



CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE FOR
**INTERNATIONAL
LEADERSHIP**



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Weekly Dispatch No. 5

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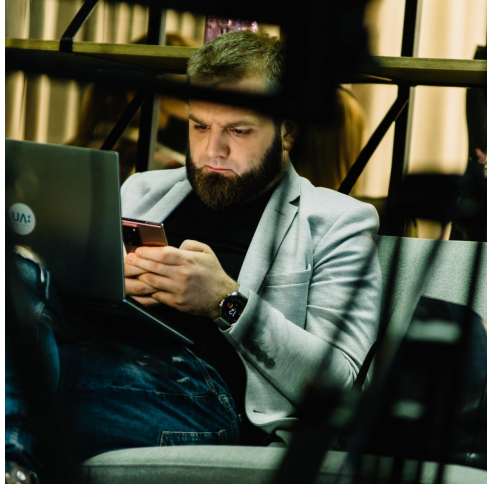


A soldier hard at work in the town of Irpin 2022

WASHINGTON, DC - "You'll see a lot of helpers in these stories: ordinary Ukrainian citizens taking the high road to serving their people, their government, their country – all the while standing tall and proud and determined. This means they are doing everything from making Molotov cocktails to modular furniture for refugees. They never stop, never hesitate to question the value of their labor. It is for Ukraine, always for Ukraine, and its sacred sovereignty. We have much to learn from these brave people. I am honored to know them." ~Jane Sargus, Executive Director

KYIV - Alumnus Maksym Skubenko is CEO of [VoxCheck](#), which chronicles Russian disinformation and is part of a broader analytical

platform that publishes in Ukrainian and Russian. Since almost the beginning of the current invasion of Ukraine, he has volunteered with the Territorial Defense Forces and sees combat regularly. Skubenko was profiled in the March 27, 2022 **The New York Times Magazine**.



(Before)



(After)

“As Russia invaded, Maksym Skubenko, 30, the chief executive of VoxUkraine, an independent analytical organization and fact-checking service in Kyiv, set aside his work and joined the Territorial Defense Forces. He had no previous military or weapons experience. An instructor hurriedly taught him and other new volunteers how to shoot a rifle, how to fire antitank missiles, how to make Molotov cocktails and how to fight with a knife.”

Alumnus Maksym Skubenko from Kyiv, Ukraine hosted by Chicago Sister Cities International Program in Chicago, IL 2017



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MARIUPOL - This picture was taken a 5-minute walk from my apartment building.

Less and less talk about Mariupol. The city is completely encircled. At least 150,000 civilians are trapped in the city trying to survive in inhumane conditions. Constant airstrikes of residential areas, constant shelling, death by starvation(!)

Our defenders are running out of ammunition. They are left to fend for themselves. The sky hasn't been closed. The supplies can't be delivered. There are no "green corridors." The Red Cross is aiding Russia in transporting Mariupol residents to Russia by force and stripping them of their documents in the process. Mobile crematoria are at work, relentlessly trying to hide the real scale of Russian atrocities. Mass graves are right by the roads of residential areas. Kadyrov's Chechen cutthroats are roaming the occupied areas.

Yet, "Mariupol fatigue" is setting in.

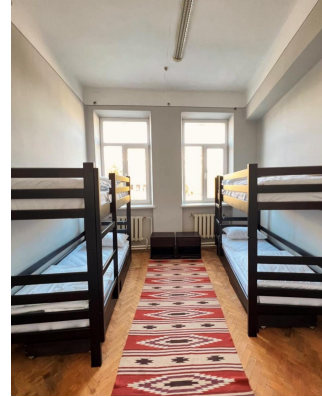
I fear the scale of atrocities unfolding in **Mariupol** RIGHT NOW is much, much worse than what we saw in Bucha. What exactly is the world doing to stop this? Putting up Ukrainian flags?

Alumnus Alina Beskrovna from Mariupol, Ukraine hosted by Kilgore College Small Business Development Center in Longview, TX 2012

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Yurii Hranovskyi (far left) on Capitol Hill meeting with the office of Sen. Tammy Duckworth. 2018



A bedroom in the Khust Hostile 2022

KHUST, ZAKARPATTIA OBLAST, UKRAINE - When **Yurii Hranovskyi** traveled to Chicago in 2019 to look at Decentralization and Clean Urban Development, he was interested in participatory budgeting practices in his urban planning work. Now, he is putting those skills to work designing modular furniture to outfit tourist hostels that are now serving as homes for internally displaced people (IDPs) in war-torn Ukraine. His current project is part of the “Design for a Hostile World” initiative. As part of the initiative, Hranovskyi and his team are researching and sharing solutions that can be implemented from just a few available materials and without special skills or specific tools.

The first experimental site is Khust Hostel in Transcarpathia, where hospitality managers are transforming an old hotel into a hostel for IDPs. Hranovskyi and team are creating the prototypes for the furniture and drafting assembly instructions for users. This is a fully volunteer project for the team and a great contribution to the war effort.

Yurii Hranovskyi from Kyiv, Ukraine hosted by WorldChicago in Chicago, IL 2019

KYIV - Since the beginning of the current, large-scale war, **Kateryna Pryimak** has co-founded a volunteer response office in support of the Women's Veteran Movement. The volunteers under her direction obtain and distribute medical and protection equipment to military units, as well as provide a variety of humanitarian aid for the most impacted regions. The work of the volunteer unit headed by Kateryna was recently featured in the Slidstvo.Info material.



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(in Ukrainian)

Kateryna Pryimak distributing aid in a war-torn Iripi in 2022

**Alumna Kateryna Pryimak from Kyiv,
Ukraine hosted by International Center of
Syracuse in Syracuse, NY, 2019**



KRAMATORSK - "My six-year-old son made a wish yesterday - 'I wish that the war would end soon and that we can return home.'"

Let your mind wander. Russia doesn't have to exist. The Russians will have to atone for generations for the broken fates of Ukrainian families and the dashed dreams of our children."

Alumnus from Kramatorsk, Ukraine hosted by Friendship Force of Cheyenne in

Cheyenne, WY 2018



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