



CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR
**INTERNATIONAL
LEADERSHIP**



COIL convenes international leaders in authentic dialogue with Congress

Weekly Dispatch No. 2

March 25, 2022



As we prepare to mark the end of the first month of the invasion of Ukraine, an end to violence seems no closer. The resiliency and bravery of the Ukrainian people continues to inspire the world, despite the unimaginable violence and tragedy playing out before our eyes. In the face of such darkness, a light shines through. This is not the end for Ukraine. The time will come again for Ukrainians to celebrate and look towards the future. COIL stands ready to support Ukraine in any of its efforts to rebuild and strengthen its democracy.

~Jane Sargus, Executive Director

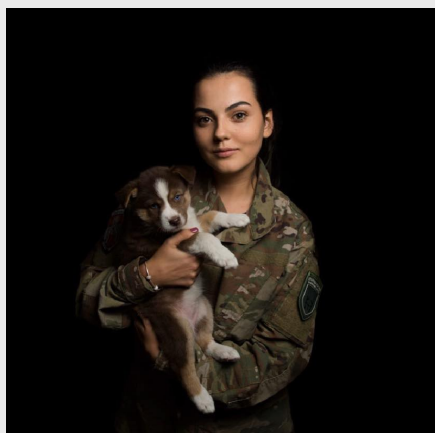


Mayor Fedorov, second from left, with Springfield, IL Mayor Jim Langfelder 2018

MELITOPOL - Mayor Ivan Fedorov of Melitopol was abducted by Russian forces March 11, 2022. He was released by Ukrainian forces on March 15 and is now back to serving his city. On March 17, **President Volodymyr Zelensky** awarded Fedorov with the medal “For Bravery” of the second degree.

Alum from Melitopol, Ukraine hosted by Springfield Commission on Int’l Visitors, Springfield, IL 2018

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KYIV - Alina Mykhailova has re-enlisted to the Armed Forces of Ukraine and is now participating in heavy combat. She is stationed somewhere in Central Ukraine.

Alumna hosted by West Virginia Council of International Programs in Morgantown, WV 2019

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NIZHYN, CHERNIHIV REGION - Despite repeated shelling in the city, **Mayor Oleksandr Kodola** reports that municipal services in Nizhyn are running smoothly. Most city residents have heat, electricity, and food. He encourages city residents report price gouging to the City Council.



Mayor Kodola, second from the right with Rep. Marcy Kaptur for Ohio's 9th District on Capitol Hill 2018

Alum from Nizhyn, Chernihiv hosted by Global Ties Kansas City in Kansas City, MO 2018

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Yelyzaveta Nepyiko, third from the left in Sen. Shelley Moore Capito's (WV) office on Capitol Hill 2019

KYIV - Yelyzaveta Nepyiko is providing psychological services and teaching coping mechanisms to Territorial Defense Units in Kyiv.

Alumna from Kyiv, Ukraine hosted by West Virginia Council of International Programs in Morgantown, WV 2019



KYIV - “Yesterday I stopped by one Kyiv courtyard. I had a Ukrainian flag waving from the roof of my car. A mother with two children, a five-year-old girl and a small boy passed. Both children approached me and shouted, “Glory to Ukraine!” And I, swallowing tears of pride for them, answered “Glory to the Heroes!”

Facilitator from Kyiv, Ukraine hosted by Global Ties Alabama in Gadsden, AL 2016



MOSCOW - “Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a state crime for which there is no statute of limitations or mercy. Vladimir Putin, by starting this bloody war, committed a crime against Ukraine, but also against the people of Russia and the world. No war!”

Alum from Moscow, Russia hosted by Global Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, PA 2019



KYIV - “Extremely interesting night - a full moon over Ukraine. An interesting cloud came to the moon, and cast a color. Suddenly, the moon was illuminated by a rainbow. It’s night. No lights. 09:30 pm. A rainbow over the moon.

I believe this is a good sign that victory is near.”

Alumna from Kyiv, Ukraine hosted



**Alumna from Kharkov,
Ukraine hosted by World
Trade Center Institute in
Baltimore, MD 2013**

KHARKIV - "I get a lot of questions from foreign journalists on how to work in a war zone. Here is my list:

HOW TO WORK IN CONDITIONS OF WAR

- 1) Just because you have official permission to operate, these permissions don't guarantee you stay alive. Follow instructions carefully;
- 2) Do not work alone, you need a fixer who understands what really happens in the area that you are going to work;
- 3) Remember you are responsible for the life of all that you involve in your work, no matter fixer, civilian, or military;
- 4) You should share your logistical plans with the local military offices; if they say no, abort your plans because the risk of being killed is very high;
- 5) A bulletproof vest and helmet is obligatory, but it doesn't save you from artillery or missiles;
- 6) Remember this is war and your main task is to stay alive!!"



KYIV - "I am in Warsaw. Every day since the war began, I write to give thanks for another day I've lived. And today is no exception. THANK YOU to all the people who helped to get me out of the hot spots:

- A low bow to Ukrainian Railways staff;
- To the people of Khmelnytskyi who met our train to see if we had enough water and food for the rest of our journey;
- To the Lviv taxi driver who listened to me cry over the bombing of Kyiv;
- To friends who opened their homes for guests in need;
- To all the Poles who helped as much as



**Alumna from Kyiv, Ukraine
hosted by Global Ties in**

they could on the border;

- To my family;
- To God for keeping the Armed Forces alive and well.”

Huntsville, AL 2018

There is no doubt we will win this war
because we are PEOPLE UNITED.”



MOSCOW - "For me, what is happening now in Ukraine is not a war somewhere there, in another country. This is a war right here. In my house. For me, rockets launched in Kharkiv, Kyiv and Mariupol are like rockets launched in Samara, Novosibirsk or Ryazan. And I don't understand how you can bomb our brothers, covering it up with words about their own protection and salvation. How can you launch rockets in the cities where we live? They are us - our friends, family, loved ones, close ones.”

Alumna from Moscow, Russia hosted by WorldDenver in Denver, CO 2020



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