive (music and entertainment festival). Olympic Stadium. 3 p.m. - 12 a.m. Four-day pass - Hr 1,550-1,750. One day - Hr 999-1,199

Theater

When the Fern Blooms (opera in Ukrainian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 80-1,000

The House of Yes (play in English). ProEnglish Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 150

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (theater on screen). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 3 p.m. Hr 190-240

Sunday, June 24

Classical music

Opera Arias in the Garden. Gryshko Botanical Garden. 8 p.m. Hr 400

Live music

Closer Jazz. Michael Abene and the Jazzworkshop Orchestra (jazz concert). Closer. 8 p.m. Hr 300

Miscellaneous

Anders Petersen. Café Lehmitz (photo series documenting the life of a Hamburg red-light district bar called Café Lehmitz). Mystetsky Arsenal. 12-8 p.m. Free

Notebook Without One Page (multimedia project featuring a notebook with sketches of future cities by Pavlo Makov). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Kirill Protsenko. Ardent (photos, videos, movies and installations using the tools of mass culture). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for children under 12, students and retirees

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free

Ethno (Vsi Svoi home decor market). D12 Gallery. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Kurazh Bazar Flower Power (boho clothing charity market). Platforma Art Factory. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Hr 150. Free for pregnant, children under 12, retirees and people with disabilities

The World of Giants (flower exhibition). Spivoch Pole. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 25 for kids, 50 for adults

Movies

Goya: Visions of Flesh and Blood (exhibition on screen). Kyiv Cinema. 3 p.m. Hr 150

Rope (crime, drama, mystery). Kinopanorama. 3 p.m. Hr 50

Summer Shorts: Australia. Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 80

Ocean's 8 (action, comedy, crime). Zhovten. 2:40 p.m. Hr 80-100

Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (action, adventure, sci-fi). Zhovten. 1:35 p.m. Hr 70

Shows

Michael Abene and Jazzworkshop Orchestra. Closer. 8 p.m. Hr 300

Trio Mandili (Georgian polyphony). Freedom Event Hall. 7 p.m. Hr 189-499

BeLive (music and entertainment festival). Olympic Stadium. 3 p.m. - 12 a.m. Four-day pass - 1,550-1,750. One day - Hr 999-1,199

Theater

La Bayadère (ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-2,000

Monday, June 25

Classical music

New Era Orchestra. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-300

Miracle (charity concert to support an orphanage). Ivan Franko National Academic Drama Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 100. Extra donations are welcomed

Miscellaneous

Notebook Without One Page (multimedia project featuring a notebook with sketches of future cities by Pavlo Makov). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Mykola Malyshko. Familiar and Simple (sculptures exploring global senses through details - familiar and simple things). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

The World of Giants (flower exhibition). Spivoch Pole. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 25 for kids, 50 for adults

Shows

Steel Panther (heavy metal). Atlas. 7 p.m. Hr 790-1,590

Tuesday, June 26

Classical music

Concert Closing the Season (Rachmaninoff, Schubert, Ravel). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 250

Live music

Jazz on the Beach: Sinatra. UBK Club. 8 p.m. Hr 300-400

Fantastic Time with Kyiv Fantastic Big Band (movie music concert). Khreshchatyk Hotel. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200-550

Miscellaneous

Christina Soiman (photo exhibition by Romanian artist Christina Soiman). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free

Where the Rivers Come Together (exhibi-

June 24



(Courtesy)

'Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom'

Good news for Kyiv fans of Steven Spielberg's "Jurassic Park": the latest movie of the franchise will be screened in Kyiv in English. In it, as usual, dinosaurs run out of their cages and invade the Jurassic World island. When the island's volcano begins to erupt, they need to be rescued. While doing that, the movie's protagonists discover a conspiracy that could change the course of human history.

"Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom." Zhovten Cinema (26 Kostiantynivska St.) June 24. 1:35 p.m. Hr 70-90

tion of photographs documenting Mykolaiv's diversity). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID ☺

Notebook Without One Page (multimedia project featuring a notebook with sketches of future cities by Pavlo Makov). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free ☺

Mykola Malyshko. Familiar and Simple (sculptures exploring global senses through details - familiar and simple things). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free ☺

Nature vs. Architecture (multimedia exhibition exploring the role of nature and technologies in people's lives). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID ☺

Kirill Protsenko. Ardent (photos, videos, movies and installations using the tools of mass culture). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for children under 12, students and retirees ☺

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free ☺

The World of Giants (flower exhibition). Spivoche Pole. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 25 for kids, 50 for adults ☺

Theater

Hamlet: Cumberbatch (British Theater Live). Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 190 ☺

Julius Caesar (ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 20-500 ☺

Wednesday, June 27

Miscellaneous

Christina Soiman (photo exhibition by Romanian artist Christina Soiman). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free ☺

Where the Rivers Come Together (exhibition of photographs documenting Mykolaiv's diversity). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID ☺

Notebook Without One Page (multimedia project featuring a notebook with sketches of future cities by Pavlo Makov). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free ☺

Mykola Malyshko. Familiar and Simple (sculptures exploring global senses through details - familiar and simple things). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free ☺

Nature vs. Architecture (multimedia exhibition exploring the role of nature and technologies in people's lives). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID ☺

Kirill Protsenko. Ardent (photos, videos, movies and installations using the tools of mass culture). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for children under 12, students and retirees ☺

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by

international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free ☺

The World of Giants (flower exhibition). Spivoche Pole. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 25 for kids, 50 for adults ☺

Shows

Bardshow Under the Starry Sky (songs and poems) Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200 - 400 ☺

Theater

Ghosts (theater on screen). Multiplex (SkyMall). 7:30 p.m. Hr 190 ☺

Gianni Schicchi (one-act opera in Italian) and **Bolero** (one-act ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 20-400 ☺

Thursday, June 28

Live music

Jazz on the Beach: Glen Miller. UBK Club. 8 p.m. Hr 300-400 ☺

Miscellaneous

Christina Soiman (photo exhibition by Romanian artist Christina Soiman). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free ☺

Where the Rivers Come Together (exhibition of photographs documenting Mykolaiv's diversity). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID ☺

Notebook Without One Page (multimedia project featuring a notebook with sketches of future cities by Pavlo Makov). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free ☺

Mykola Malyshko. Familiar and Simple (sculptures exploring global senses through details - familiar and simple things). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free ☺

Nature vs. Architecture (multimedia exhibition exploring the role of nature and technologies in people's lives). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID ☺

Kirill Protsenko. Ardent (photos, videos, movies and installations using the tools of mass culture). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for children under 12, students and retirees ☺

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free ☺

The World of Giants (flower exhibition). Spivoche Pole. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 25 for kids, 50 for adults ☺

Shows

Oleg Skrypka & NAONI. Freedom Event Hall. 7 p.m. Hr 400 - 1,000 ☺

The Superbulz (rock). Docker Pub. 9 p.m. Hr 125-1,050 ☺



'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time'

The recording of the play adapted from Mark Haddon's bestseller of the same name and produced by the Gielgud Theatre, will be screened in Kyiv. "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" reflects on the mysterious death of the neighborhood dog, investigated by a 15-year-old Christopher Boone who has an autism spectrum disorder. The play will be screened in English with Ukrainian subtitles.

"The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time." Multiplex (Lavina Mall, 6D Berkovetska St.) June 23. 3 p.m. Hr 190-240

Theater

The Birthday Party (comedy play). ProEnglish Theater. 7 p.m. Pay what you want ☺

Zaporozhian Beyond the Danube (opera in Ukrainian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 20-400 ☺

Friday, June 29

Live music

Beast (Scorpions tribute band). Docker-G Pub. 9 p.m. Hr 100-125 ☺

Cinematic Symphony (orchestra concert). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 150-350 ☺

Clubs

Dushe Label Showcase (electronic DJ set). UBK Club. 10 p.m. Hr 100. Visitors must be over 18 ☺

Velarium: Randomer, Hodge, Paleman (techno). D12 Gallery. 11:59 p.m. Hr 300 ☺

Dog Days (various dancing music). Khvylovyi. 10 p.m. Free ☺

Miscellaneous

Christina Soiman (photo exhibition by Romanian artist Christina Soiman). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free ☺

Where the Rivers Come Together (exhibition of photographs documenting Mykolaiv's diversity). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID ☺

Notebook Without One Page (multimedia project featuring a notebook with sketches of future cities by Pavlo Makov). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free ☺

Mykola Malyshko. Familiar and Simple (sculptures exploring global senses through details - familiar and simple things). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free ☺

Nature vs. Architecture (multimedia exhibition exploring the role of nature and technologies in people's lives). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID ☺

Kirill Protsenko. Ardent (photos, videos, movies and installations using the tools of mass culture). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for children under 12, students and retirees ☺

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free ☺

The World of Giants (flower exhibition). Spivoche Pole. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 25 for kids, 50 for adults ☺

Saturday, June 30

Clubs

Lesnoy Prichal: Convexion live, Dj Masda (electronic DJ set). Lesnoy Prichal. 11:55 p.m. Hr 250-330. Visitors must be over 21 ☺

Spartaque & Codex Showcase (techno party). UBK Club. 12 p.m. Hr 120 ☺

Paranoise VI (psychedelic free-jazz, dark jazz). Plivka. 8 p.m. Hr 150 ☺

Miscellaneous

Christina Soiman (photo exhibition by Romanian artist Christina Soiman). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free ☺

Where the Rivers Come Together (exhibition of photographs documenting Mykolaiv's diversity). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID ☺

Notebook Without One Page (multimedia project featuring a notebook with sketches of future cities by Pavlo Makov). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free ☺

Mykola Malyshko. Familiar and Simple

(sculptures exploring global senses through details - familiar and simple things). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free ☺

Nature vs. Architecture (multimedia exhibition exploring the role of nature and technologies in people's lives). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID ☺

Kirill Protsenko. Ardent (photos, videos, movies and installations using the tools of mass culture). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for children under 12, students and retirees ☺

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free ☺

The World of Giants (flower exhibition). Spivoche Pole. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 25 for kids, 50 for adults ☺

Shows

Rooftop Live: Adam Naas (dark soul). Bel Étage. 8 p.m. Hr 400-600 ☺

Sunday, July 1

Classical music

Ways of Friendship (John Malkovich reading poem "The Portrait of Lincoln" to music by Giuseppe Verdi). Sofiivska Square. 9 p.m. Hr 400-3,000 ☺

Miscellaneous

Notebook Without One Page (multimedia project featuring a notebook with sketches of future cities by Pavlo Makov). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free ☺

Kirill Protsenko. Ardent (photos, videos, movies and installations using the tools of mass culture). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for children under 12, students and retirees ☺

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free ☺

The World of Giants (flower exhibition). Spivoche Pole. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Hr 25 for kids, 50 for adults ☺

Movies

Leonardo Live (exhibition on screen). Kyiv Cinema. 3 p.m. Hr 150 ☺

Shows

Kizomba Live Show (dance show & live music). Caribbean Club. 7 p.m. Hr 150-300 ☺

Theater

Swan Lake (ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 20-800 ☺



Rooftop live: Adam Naas

The emerging dark-soul music star Adam Naas is coming to Kyiv. Naas will perform on the roof of the Bel Étage music hall this week. The musician rose to fame in 2016, with the release of his song "Fading Away." Rooftop shows combine live sound and warm summer air, setting up the right mood to discover the new voice.

Rooftop live: Adam Naas. Bel Étage Music Hall (16A Shota Rustaveli St.) June 30. 8 p.m. Hr 400-600

Venues

Classical Music

● National Philharmonic of Ukraine (2 Volodymyrsky Descent) +38044 278 1697
● Gryshko National Botanical Garden (1 Tymiriazivska St.) +38044 285 4105
● Ivan Franko National Academic Drama Theater (3 Ivana Franka Sq.) +38044 279 5991
● Sofiivska Square

Live Music

● Caribbean Club (4 Petliuryi St.) +38067 224 4111
● Kyiv Planetarium (57/3 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) +38044 338 1991
● Freedom Event Hall (134 Kyrylivska St.) +38067 239 8461
● Khreshchatyk Hotel (14 Khreshchatyk St.) +38044 596 8000
● Roof (37-41 Sichovykh Striltsiv St.) +38067 155 2255
● Docker-G Pub (13/5 Ihorivska St.) +38095 280 8340

Clubs

● Mezzanine (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.)

+38063 873 7306
● Closer (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38067 250 0308
● Otel' (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38063 618 0145
● Lesnoy Prichal (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.)
● Green Theater (2 Parkova Rd.) +38067 155 2255
● UBK Club (Trukhaniv Island, 300 meters right of Pedestrian Bridge) +38097 771 3143
● Khvylovyi (18 Verkhniy Val St.) +38063 443 0925

● Plivka (1 Vasylkivska St.) plivka.info@gmail.com
● Bar Tvoih Druzey (13 Mykhailivska St.) www.facebook.com/bar.tvoih

Miscellaneous

● Pinchuk Art Center (1/3-2 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) +38044 590 0858
● D12 Gallery (12 Desiatynna St.) vsi.svoi.markets@gmail.com
● America House (6 Mykoly Pymonenka St.) +38063 343 0119
● Art 14 Gallery (14 Mykhailivskiy Ln.)

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● Platforma Art Factory (5 Bilomorska St.) +38044 461 8810
● Mystetsky Arsenal (10-12 Lavrska St.) +38044 288 5225
● Ya Gallery (49B Khoryva St.) +38044 492 9203
● Izone (8 Naberezhno-Luhova St.) +38067 622 8794
● Spivoche Pole (33 Lavrska St.) 0800 309 994

Movies

● Kinoparorama Cinema (19 Shota

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● Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) +38044 234 7381
● Zhovten Cinema (26 Kostiantynivska St.) +38044 428 5757
● Multiplex Cinema (SkyMall, 2T Henerala Vatutina Ave.) 0800 505 333
● Multiplex Cinema (Lavina Mall, 6D Berkovetska St.) 0800 505 333

Shows

● Atlas (37-41 Sichovykh Striltsiv St.) +38067 155 2255
● Bel Étage Music Hall (16A Shota

Rustaveli St.) +38066 971 2666
● Docker's ABC (15 Khreshchatyk St.) +38050 440 1525
● Olympic Stadium (55 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) +38044 590 6774
● Docker Pub (25 Bohatyrka St.) +38050 358 5513

Theater

● National Opera of Ukraine (50 Volodymyrsky St.) +38044 234 7165
● ProEnglish Theater (3 Smolenska St.) +38098 709 3668



Kyiv Post highlights struggles of 2 nations suffering from war



- 1 Participants of the Kyiv Post's "Bringing Peace to Syria & Ukraine" conference collect their attendee badges.
- 2 European Union Ambassador to Ukraine Hugues Mingarelli listens to a speaker.
- 3 Participants of the Kyiv Post's "Bringing Peace to Syria & Ukraine" conference listen.
- 4 Adnan Kivan, the Kyiv Post's publisher, welcomes participants
- 5 Kyiv Post contributor Paul Niland asks a question.
- 6 Kyiv Post chief editor Brian Bonner moderates a panel discussion.
- 7 Turkish Ambassador to Ukraine Yonet C. Tezel.
- 8 Alexander Bogomolov, director at Institute of Oriental Studies, listens.
- 9 Guests look at an exhibition during a break. (Volodymyr Petrov, Kostyantyn Chernichkin, Oleg Petrusiuk)



1 Salam Kawakibi, director of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, listens.

2 Wael Aleji, spokesman for Syrian Network for Human Rights, speaks.

3 Katerina Litvinenko (L) and Maryna Amalian (C) from Turkish Airlines talk to Alyona Nevmerzhytska, commercial director of Kyiv Post.

4 Panelist Christina Doborovolska (C) speaks about Russian intervention in Syria.

5 Ernst Reichel, German ambassador to Ukraine, speaks.

6 Adnan Kivan, the Kyiv Post's publisher (C) and former owner of the Kyiv Post, Mohammad Zahoor (R), speak at the break.

7 Hanna Solomatina, the head of fiscal control department at the National Agency for Preventing Corruption, (L) chats with guests.

8 Dincer Sayici, Turkish Airlines' general manager in Ukraine, takes a photo of the Kyiv skyline during a reception.

9 From left: Lawmaker Hanna Hopko; Kyiv Post chief editor Brian Bonner; lawmaker Alex Ryabchyn; Mamar Merzouk, team leader, Syria crisis at European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office; and European Union Ambassador to Ukraine Hugues Mingarelli chat during the reception. (Volodymyr Petrov, Kostyantyn Chernichkin, Oleg Petراسиuk)



Activist says only UN mission, free elections will solve Syrian crisis

BY OLEG SUKHOV
SUKHOV@KYIVPOST.COM

Only a political solution involving the United Nations, and free and democratic elections can put an end to the war, humanitarian catastrophe and refugee crisis in Syria, Wael Aleji, spokesman for the Syrian Network for Human Rights, told the Kyiv Post.

Aleji spoke on the sidelines of the Kyiv Post's "Bringing Peace to Syria and Ukraine" conference, held in the InterContinental Kyiv on June 18.

"In order for people to have a free choice, Syria needs a UN peace enforcement mission and UN stabilization mission with a clear mandate," Aleji said. "The humanitarian crisis and refugee crisis are symptoms of a cause. Ending the conflict and ensuring a political solution, transforming Syria from a dictatorship and war zone to a stable country and flourishing democracy is the only way to end this crisis."

Aleji also said that Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad is "the main source of the problem."

"He cannot be part of the solution," he said. "He's got to go in one way or another. He is a war criminal and murderer."

Aleji said that, in the case of a U.S. pullout from Syria, Assad's regime



Wael Aleji, Spokesman for Syrian Network for Human Rights, speaks at the Kyiv Post's "Bringing Peace to Syria & Ukraine" conference on June 18 in Kyiv. (Volodymyr Petrov)

"would probably feel more comfortable" and "show in their propaganda that they defeated the Americans and drove them out of Syria."

Unwelcome by all

Aleji also said that his human rights group was not a welcome guest for any of the parties in Syria's civil war.

"The last thing any fighter would

want is a human rights activist assessing his activities and his behavior and whether it's compliant with international humanitarian law," Aleji said. "In Syria human rights activists

and journalists are not welcome by any of the parties involved in the conflict, especially Assad's regime, and terrorist organizations like ISIS, Al Qaeda, Tahrir al Sham and other jihadists. Even moderate opposition groups feel uncomfortable."

Aleji also said that it was very dangerous for human rights activists to work in Syria, and many of them "have been killed, kidnapped, arrested or tortured."

Afrin invasion

Meanwhile, Turkey's invasion of Syria's Afrin province, which started in January, has been criticized because it was directed against moderate Kurdish groups rather than at the Assad regime or terrorist groups.

"Turkey is one of the players in the region, and they are acting to protect their own national interests regardless of anything else," Aleji said. "They are in Afrin to protect their own interests, not Syria's interests."

He said that Turkish-controlled groups had been involved in "human rights violations and abuses" and had been "confiscating property, intimidating people, arresting people, forcing people into displacement."

Turkey has denied the accusations.

"We hope the Turkish authorities will deal with them appropriately," Aleji said. ■

Salam Kawakibi highlights connections between wars in Syria and Ukraine

BY TOMA ISTOMINA
ISTOMINA@KYIVPOST.COM

Syrian political scientist Salam Kawakibi, the director of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, is critical of the West for its weak reaction to Russia's involvement in the wars in Syria and Ukraine.

And during the Kyiv Post's "Bringing Peace to Syria & Ukraine" conference, held in the InterContinental Kyiv on June 18, Kawakibi said it was important to talk about the Syrian and Ukrainian wars together.

Originally from Syria, Kawakibi is currently based in Paris. He has been studying politics of the Arab world for 25 years.

People around the world should have solidarity with those suffering from repression and occupation, no matter where they are, he said.

"Even if (the wars in Syria and Ukraine) are not completely similar, we have many common points – mainly Russia's expansionism and intervention, and its lack of respect for any international rules or resolutions," Kawakibi told the Kyiv Post.

He said Russia's President Vladimir Putin gets his country involved in wars to distract the Russian popu-



Salam Kawakibi, director of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, speaks during a panel discussion at the Kyiv Post's "Bringing Peace to Syria & Ukraine" conference on June 18 in Kyiv. (Oleg Petrasjuk)

lation from internal problems, like Russia's weak economy.

"He needs to make war to have a national solidarity around him, and unfortunately it works," Kawakibi said.

The researcher added that Putin can get away with such behav-

ior because of the West's weak reaction.

Kawakibi also said the Syrian war doesn't get enough attention from the European Union and the United States: they only care about the refugee issue and terrorism, but these are only the effects of a deeper prob-

lem – tyranny.

"The origin of the phenomenon of refugees and terrorism is despotism and the repression of the Syrian people," Kawakibi said. "The Syrian people started the revolution very peacefully, but unfortunately with this indifference, with this impunity,

some of them have become more and more radical," he said.

Kawakibi said the West should impose more severe sanctions on Syria and Russia, as well as have proper negotiations and make serious demands that Russia accept the democratic process in Syria and Ukraine.

However, Kawakibi said this appears to be impossible in the current situation, as many political parties in European countries are under the influence of Russia, and U.S. President Donald Trump also seems to be in favor of Putin.

"It's a hopeless case. We have many parties protected by Putin that came to power in Europe – in Austria, Italy, and Hungary. They are extreme right-wing or populist parties, supported by the Russian administration either indirectly or directly."

Kawakibi said he believes that one of Putin's goals is to destroy the European Union as a political project and "he is doing well in that direction."

He said that there would only be a stronger reaction from the EU if European countries recognized that there was a real threat to the union.

"If Europe sees a threat that the EU could be destroyed, that will be an alarm bell for it," Kawakibi said. ■

Former Ukrainian diplomat to U.S. blames Chaly for decay in relations

BY JOSH KOVENSKY
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One week before the inauguration of U.S. President Donald J. Trump in 2017, an article was released in U.S. political website Politico suggesting that "Kyiv officials are scrambling to make amends with the president-elect after quietly working to boost Clinton."

At the center of the story was a man named Andrii Telizhenko, a former diplomat at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington who claimed that a Democratic Party operative had met with him seeking compromising information on the Trump campaign.

Over the course of several months, the article caused a small commotion in Washington and Kyiv, with Trump tweeting about it in July 2017, and a Republican senator opening a congressional probe into the matter.

Now Telizhenko has turned on Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Valeriy Chaly, arguing that Chaly discredited himself as a diplomat by supporting the Clinton campaign and refusing to meet with Trump officials during the campaign.

"It was the ambassador himself, he misled the president on this situation," Telizhenko told the Kyiv Post. "Let's change the leadership of



Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Valeriy Chaly speaks at the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington D.C. in April 2018. Former embassy employee Andrii Telizhenko argues that Chaly should have stepped down from his post as ambassador following the 2016 U.S. presidential election. (UNIAN)

the embassy in DC. It wasn't a secret that Chaly was going around the diaspora promoting the Democratic candidate."

The Ukrainian Embassy in Washington issued a statement to the Kyiv Post saying "we stand by our words that the government of Ukraine didn't help any candidate in

Election 2016. Ukraine is proud of its bipartisan support in the US."

But Telizhenko argues that a sense of "insult" has lingered since the 2016 election, damaging the bilateral relationship between the two countries, and leading to a June 2017 meeting between Trump and Poroshenko to be downgraded below the level of

an official visit.

"Allies shouldn't drop-in or drop-out, they should come for an official meeting with a delegation," Telizhenko said.

He claimed that Ukraine was forced to spend \$600,000 on BGR consulting, a D.C. lobbying firm, to arrange the meeting.

"It's not a problem that our administration is using a lobbying firm, everyone else in the world uses lobbying firms," Telizhenko said. "But we had to use it to get our meeting because of the unprofessionalism of our embassy in Washington."

Telizhenko frames the relationship as a missed opportunity, costing Ukraine lost military aid dollars and ease of Ukrainian officials in obtaining high-level meetings in Washington.

"Poroshenko and Trump are the same, mentally," he said, adding that he "hopes" Chaly hasn't stayed in his position due to "some personal friendship with the president."

Telizhenko also dismisses talk of Russian influence in the Trump White House, pointing to the hawkish views of officials like Defense Secretary James Mattis and National Security Advisor John Bolton.

But others cast doubt on Telizhenko's claims, suggesting that he's a disgruntled former employee trying to develop contacts in Republican power circles for his own private political consulting business.

"There were more negative consequences for me in Kyiv than there were positive ones," Telizhenko said of the response to his criticism, adding, "A real friend delivers the truth up front." ■

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The painting entitled "Forever with Moscow. Forever with the Russian people" was created by Soviet Ukrainian painter Mykhaylo Khmelko in 1951. It was ordered by the Soviet Union for the celebration of the 300th anniversary of the Treaty of Pereyaslav, the agreement the Cossacks of Ukraine struck with Russia in 1654. Russian and pro-Russian academics have always maintained that the agreement was favorable to both sides, and the Russians held the treaty in such high regard that in Soviet times, in 1954, as a gift to celebrate the anniversary of its signing, they transferred Crimea to Soviet Ukraine. Ukrainian historians, in contrast, see the treaty as the beginning of Russia's domination of Ukraine, which later turned Ukraine essentially into a Russian colony. (Courtesy)

Honest History. Episode 10 – Treaty of Peryaslav

In 1654, Ukraine becomes Russian vassal for 337 years

Editor's Note: This is the 10th story in the Kyiv Post's Honest History series, which aims to debunk myths about Ukrainian history often exploited by Kremlin and other propaganda. The series is supported by the Black Sea Trust, a project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the Black Sea Trust, the German Marshall Fund or its partners.

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV
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One of the strongest links in the toxic chain of events that has bound Ukraine's fate to that of Russia was forged more than 350 years ago.

Called the Treaty of Pereyaslav, this political maneuver in 1654 was designed to save Ukraine from Polish domination.

It did so, but it also made Ukraine a Russian vassal for centuries.

But for the treaty, Ukraine might have been an entirely different country. Ukrainians could now be speaking no or little Russian, have another religion, and culturally as well as economically be less dependent on modern Russia.

Yet equally, the country may never have achieved independence at all, having remained under Polish control or having fallen under the domination of the Ottomans.

The Treaty of Pereyaslav, struck between Russia and central Ukraine's rulers of that time, the Zaporizhian

Cossacks, was interpreted by the Ukrainian side as a temporary alliance, required to shake off the Polish yoke, and necessary due to the Ottoman Empire's failure to provide the promised military support.

But for Russia the treaty was a way to extend its control to the west and south, and ultimately eliminate the Zaporizhian Cossacks as a military power. The eastern and southern portions of Ukraine came under Russian sway, being named Little Russia (Malorossia) and New Russia (Novorossiia).

And while those portions of the country were later recognized to be part of Soviet Ukraine and then independent Ukraine, since 2014 the Kremlin has revived its claims to these territories, using their history as justification for its war, which has now killed more than 10,300 people.

Why turn to Russia?

In the 16th to 18th centuries, most of the lands that make up modern Ukraine belonged to four countries:



Modern Cossacks put on a martial arts performance on the island of Khortytsya in Zaporizhzhya Oblast. The island is known to be the site where Cossacks built their first settlement and fortress in the 15th century, the Zaporizhian Sich. (UNIAN)

the Tsardom of Russia, the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Crimean Khanate, and the Ottoman

Empire. Central Ukraine, however, was under the control of rebellious for-

Bohdan Khmelnytsky came to regret deal with Russia before 1657 death

History from page 18

mer Polish-Lithuanian serfs, outlaws and refugees from religious persecution. They had guns and a yearning to be free.

As more of them banded together in settlements for protection, they formed a military force that other powers in the region soon had to reckon with.

They called themselves the Zaporizhian Cossacks, as they settled in the region called Zaporizhya — beyond the rapids, or "za porohamy," of the Dnipro River — and their capital was Zaporizhian Sich. ("Sich" is a noun related to the Slavic verb *sech* — to chop or cut. It is associated with the spiked wooden stockades around Cossack settlements.)

The Cossack commander of the mid-17th century, Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky (1595-1657) — now memorialized on the reverse side of the five-hryvnia banknote and in school textbooks as a hero — united the Cossack settlements politically, and took control of central Ukraine.

As leader, Khmelnytsky successfully fought off the forces of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and created a state with its own military, government, economy and culture — Ukraine.

He was even referred to as Prince of Rus, as after he led an uprising against Polish control in the east of Ukraine he liberated the ancient Rus city of Kyiv, which became autonomous under the Cossack Zaporizhian Sich.

But Khmelnytsky's remarkable initial successes in the war against the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth were followed by a series of setbacks, and an eventual return to domination by the Poles through the forced signing of several treaties that were unfavorable to the Cossacks.

Part of the reason for this was that the Crimean Khanate, which controlled parts of southern and eastern Ukraine, and with which Khmelnytsky had allied himself, had withdrawn its support: The khanate had its own political ambitions and wanted neither the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth nor the Zaporizhian Sich to become more influential in the region.

So the hetman started looking for another foreign ally. There were two options: the Ottoman Empire (which ruled over the southwest of Ukraine at the time) and the Tsardom of Russia.

Religion played a key role here: The Cossacks had rebelled against the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth partly because it was forcing the population to convert from Orthodox Christianity to Catholicism.

So when the Cossacks had to decide between the Muslim Ottoman Empire and the Orthodox Tsardom of Russia, they with little hesitation accepted the overlordship of Tsar Aleksey Mikhailovich.

Treaty with Moscow

Moscow and the Zaporizhian Cossacks drew up a treaty. To finalize it, a Russian diplomatic mission met with Khmelnytsky in January 1654 in Pereiaslav, now called Pereiaslav-



Ukrainians celebrate Orthodox Easter on the island of Khortytsya in Zaporizhzhya in May 2016. Khortytsya is the largest island in the Dnipro River. It was chosen by former Polish-Lithuanian serfs, outlaws and refugees from religious persecution, later known as Cossacks, as the site of their first settlement and fortress in the 15th century, the Zaporizhian Sich. Its founding is commemorated by the museum on Khortytsya. (Ukrafoto)

Khmelnytskyi, a small city 90 kilometers to the southeast of Kyiv.

Today, historians have differing views of the true intentions of the tsar and Khmelnytsky in signing this agreement. But most agree that Moscow wanted influence over more land, while the Zaporizhian Cossacks needed military support.

The treaty initially satisfied the needs of both sides: it legitimized Russia's claims to the ancient Kyivan Rus capital Kyiv, and strengthened the tsar's influence over the region.

Khmelnytsky, in turn, gained a legitimate monarch's protection and military support from a friendly Orthodox power.

The details of the treaty — whether it was to be a military union, or make a suzerainty of Ukraine, or completely incorporate it into the Tsardom of Russia — are uncertain, as the original final text has not survived. Translations and drafts of some articles show the wording to have been vague.

Under the treaty, the Cossacks were first allowed considerable autonomy. But soon the Tsardom of Russia began to encroach on their freedoms. Finally, in 1775, under the Russian Empire, the Zaporizhian Sich was absorbed and much of its territory became part of the Russian province of Novorossiia.

First consequences

The treaty immediately changed the geopolitical map of the region, as Moscow, which had kept out of the wars in Ukraine, began to support the Cossacks against the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

The commonwealth lost the ensuing war in 1667, and eastern Ukraine came under the direct control of Russia.

About a decade later, with some Cossacks unwilling to remain under Russia, the Zaporizhian Sich split into two semi-autonomous republics: one on the left bank of the Dnipro under Moscow, the other on the right bank in lands controlled by the Cossacks' former enemies, the Poles.



Poland eliminated the Cossacks as a force by 1680, while Russia used the left-bank Cossacks to help fight its wars up until 1775.

The south of Ukraine — from its modern western to eastern borders — was meanwhile under the control of the Ottoman Empire and the Crimean Khanate. Moscow used the Cossacks to protect Russia's southern frontier, and with their help, Russia eventually gained control over Crimea, winning the Russo-Turkish War in 1774.

With that, Moscow gained access to the Black Sea, and there was no need for it to maintain a Ukrainian force to guard its southern flank. The Cossacks soon lost their independence, and their semi-autonomous state was abolished by Catherine the Great in 1775.

Some Cossack officers became

Russian nobles, others were either absorbed by the Russian army or settled in Turkey. Later, both Russia and Turkey would use the descendants of the Cossacks to form military units for use in wars, but after 1775 there was no prospect of the Cossacks ever again forming an independent state.

By the end of the 19th century, Russia had gained control over most of what is now modern-day Ukraine, including Crimea. Moscow called the lands that the Ukrainian Cossacks had ruled in the 16th and 17th centuries Little Russia (Malorossia) and New Russia (Novorossiia).

Different views

Khmelnytsky, as the head of Zaporizhian Cossacks, was a key figure in the history of Ukraine. He united the Ukrainian people, helped them fight for freedom, and created an independent state. But his decision to ally himself with the Tsardom of Russia was to lead to centuries of domination of Ukraine by Moscow.

Historians differ on their views of the treaty, largely along national lines.

Russian and pro-Russian academics have always been confident that the agreement was favorable to everybody: it saved Orthodox Ukraine while granting Russia the strength to create the Russian Empire in 1721.

The Russians held the treaty in such high regard that in Soviet times, in 1954, as a gift to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Treaty of Pereiaslav, they transferred Crimea to Soviet Ukraine. When Ukraine became independent, Crimea

remained a part of Ukraine.

According to the Soviet interpretation, the treaty resulted from the Cossacks' aspirations to form a closer union with Russia, not from their desperate desire for a military ally against the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Ukrainian historians, in contrast, now see the treaty in 1654 as the beginning of Russia's domination of Ukraine, which over 300 years turned Ukraine into a Russian colony. They claim Hetman Khmelnytsky had wanted to use the alliance with Russia to strengthen the Zaporizhian Cossacks, but that Russia had its own hidden plans for their territories — they were to be fused to Russia and help form its empire.

During his final years, Khmelnytsky wrote irate letters to the tsar, accusing him of breaking the Treaty of Pereiaslav, which suggests that the hetman in the end realized that he had been outwitted by the Russians. But it was too late.

The influential Ukrainian poet and writer Taras Shevchenko, born in Cherkasy Oblast in the Russian Empire, who lived from 1814 to 1861, reflected on the Treaty of Pereiaslav in one of his poems. Ukraine's national bard had no doubt that Khmelnytsky would have regretted signing the treaty, had he known what was to follow.

*If only you, Bohdan the drunk
Could look now upon Pereiaslav
And gaping at that ruined fort
You'd take to drink, and drink a lot!*

First stanza of "If Only You, Bohdan the Drunk" by Taras Shevchenko, published in 1859. ■

Attend the hippie-themed charity market Kurazh Bazar Flower Power to shop, eat and enjoy music on June 23-24 from 11 a.m. till 11 p.m. at Platforma Art Factory (1 Bilomorska St.) Hr 150. Free for pregnant, children under 12, retirees and people with disabilities.



Witty Marchenko to host Ukraine's late night show



Ukrainian Greco-Roman wrestler Zhan Beleniuk (L), co-host Istan Rozumny (C) and host Iurii Marchenko take part in the filming of the Late Night Show on the UA Pershyi TV channel. (UA:Persnyi press service/Volodymyr Shevchuk)

BY TOMA ISTOMINA
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Iurii Marchenko has been working in journalism for more than 13 years. He's worked for a newspaper, an online magazine and a radio station.

Now he's moving on to television and will host the next season of the late night show on Ukraine's public broadcaster UA Pershyi.

Marchenko, 35, says journalism is not about mastering particular media — it's all about the skill of telling stories.

"I realized a long time ago that I'm a journalist who is interested in everything. I just like to tell stories," Marchenko told the Kyiv Post in an interview on June 20.

In his new show, which will air for

the first time on June 23, Marchenko will include all the classic elements of a late night show — performing stand-up and talking to public figures — in order to popularize the format in Ukraine and add high-quality humor to the national television schedule.

The first season of the late night show on UA Pershyi was launched in October and ran until January, hosted by Michael Shchur, the TV persona of a Ukrainian journalist Roman Vintoniv. Vintoniv, who also hosts a satirical news show called #@!?!\$o and who is a board member of UA Pershyi, struggled with his busy schedule, which led the channel to look for a replacement for him on the late night show.

Why not?

Marchenko found out that the show was looking for a host when he met Vintoniv at a party in February. The former host asked Marchenko if he wanted to dip a toe in the water.

"I thought: 'Why not?'" Marchenko said.

For the audition, which took place two months later, Marchenko was assigned to interview Albert Tsukrenko, the leader of Ukrainian band Hamerman Znyshchue Virusy.

"It was horrible. I didn't quite understand what to do, how to behave. And these spotlights that fry your face up are the worst thing on television."

Despite the spotlights, however, Marchenko was chosen as the new host from among over 200 other

contenders.

The team of the show told him it was his fast and spontaneous humor that won him the job. However, they also mentioned his weak spot — because of the absence of television experience, Marchenko doesn't look emotional enough on screen.

"And yet they chose me because of a bribe, of course. I'm kidding. I actually slept my way to the top," Marchenko jokes.

Despite taking a new job, Marchenko will remain the chief editor of the online magazine Platforma, which he joined in 2014. He says that combining both projects is quite hard, and so he is focusing on the TV show as the team gets it up and

more **Marchenko** on page 22

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City Life

WITH VANSHIKA SINGH

Here's where to find best Indian cuisine in the capital

Indian cuisine is well-known for being strongly flavored and spicy.

What is less known is that Indian cuisine is actually made up of a variety of distinct regional cuisines, which all employ different recipes, ingredients and spices.

For instance, the world-famous Indian dish, butter chicken, is originally from Delhi. It is made by marinating chicken meat in yogurt, spices and lemon juice, and then cooking it in a tandoor, a traditional clay oven that is heated with charcoal and gives a smoky flavor. The chicken is then simmered in a buttery curry sauce.

The dish is said to have been first made spontaneously, when a chef decided to use up some leftover chicken by heating it in a tomato gravy, rich in butter and cream. The dish is now usually consumed with butter naan, a flatbread cooked in an oven or a tandoor with lots of butter, or rice.

Rogan Josh is another famous Indian dish, but this one has its roots far from Delhi, in the northern province of Kashmir. The dish consists of lamb braised in a thick and deep-red colored piquant gravy, with garlic, ginger and aromatic spices.

Tandoori chicken, which originated in the city of Peshawar, now in Pakistan, is popular all over India and abroad too. The chicken meat is marinated in yogurt, ginger-garlic paste, honey and spices for several hours, and then cooked in a tandoor.

Malai kofta, a dish originating in the north of India, is a good pick for vegetarians. Malai means cream and koftas are usually balls made of a mixture of vegetables like mashed potatoes, carrots, cabbage, beans, peas and Indian paneer cheese. These balls are simmered in a thick-tangy sauce and then the flavor is toned down with the addition of lots of heavy cream. It can also be served to vegetarians as a substitute for meatballs.

For dessert, try a gulab jamun, a sweet popular all over India which is prepared by heating milk over a low flame for a long time until most of the water content has evaporated. The milk residue is kneaded into balls and then deep fried in a low heat. They are then drenched in

more **Cuisine** on page 22

Find jobs and friends at Kyiv's networking events

BY CLARA MARCHAUD

From highly qualified professionals to newcomers on the job market, networking events in Kyiv welcome every interested professional, inspiring them, and helping them make new friends and find new business partners.

These informal parties and meet-ups are organized regularly to allow people from one or a range of spheres to meet, either to talk about their professional projects or to find new ones.

As networking events are flourishing in Ukraine's capital, the Kyiv Post has picked the best ones for English speakers.

For everyone: Change Makers

With 46 parties already thrown in dozens of different locations, Change Makers is the most successful non-specialized networking event in Kyiv. It has been taking place every Thursday for more than a year now, bringing together people from various sectors.

Change Makers was launched in March 2017 by four friends from both the public and private sectors who felt there was a lack of opportunities for young professionals to meet in Kyiv.

Victor Artemenko, an independent development consultant for nongovernmental organizations and public institutions, and one of the founders of Change Makers, says that most of the meetings between people



People talk and make new friends at the Silicon Drinkabout Kyiv IT party at Hitchcock bar on Nov. 24. (Oleg Petراسиuk)

from different sectors were often very formal.

"Change Makers is made for people from NGOs, governmental organizations, media or businesses who are seeking change and making changes," he explains.

Artemenko says he was inspired by the famous Plux weekly networking meetings in Brussels, where he lived in 2014 and 2015. Plux gathers people from European institutions, NGOs and other organizations on the Place du Luxembourg, a central square in Brussels which is nicknamed "Plux."

Despite not having as many guests as Plux in Brussels does, Change Makers is quite successful with at least 100 participants every week, and sometimes over 200.

However, the organizers say they do not count their success by the number of participants. According to them, at least 10 people have already found a job during these meetings. A video production NGO was also created after talks during the informal parties.

Change Makers meetups are now also held in Sumy, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Ternopil. Poltava and Rivne should soon have them too.

For the summer, Change Makers have set their location at the Bar of Your Friends. Every week, they create a separate Facebook event for the party.

Change Makers. Bar of Your Friends. June 28. 6:30 p.m. 13 Mykhailivska St.

For IT people: Silicon Drinkabout

Silicon Drinkabout stands out among the numerous IT networking events in Kyiv. It is the only one where not only developers and engineers are invited, but also other people from the IT sector.

Guests include project and product managers, marketing specialists or recruiters. Every Friday, over 150 IT professionals meet in a different location — usually a bar or a co-working space.

Silicon Drinkabout was launched in January 2017 by the business developer Igor Ovcharenko, the project manager Dmitry Shust, the executive director of UAngel business network Regina Makhotina and the founder and CEO of Skyworker IT career-consulting company Lidiya Terpel. Since then, it has become a top tech event in Kyiv.

The idea behind the IT networking wasn't created in Ukraine: The first meetings were held in London in 2011, but soon the concept became popular worldwide thanks to social media. In Ukraine, Lviv and Odesa also have their own Silicon Drinkabout events.

But Silicon Drinkabout is not only a meeting, Viktor Yakubiv, a front-end developer at the Swedish company Beetroot, and regular goer explains. "I came to the event and understood that I wanted to stay, to be a part of the community. Because, it's really different and I like to explore it," he explains.

A core of about 50 people, now friends, come every week. But the community is much broader with more 3,000 people following Silicon DrinkAbout Kyiv on Facebook.

On June 22, the "Bar of Your Friends" will hosting the 72nd Silicon DrinkAbout meeting.

Silicon Drinkabout. The Bar of Your Friends. June 22. 8 p.m. 13 Mykhailivska St.

To find out the location and time of the next Silicon Drinkabout, go to www.facebook.com/SiliconDrinkaboutKyiv/

For business professionals: Networking receptions by the British-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce

The networking receptions organized by the British-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce (BUCC) are probably the oldest networking event in Kyiv as the first reception was organized in 2003.

Initially only for members of the chamber, the receptions were opened to the public after a few years.

On the last Wednesday of every month, guests, including people from government, NGOs or owners of

small and big businesses, meet up in Kyiv's fanciest hotels. In summer, the events are usually held on a terrace or a rooftop venue.

Each event has a guest speaker who gives a lecture for about 20 minutes on a topic related to their field of interest. This year, the BUCC receptions hosted famous speakers like European Union Ambassador to Ukraine Hugues Mingarelli.

Next meeting will take place on July 25. The speaker and location are to be announced.

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/buccukraine/> ■

Other events

Fryday Afterwork Networking

Meetups for the business and expat communities. Several Fridays a month, sometimes with guest speakers from embassies or businesses invited. Entrance fee: Hr 150. Fryday Afterwork Networking. Kuren restaurant. June 22. 6:30 p.m. More information: www.facebook.com/fryday.kyiv/

Weekly Drinkup by BeerJS

Meeting for Java Script developers. Every Thursday. Free. Weekly Drinkup. Old Bar (20, Velyka Vasylkivska St.) +38068850 6060 More information: <https://www.facebook.com/beerjskyiv/>

The Big Meet

Networking events in a relaxing atmosphere for expats. Held once or twice a month on Fridays, each time at a different place. Entrance fee: Hr 100 (one cocktail and a lottery ticket included) The Big Meet. Arena Terrace (2A, Baseyna St.) June 22. 7 p.m. More information: www.facebook.com/BigMeetUkraine/

Kyiv Couchsurfing meeting

Meetings organized by travelers on the hospitality platform and social network Couchsurfing. Every Wednesday. Free. Kyiv CS Weekly Meeting. Wunder Bar (13/6, Mala Zhytomyrska St.) +38044278 7788 More: <https://www.couchsurfing.com>



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City Life: These Kyiv restaurants are where to find the best Indian cuisine

Cuisine from page 20

a sugary syrup flavored with green cardamom, rosewater, saffron, and kewra and can be served hot or cold.

All of that can be washed down with Masala chai, which is a popular Indian tea beverage made by brewing black tea with a mixture of aromatic Indian spices and herbs.

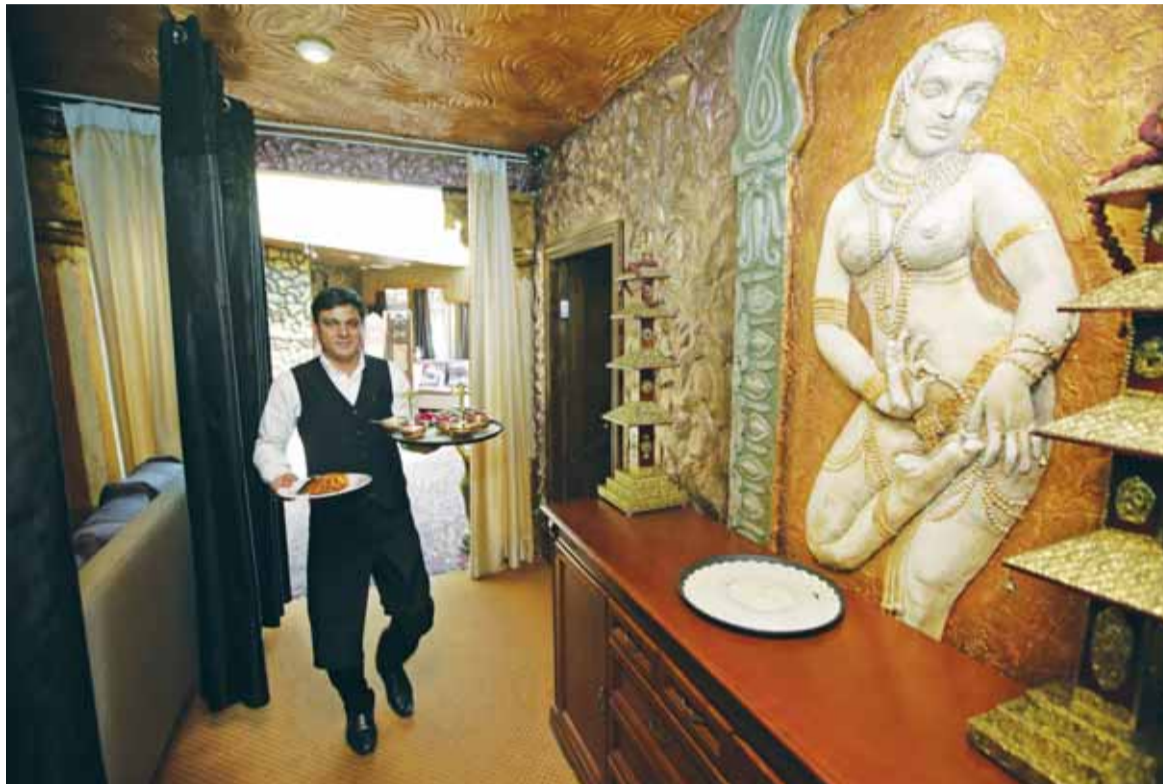
The list of famous Indian dishes is much longer, and much more can be found on the menus of Kyiv's Indian restaurants. The Kyiv Post checked out some of the Ukrainian capital's best Indian eateries.

Himalaya

Established in 1997, Himalaya is the oldest Indian restaurant in Kyiv. It is decorated with subtle wooden carvings, giving a classical Indian appearance, along with paintings of traditional famous Indian sights on the walls. Indian classical music and the dim lighting make the restaurant's ambiance very soothing.

Himalaya offers a variety of authentic Indian food and is famous for its samosas — a fried-triangular pastry made with a savory filling of spiced potatoes and nuts. Popular appetizers include reshmi kebab, or boneless chicken in cashew sauce, roasted in tandoor, as well as chicken tikka and paneer tikka — cubes of paneer marinated in garlic-ginger paste and Indian spices, and then roasted in a tandoor.

Also on the menu is a delicious mutton dopyaaza — lamb with onion and capsicum in a spicy gravy, and rogan josh. Some popular vegetarian dishes include sham savera, or balls of cheese stuffed with nuts and dried fruits in a thick gravy, and shahee paneer — paneer cheese served with tomato-onion gravy. Himalaya also serves delicious gulab jamuns. There is no pork and beef on the menu. It is one of the most moderately priced



A waiter serves traditional Indian dishes at New Bombay Palace restaurant in Kyiv on June 21. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Indian restaurants in Kyiv, and it also offers delivery.

Prices: *samosa* — Hr 72, *chicken tikka* — Hr 148, *mutton dopyaza* — Hr 162, *gulab jamun* — Hr 72, *masala chai* — Hr 48

80 Velyka Vasylkivska St. 11 a.m. — 11 p.m.

Sutra

Sutra is a pricier Indian restaurant with lavish design. The restaurant is called Sutra because its walls are lavishly carved with sculptures depicting the art of love according to the ancient Indian book "Kama Sutra." Some walls also feature marble and carved Indian gods, and heroes of ancient books and legends.

Each wall is like an exhibit in a museum of Indian culture. One of them, called the Wall of the Fulfillment of Dreams, has small opaque glass doors, lit from behind, each of which has a statue of an Indian god hidden behind them. The god behind the door a client chooses to open is supposed to tell their fortune.

This place offers delicious butter chicken, rogan josh, malai kofta and lamb spinach — mutton cooked with fresh spinach, fresh chilies, onion sauce and cream. Seafood is also on the menu. Gulab jamun and gajar halwa, or a carrot-based sweet pudding, are Sutra's most popular Indian desserts. Home delivery is

also available.

Prices: *Malai kofta* — Hr 275, *lamb spinach* — Hr 395, *butter chicken* — Hr 250, *gulab jamun* — Hr 200, *gajar halwa* — Hr 200

3 Proviantka St. 5 p.m. — 11 p.m.

New Bombay Palace

Established in 2001, this restaurant features luxurious handcrafted furniture brought from India. They also offer the outdoor seating for guests.

The restaurant offers exotic Indian food prepared by Indian chefs. Some of the most popular dishes are dal makhani — black lentils cooked with tomatoes and cream, chicken tikka masala — roasted chicken in tomato

gravy with Indian spices, and butter chicken.

New Bombay Palace offers pork-based dishes, as well as some seafood and Chinese dishes. Mutton seekh kebab, or minced mutton cooked on skewers with Indian spices, is also on the menu. The restaurant is also known for its mixed tikka platter, which is an assortment of tandoori chicken, pork and fish. They also offer delicious gulab jamuns. The restaurant is a bit pricey and does not offer beef. Home delivery is available.

Prices: *Butter chicken* — Hr 239, *rogan josh* — Hr 239, *mixed tikka platter* — Hr 499, *dal makhani* — Hr 209, *gulab jamun (two pieces)* — Hr 150

33A Druzhby Narodiv Blvd. 12 p.m. — 11 p.m.

Saravsari Café

This newly opened café, with a chef originally from India, is a vibrant place as colourful as a Sari, the traditional Indian attire for women. The place has a very relaxed atmosphere and friendly service. The restaurant is also not expensive and pet-friendly.

Saravsari serves a variety of Indian dishes, such as vegetable or chicken samosas, vegetarian and chicken kathi rolls, either with paneer or with chicken and vegetables, chicken tikka, shahee paneer, butter chicken, and more. They also offer gulab jamun and kulfi — Indian ice-cream with nuts. A variety of beverages like beer, wine, lemonade, coconut drinks, and the traditional yogurt-based drink Lassi are also served. A takeaway option is available.

Prices: *Vegetable or chicken samosa* — Hr 77, *veg kathi roll* — Hr 77, *paneer/chicken biryani* — Hr 107, *butter chicken* — Hr 107, *gajar halwa* — Hr 57, *masala tea* — Hr 47

4B Sichovykh Striltsiv St. 1 p.m. — 11 p.m. ■

New late night show host Iurii Marchenko wants to develop Ukrainians' critical thinking

Marchenko from page 20

running.

But Marchenko says he hopes to find a balance soon, as he is "very affectionately attached" to Platforma.

Guests, topics

The Late Night Show With Iurii Marchenko will air every Saturday, and the season will last till the end of the summer.

The 36-minute show will feature the host's stand-up routines, famous guests from a range of fields, satirical sketches about life in Ukraine and music performances by Ukrainian bands. The team has already recorded four episodes.

Marchenko says that he takes part in editing the script and gives suggestions to the writers.

"Being a talking head, who just speaks others' thoughts, is not interesting to me. So I certainly read (the script), make comments, and make changes," he said.

He says he also participates in deciding which guests to invite, and hopes to show unexpected sides to well-known public figures.

Apart from entertainment, the show will cover important political and social events and reforms in Ukraine — so government officials and lawmakers will be among the guests.

Marchenko will also get help from his co-host — actor and director Istan Rozymny — who was raised in a Ukrainian family in Canada.

"He has the amazing perception of a foreigner who loves this country, but understands nothing about it,"



New Late Night Show hos on the UA Pershyi TV channel Iurii Marchenko. (Oleg Petrasjuk)

Marchenko says. "He's also handsome, so we're nothing alike there too."

More late nights

The late night talk show genre started in the United States in the mid-20th century. However, Ukraine has its own history of the format.

SV-Show was a talk show hosted by a stage persona and singer Verka Serduchka, which aired in the late 1990s.

Together with her sidekick Helia (actress Radmyla Schoholeva), Verka Serduchka interviewed local celebrities, and was sharp and entertaining.

Since then, however, there have been few attempts to revive the format, and it has never been very popular.

Marchenko assumes that's because the Ukrainian TV audience and the format's potential audience are not well matched.

"I think TV is watched by an older audience, and the format assumes a great liveliness of mind, a taste for irony, and self-deprecation."

He believes that TV programs of such kind can help viewers develop critical thinking.

With the show's team, Marchenko hopes to lay the foundations for the development of the genre in Ukraine.

"I don't have the ambition to become the most famous TV presenter in Ukraine, I don't care about it," Marchenko said. "I want to make a product that I won't be ashamed of."

The Late Night Show With Iurii Marchenko. Every Saturday at 9:25 p.m. Watch on the UA Pershyi TV channel or at www.1tv.com.ua ■



USAID the Safe, Affordable, and Effective Medicines for Ukrainians (SAFEmed) Activity the purpose of which is to strengthen the pharmaceutical system in Ukraine to ensure transparency and cost-efficiency for desired health outcomes, and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine are looking for:

specialists in economics/pharmacoeconomics, IT and programming, and analytics, reporting, communications and media support motivated to be part of MOH team to implement, develop, expand and improve government reimbursement program "Affordable Medicines" and the pharmaceutical benefit package as an integrated part of the comprehensive healthcare reforms. We are looking for driven candidates with aspiration to participate in the healthcare reform and start their career as government employees.

Please follow the links below for more details: **analytics, reporting and communications specialist:** <https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/technical-assistant-IT-and-programming-specialist>; **IT and Programming specialist:** <https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/technical-assistant-2>; **economics and pharmacoeconomics specialist:** <https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/technical-assistant-3>



The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is a non-profit organization working to strengthen democracy worldwide.

NDI-Ukraine is currently seeking a **Program Officer for Women's Political Participation Program**. The position will be based in Kyiv and require some local travel.

Interested applicants should submit CVs and motivation letters in English together with the contacts of at least three referees by email to the following email address:

ukraine@ndi.org

Deadline:

The deadline for the submission of the required documents is **July 9, 2018** (by COB). Only selected candidates will be invited for a written test and an interview.



The EU Anti-Corruption Initiative (EUACI), (www.euaci.eu) implemented by Danida, is seeking candidates for the position of:

Anti-Corruption Project Management Expert (full-time)

Working under the supervision of the Senior Anti-Corruption Advisor to the EUACI Office, the selected candidate will work primarily as a focal point helping build capacity of the Assets Recovery and Management Agency (ARMA, www.arma.gov.ua) and the State Financial Monitoring Service (SFMS, <http://www.sdfm.gov.ua>).

Communications Expert (full-time)

Working under the supervision of the Head of the Programme Implementing Unit, the selected candidate will work with the team and the local and national civil society groups as well as media groups and local government to provide specific support to the program.

For detailed TOR and information please visit <https://euaci.eu/what-we-do/procurement.html>



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Chemonics International Inc., an international development consulting firm, seeks a highly-qualified Ukrainian professional for the following position on the USAID New Justice Program:

LEGAL ADVISOR

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Work with Ukrainian partners, including the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament), Ministry of Justice, Supreme Court, High Council of Justice, High Qualifications Commission of Judges, State Judicial Administration, and National School of Judges, in support of legal and judicial reform programs.
- Develop policy papers, analytical reports, and commentaries on a variety of topics related to the justice sector.
- Support institutional capacity building for judicial and governmental partners.
- Assist with designing, implementing and evaluating conferences, workshops and training programs.
- Contribute to public outreach materials, progress reports, and work plans.
- Coordinate activities with other international donors active in rule of law reform.

Job Qualifications:

- Law degree from a university in Ukraine.
- Five years of legal experience and/or practice of law.
- Previous USAID or other international donor experience preferred.
- Ability to speak and write clearly and effectively in English and Ukrainian required.
- Knowledge of the Ukrainian judicial system preferred.

Application Instructions: Please send a CV and a brief cover letter in English in the email body to office@new-justice.com. Please include the name of the position in the subject line. Candidates will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. No telephone inquiries, please. Short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Application Deadline: July 6, 2018, 18:00 Kyiv Time

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- Human Studies Education Expert;
- IT Expert;
- Technical Lead;
- Legal / Policy Expert;
- Business Analyst;
- Knowledge Manager.

For the ProZorro.Sale under the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine (MEDT):

- Junior Project Manager (2 positions)

For more detailed information about preferred qualifications and skills, indicative duties and responsibilities, as well as applying procedure, please visit web-site: edge.in.ua/vacancies

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The Kyiv Post thanks all the participants of the conference, which gathered 14 speakers and more than 200 guests during three panels.



Tobias Schneider
Research Fellow at the
Global Public Policy Institute
and Editor of Syria in Context



Anna Borshevskaya
Specialist on Russian influence
in Middle East



Salam Kawakibi
Director of the Arab Center
for Research and Policy Studies



Christina Dobrovolska
Researcher
at InformNapalm



Vadym Skibitskyi
Deputy head of the Chief
Directorate of Intelligence
of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense



Wael Aleji
Spokesman for Syrian Network
for Human Rights



Hussein Sabbagh
Representative of the Syrian
National Coalition



Mohammed Alhammedi
Head of the Syrian NGO Alliance
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Nicholas Hawton
Diplomatic Adviser,
Near and Middle East,
for the International Committee
of the Red Cross (ICRC)



Mamar Merzouk
Team Leader, Syria Crisis at
DG European Commission
Humanitarian Aid Office



Hugues Mingarelli
European Union Ambassador
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Ernst Reichel
German Ambassador
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