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LIFE UNDER OCCUPATION

The situation in the Ukrainian territories
temporarily controlled by the Russian army



Kilometre-Long Queues for Petrol in the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine

Elements of terror from the side of occupation administrations | p.2
Russian propaganda in the temporarily occupied territories | p.6
Forced Russification of Ukrainian citizens under occupation | p.10
Militarisation of the occupied territories | p.14
Socio-economic situation in the temporarily occupied territories | p.18
Ukrainian resistance to the Russian occupation | p.24
New life in evacuation | p.27



ALTERNATIVE
human rights centre

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ELEMENTS OF TERROR FROM THE SIDE OF OCCUPATION ADMINISTRATIONS



- For residents of the TOT of Ukraine, any attempt to leave through Russian border crossing points may involve strict security checks and the risk of enforced disappearance or prolonged detention.

While media attention often focuses on the stringent security screening of Ukrainian citizens at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport, land border crossing points in Rostov Oblast and along the Crimean route operate under an even more repressive de facto regime.

The principal instrument of control used by the Russian security services is the so-called beacon system—internal electronic markers embedded in the databases of the Federal Security Service (FSB). If an individual is deemed unreliable by the security authorities because of their pre-war contacts, social media activity, or family ties, this marker is automatically triggered whenever they attempt to cross a border crossing point.

As a result, individuals may remain trapped within the occupied territories for years without being allowed to leave, or, when attempting to evacuate, be removed from the flow of travellers by border guards and subsequently disappear without trace.

Those who fail this filtration process are not transferred to official detention facilities, but instead to unofficial places of temporary detention operating outside any legal framework.



According to investigative reports, one such facility is believed to be the Taganrog Congress hotel in Rostov Oblast. Although officially described as a temporary accommodation facility, it reportedly functions in practice as a closed detention centre.

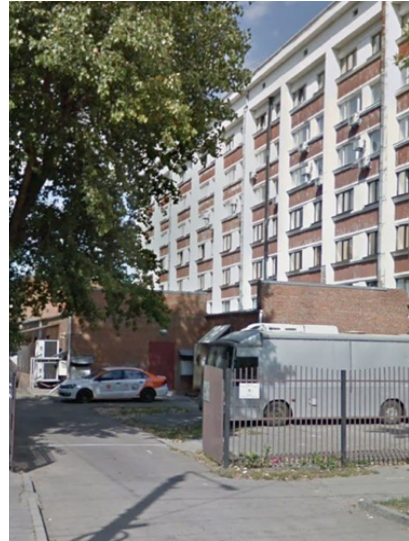
Available information indicates that detainees are brought onto the premises through the courtyard, bypassing the main entrance. They are held in windowless basement rooms, where dozens of people may be confined simultaneously. Although the doors are formally left unlocked, leaving the premises is impossible due to constant control. The facility is guarded around the clock by personnel from the Ministry of Emergency Situations (EMERCOM) and Cossack formations, who have access to an internal electronic database in which certain individuals are marked as being subject to special control.

The hotel's administration is reportedly fully integrated into this process by reserving rooms under the names of detainees, while the management keeps their passports. At the same time, no legal record of detention is created. Officially, those held are registered as refugees, allowing them to receive food while depriving them of any recognised legal status, prosecutorial oversight, or access to legal counsel.

According to information published in investigative reports, officers of the FSB conduct interrogations of those held at the facility. Detainees are reportedly held for months without formal charges, subjected to repeated interrogations, polygraph tests conducted directly in hotel rooms, and severe psychological pressure.

A common practice reportedly involves coercing detainees into covert cooperation. In exchange for the return of their identity documents or improved detention conditions, individuals may be required to provide information or carry out specific tasks. Attempts by human rights organisations to intervene are frequently obstructed, while the possibility of legally challenging their detention is severely restricted.

According to the human rights project Political Prisoners Support. Memorial, the filtration system has long expanded beyond a single border hotel.



Closed sanitary zones have been established along Russia's borders, while an entire network of secret places of detention has been deployed outside the Federal Penitentiary Service system. These facilities are referred to as temporary detention centres for individuals detained for opposing the so-called special military operation (SMO) and are often set up in industrial zones, including factories and grain storage facilities.

Under such conditions, prosecutorial oversight, the right to correspondence, notification of relatives, and access to independent legal counsel are entirely absent.

People may remain in these facilities for months without any formal procedures or court decisions. For many detainees, this period ends with the reclassification of their legal status: following prolonged isolation and interrogation by the security services, they are formally charged with serious offences under the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, including espionage and high treason, after which they are transferred to pre-trial detention centres in Rostov-on-Don and other regions of Russia.

- **The Commissioner for Children's Rights in the temporarily occupied part of Luhansk oblast (TOT of Luhansk oblast), Inna Shvenk, stated that since the beginning of 2026, 24 children from occupied Luhansk oblast have been placed with Russian families in other regions of the Russian Federation.**

According to the official, the TOT of Luhansk oblast has not yet been connected to Russia's federal adoption database. However, a regional database is already in operation and is being used to identify prospective families for children.

She explained that prospective guardians and adoptive parents travel to the so-called Luhansk People's Republic (LPR), register with the local authorities, submit the required documentation, and are subsequently matched with children for guardianship or adoption.

By 2030, the target set by the Russian authorities to reduce the number of children in institutional care facilities by 30% is expected to be fulfilled. Shvenk also reported that in 2025, 30 orphaned children from occupied Luhansk oblast were placed with Russian families.

<https://surl.lt/rqasro>

- **Restrictions on user authentication through foreign services, including Gmail, have entered into force in the temporarily occupied territories (TOT) of Ukraine.**

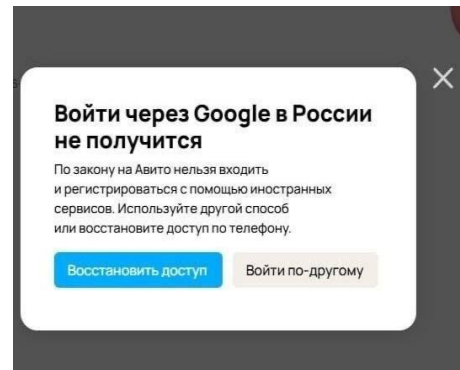
The State Duma of the Russian Federation has adopted a law introducing fines for website owners who use foreign authentication services for user logins.

The restrictions specifically apply to authentication through foreign email services. Under Russian legislation, user authentication must be carried out using a Russian telephone number, the State Services Portal (Gosuslugi), the Unified Biometric System, or other services owned by Russian individuals or legal entities.

Failure to comply with these requirements is punishable by fines of up to RUB 20,000 for individuals, up to RUB 50,000 for public officials, and up to RUB 700,000 for legal entities.

The law also establishes liability for the unlawful collection of information about users' preferences and for the use of recommendation technologies without informing users.

Some Russian online platforms have already begun notifying users that they must switch to domestic alternatives.



https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13629 <https://surl.li/hqkltp>

- **Activists from the Zhovta Strichka movement report that, following preliminary voting results for the State Duma elections, school administrations in Donetsk and Luhansk received instructions to verify whether employees were subscribed to the official online resources of the occupation authorities.**

Teachers have also been required to collect and provide information about students' parents, including whether they subscribe to the personal pages of occupation officials on the MAX messaging platform.

Particular attention is reportedly paid to individuals who are not subscribed to the required resources. Such individuals are subjected to so-called explanatory work, and information about them is passed on to the occupation authorities.

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13581

- The Chair of the Central Election Commission (CEC) of the Russian Federation, Ella Pamfilova, announced that, following consultations with the Ministry of Defence, the Federal Security Service, and the regional occupation administrations, the CEC had decided to hold elections to the State Duma in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

The so-called chair of the occupation election commission of the so-called LPR stated that the electoral system in the TOT of Luhansk oblast has been fully integrated into Russia's electoral system and that the elections will be held using the new Russian State Automated System (SAS) Vybory 2.0. The SAS is designed to automate election administration and data management, with version 2.0 having been launched in early 2026.

At the same time, the so-called chair of the Kherson oblast occupation election commission stated that the occupation administration of Kherson oblast had decided not to permit remote electronic voting because of the security situation and called on residents to vote in person at polling stations instead.

<https://tass.ru/politika/27786651> <https://tass.ru/politika/27780325>

<https://tass.ru/obschestvo/27821161>

- The President of the Russian Federation has signed a law establishing a state database of IMEI numbers—the unique identifiers assigned to mobile devices.

According to the law, the database will contain information on equipment identifiers that are “authorised” and “prohibited” for use within the Russian Federation. The database will be populated by telecommunications operators and government bodies designated by the Russian Government and is scheduled to become operational on 1 March 2027.

IMEI numbers assigned to smartphones and tablets are expected to be linked to subscribers' SIM cards. Devices that do not pass the identification procedure will be disconnected from mobile networks.

The introduction of this system will effectively prevent the use of unregistered devices and significantly strengthen state control over the digital space. In addition, the occupation authorities intend to require the installation of the Russian messaging application MAX on all smartphones officially imported into the country. These new requirements are expected to apply to all devices, including iPhones, even if the application is unavailable in the App Store.

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13589 <https://surl.li/xpmwv>



RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA IN THE TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

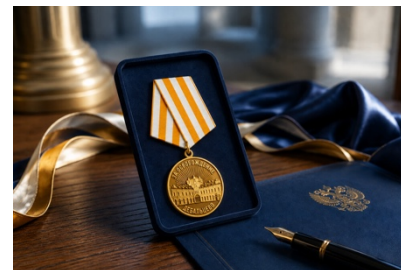


- The so-called head of the DPR, Denys Pushylin, signed Decree No. 325, officially approving the regulations, description, and design of a new state award—the medal For the Liberation of Debaltseve.

According to the published decree, the medal is to be awarded to individuals who directly took part in combat operations for the “liberation of the city” between 22 January and 18 February 2015, as well as to those who organised and commanded these operations. The award is also intended for specialists who demonstrated courage during the mine clearance of territories and facilities in Debaltseve.

The medal is circular, 32 mm in diameter, and made of brass. The obverse depicts the railway station building together with the inscription For the Liberation of Debaltseve, while the reverse features a five-pointed star and the date “18 February 2015”. The medal is attached to a pentagonal mount with a silk moiré ribbon.

The medal may be awarded posthumously, but it may not be awarded more than once. The decree comes into force upon its official publication.



<https://surl.li/hlepag>

- To mark Russia Day, a new propaganda mural entitled Motherland and Youth Without Borders was unveiled in Khartsyzk.

The mural depicts a kestrel, which the occupation authorities describe as a symbol of freedom, independence, and power. Set against the backdrop of the Donetsk steppe, the bird holds a ribbon in the colours of the Russian tricolour. The mural was painted on the building of the Khartsyzk youth centre.

https://t.me/dan_dnr/67432



- Three years ago, a branch of the Russian state foundation Defenders of the Fatherland, which provides support to participants in the war against Ukraine and their family members, was established in the occupied part of Donetsk oblast.

According to the occupation administration, the foundation has received approximately 146,000 requests over that period, around 90% of which have been processed. With the assistance of social coordinators, more than 19,000 individuals have obtained combat veteran certificates, while over 2,500 people have received medical care and underwent rehabilitation. The occupation authorities use the foundation's activities as a tool for supporting and socially reintegrating military personnel who have taken part in combat operations, while also forming a positive attitude towards service in the Russian Armed Forces in the TOT.

<https://t.me/PushilinDenis/9862>



- Russian security forces continue to use children's events in the TOT to promote a positive image of the occupation structures.

In the so-called DPR, officers of the Russian National Guard (Rosgvardia) held a series of events to mark International Children's Day.

According to the occupation administration of Rosgvardia, military personnel and personnel of the Extra-Departmental Security Service organised a festive programme for children living in an orphanage in Luhansk. They brought the children sweets and sets of school supplies for the upcoming academic year and creative activities. Military personnel and Rosgvardia officers also told the children about the history of Rosgvardia, which marks its tenth anniversary this year, the heroism of their fellow servicemen, and the tasks they perform. The programme included a concert, competitions, and the distribution of sweets and toys.

In addition, the Vostok-Donetsk and Ratnik-Donbas special units took part in a childhood and youth festival at the so-called Youth House 30/09. Rosgvardia organised a training area with special exercises where participants could test their physical endurance.

Representatives of the agency also served as judges at boxing competitions organised by local vigilante groups.

<https://www.donetsk.kp.ru/online/news/6999139> <https://t.me/RosgvardOfficial/14059>
<https://t.me/RosgvardOfficial/14063>



- An exhibition of awards instituted by the so-called Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) was opened during the St Petersburg International Economic Forum.

The exhibition was held at the Military Historical Museum of Artillery, Engineers, and Signal Corps.

The exhibition is dedicated to the history of the award system of the so-called DPR. Among the exhibits are orders and medals, some of which are claimed to have been made by hand.

A separate section of the exhibition features jubilee badges and medals dedicated to the capture of Ukrainian settlements, including Debaltseve, Mariupol, Bakhmut, Marinka, Avdiivka, Vuhledar, and other cities.

<https://t.me/PushilinDenis/9894>



- To mark Russia Day, a propaganda campaign entitled Russian Tricolour was held in Berdiansk, organised by representatives of the Yug Molodoy movement.

As part of the campaign, activists gathered in the city centre, where they congratulated residents and visitors on the occasion.

<https://t.me/YugMolodojbrd/5526>



- On 22 June, the anniversary of Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union, propaganda events were held in educational institutions across the TOT of Ukraine.

In a kindergarten in Mariupol, children dressed in military uniforms recited memorised propaganda narratives on camera, thanking Russian "defenders" for the "liberation" of the city in 2022.

In Kherson oblast, in the village of Semykhatka, the occupation authorities held a themed "hour of remembrance" for schoolchildren.

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13670 <https://t.me/andriyshTime/61163>



FORCED RUSSIFICATION OF UKRAINIAN CITIZENS UNDER OCCUPATION



- The Russian occupation authorities in Kherson oblast are intensifying pressure on the local population by combining coercive administrative measures aimed at drawing adults into Russia's social and banking system with systematic propaganda targeting children.

The primary objective of the occupiers is to erase the Ukrainian presence as far as possible and create the illusion that the region has been fully integrated into the Russian Federation. To achieve this, they have established a large-scale network of coercion across communities on the left bank of the Dnipro, forcing residents to obtain Russian passports while turning access to basic human needs into an instrument of blackmail.

Administrative terror is felt most acutely in Henichesk, Skadovsk, and Nova Kakhovka, where residents have effectively been deprived of any viable alternatives for survival. The occupation authorities block virtually all financial transactions unless individuals possess a Russian passport and hold accounts with Kremlin-controlled banks, such as Promsvyazbank. In the settlements of Novotroitske and Kalanchak, access to social benefits, pensions, and even basic medical care and medicines has been made directly conditional upon registration in occupation databases and the renunciation of Ukrainian citizenship.

<https://surl.li/wuobgp>

- In Donetsk, 35 teenagers who had reached the age of 14 were presented with Russian passports during a ceremonial event held to mark Russia Day.

Along with their passports, the participants received gift sets that included, among other items, "patriotic" document covers. During the ceremony, the so-called first deputy minister of youth policy of the DPR delivered a congratulatory address. The event also featured an exhibition of children's drawings dedicated to the Russian Federation, followed by a joint photo session.

<https://surl.li/iwgssm>



► **The Russian Government has granted a number of monuments and heritage sites in the TOT the status of cultural heritage sites of federal significance of the Russian Federation.**

By assigning them this new status, the occupation authorities are effectively integrating the cultural heritage of the occupied territories into Russia's legal system and consolidating their control over the region's historic sites. The decision applies to sites located in the occupied parts of Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson oblasts.



The corresponding order was published on Russia's official legal information portal.

The list of sites in the so-called LPR includes, among others:

- the Young Guard memorial complex and the Unconquered monument in Krasnodon;
- the Glory memorial complex in Rovenky;
- the To the Fighters of the Revolution memorial complex in Luhansk;
- monuments to Lenin and Voroshilov in Luhansk;
- the house where the writer and lexicographer Volodymyr Dahl was born, together with a monument dedicated to him;
- the estate where the first Young Spartacus pioneer organisation operated;
- the monument to miner Oleksii Stakhanov in Stakhanov (now Kadiivka);
- the monument to Oleksii Bakhmutskyi, the inventor of the coal combine, in Pervomaisk;
- the building of the former mine foremen's school, dating from the early twentieth century in Lysychansk.

The list also includes historical complexes and buildings:

- Kazimierz Mścichowski's Manor in Seleznivka;
- the historical complex in Oleksandrivsk, founded in the eighteenth century;
- the administrator's residence and service buildings on Krasna Square in Luhansk;
- the complex of buildings of the Derkul Stud Farm, including the "Japanese" manege, the administrative building, and the central stables in Novoderkul.

The status of cultural heritage sites of federal significance has also been granted to monuments dedicated to Soviet and Russian military figures, including busts of Heroes of the Soviet Union who served as military pilots, the Combat Commander monument, the monument to Marshal of the Soviet Union Andrey Yeryomenko, and the grave of military pilot Kateryna Budanova.

The Russian Ministry of Culture has been instructed to enter these sites into the Unified State Register of Cultural Heritage Sites of the Russian Federation.

<https://surl.li/uokckk>

► **Ukrainian citizens applying for Russian citizenship have been exempted from the requirement to provide a certificate confirming the presence or absence of a criminal record until 1 January 2028.**

The corresponding decree was signed by the President of the Russian Federation.

The amendments apply to Ukrainian citizens and stateless persons who previously resided in Ukraine and arrived in the Russian Federation, including via third countries. For these individuals, the requirement to submit criminal record documents as part of an application for Russian citizenship has been temporarily waived.

Earlier, the State Duma of the Russian Federation approved at first reading a draft law providing for the refusal of Russian citizenship or the right to reside in the Russian Federation for foreign nationals with an outstanding or unspent criminal conviction, regardless of the seriousness of the offence.

<https://surl.li/ipjgaq>

- During the summer of 2026, more than 5,600 children from the TOT of Ukraine are expected to be sent to Rostov Oblast of the Russian Federation for summer holidays.

The programme covers children from the so-called DPR and LPR, as well as from the occupied parts of Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts. In total, the Russian authorities state that they intend to receive around 9,000 children from 14 regions.

It has also been reported that more than RUB 1.37 billion has been allocated in the regional budget for the 2026 summer health and recreation campaign. The funds are intended to cover the purchase of holiday vouchers, compensation payments to parents and organisations, as well as meals at day camps.

Around 16,000 employees—including educators, camp counsellors, and educational psychologists—are expected to be engaged in the programme.

At the same time, Russian media report that the number of subsidised holiday vouchers available to privileged categories of children in Rostov Oblast has decreased by more than 41% in 2026 compared with the previous year due to declining demand among parents.

<https://tass.ru/obschestvo/27543249>

- The elections to the State Duma of the Russian Federation are intended to become the “final step of integration” of occupied Luhansk oblast into Russia’s political space.

This was stated by Denys Miroshnychenko, secretary of the Luhansk branch of the United Russia party and chair of the so-called People’s Council of the LPR.

According to Miroshnychenko, despite the challenging “operational situation”, the Luhansk branch of the party successfully held its preliminary voting to select candidates.



“

We have clear tasks ahead of us: to conduct our State Duma election campaign with dignity. These will be the final elections within the framework of our integration into the Russian political segment. We have already held all the other elections; only the State Duma elections remain,” Miroshnychenko stated.

During the fifth conference of the Luhansk branch of United Russia, seven delegates were also selected to represent the occupied region at the party’s 23rd Congress. The congress is expected to approve the party’s candidates for the State Duma elections.

The United Russia Congress is preliminarily scheduled to be held in Moscow on 28 June.

The party had previously stated that almost 26,000 people in the occupied part of Luhansk oblast took part in the preliminary voting. The results of this vote will be used to compile the list of candidates who will stand in the elections.

The elections to the ninth convocation of the State Duma of the Russian Federation are scheduled for 20 September 2026. For the first time, residents of the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine—referred to by Russia as its “new regions”—are expected to take part in.

Under Russia’s electoral system, 225 deputies will be elected from party lists and a further 225 from single-member constituencies. Russia plans to establish two such constituencies in the TOT of Luhansk oblast, three in Donetsk oblast, and one each in Zaporizhzhia and Kherson oblasts.



<https://surl.li/isfbov> <https://surl.li/ydmjbg>

- **To gain access to public utility services, the occupation authorities are forcing residents of the TOT to legalise their real estate under Russian legislation and transfer information about their real estate to the occupation registers.**

To participate in the so-called social gasification programme in occupied Luhansk oblast, owners of houses in horticultural non-commercial partnerships (HNPs) must fulfil one of the programme's principal requirements: register their property rights and enter information about their real estate into the Unified State Register of Real Estate of the Russian Federation (USRRE).

To submit an application, the following are required:

- registered ownership of the land plot;
- registered ownership of the residential building;
- registration of the property in the USRRE;
- minutes of the general meeting of HNP members approving the decision to carry out "additional gasification".

Applications may be submitted either by the property owner or by the chair of the HNP.

If the land plot or residential building has not been entered into the cadastral register or the ownership rights have not been officially registered, participation in the programme will be impossible. Property owners are advised to check the information relating to their real estate in advance and, where necessary, complete the required registration procedures.

<https://surl.li/apmmab>



- **The Russian Federation continues to establish a new system of governance in the TOT of Ukraine.**

To this end, the Russian authorities are increasingly training personnel from among participants in the so-called SMO, who are earmarked for senior posts within the occupation administrations in the future.

Whereas the training of future officials for the TOT had previously taken place primarily in the Russian Federation, Russian curators and instructors are now arriving in the occupied territories themselves to conduct training on site. Another module of the Zaporizhzhia Heroes programme is being held directly in the TOT of Zaporizhzhia oblast. The participants include active military personnel and veterans of the so-called SMO, who are being prepared to work in the occupation administrations, local authorities and other state bodies.

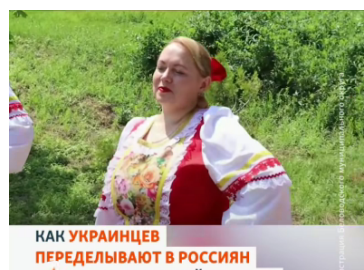
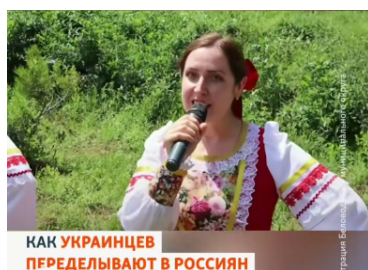
The programme is delivered with the involvement of representatives of the Higher School of Public Administration of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, one of the principal institutions responsible for training managerial personnel for the Russian system of public administration.

https://t.me/sprotyv_official/8665

- **In Bilovodsk, in the temporarily occupied part of Luhansk oblast—one of the most Ukrainian-speaking settlements in the region—Russia is systematically erasing Ukrainian cultural identity.**

According to the 2001 census, 86% of Bilovodsk's residents identified as Ukrainians, while only 12% identified as Russians. However, over four years of occupation, all local folk ensembles performing Ukrainian folk art have been integrated into the Russian cultural space: their repertoires, stage costumes, and public positioning have all been changed.

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/2436813736798989>



MILITARISATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES



- The Russian society Znanie and the state foundation Defenders of the Fatherland have launched a new “patriotic” initiative, under which veterans and participants in the so-called SMO will hold meetings with schoolchildren and university students.

According to the organisers, military personnel will speak to young people about their combat experience, “heroism”, military brotherhood, loyalty to the state, and their participation in the war against Ukraine. The events will also include discussions on opportunities for professional fulfilment in both the military and civilian spheres after returning from the front.

Particular attention within the project is devoted to the formation of a positive image of Russian military personnel. During a webinar for students in Luhansk oblast, for example, a representative of the Defenders of the Fatherland foundation drew parallels between participants in the Second World War and Russian military personnel participating in the war against Ukraine.

The initiative is being implemented as part of the Russian national project Youth and Children and is aimed at involving war veterans in the system of patriotic education for young people. According to the organisers, the I Serve the Fatherland campaign has been running since 2024, during which approximately 1,300 such meetings have taken place across various regions of the Russian Federation and the occupied territories.

<https://surl.li/leswhe>

- In the so-called DPR, a cooperation agreement was signed with the Russian Yunarmiya movement by “hero of Russia” Vladislav Golovin, chief of the main headquarters of Yunarmiya.

According to the so-called head of the DPR, Denys Pushylin, branches of the movement have now been established in 17 municipalities, with the number of participants exceeds 5,500 children.

Under the agreement, the parties plan to expand their work with teenagers, including through physical training and by fostering a sense of justice and “civic responsibility”.

<https://t.me/PushilinDenis/6466>

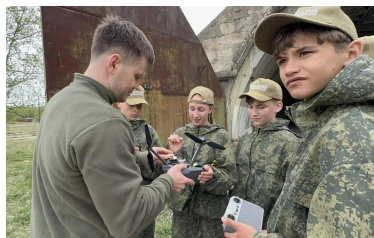
► **Hundreds of children from the TOT of Ukraine continue to be taken to the Russian Federation to participate in basic military training activities.**

According to activists from the Zhovta Strichka movement, children from Donetsk and Makiivka have been sent to Sakhalin, where they are participating in a military-patriotic gathering. Under the guise of an educational programme and “team-building” activities, teenagers are being involved in initiatives aimed at militarising young people and fostering loyalty to the Russian Armed Forces.

In addition, a session of the Time of Young Heroes camp has concluded in Volgograd Oblast, attended by more than 900 children from the TOT of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson oblasts.

Over a two-week period, teenagers aged 14 to 17 received basic military training and were taught drone operation and tactical medicine. The programme also included meetings with participants in the war against Ukraine. Participation in such activities is presented as a prestigious opportunity and a privilege.

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13590 https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13607
https://t.me/sprotyv_official/8613



- In Berdiansk, local entrepreneurs are being forced to display so-called social advertising promoting service in the Russian army free of charge.

They are required to place these materials on billboards, building façades, and other publicly visible locations.

Although this is formally presented as a “patriotic campaign”, businesses are in practice being forced to participate in military propaganda and recruitment campaigns promoting contract service in the Russian army. Refusal to comply with these requirements may result in inspections, difficulties relating to permits, and other forms of pressure from the occupation administration.

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13582

- At the Uspenka border crossing point in Donetsk oblast, men have begun receiving military summonses.

Activists from the Zhovta Strichka report that the summonses are currently being issued ostensibly for the reconciliation of personal data and medical examinations. Following these procedures, men are issued with Russian military service books.



https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13579

- In Donetsk, the occupation authorities continue to expand the network of youth organisations with a military-patriotic orientation.

One such organisation is the Karachun Cossack youth detachment, which presents itself as one of the leading Cossack organisations in the so-called DPR.

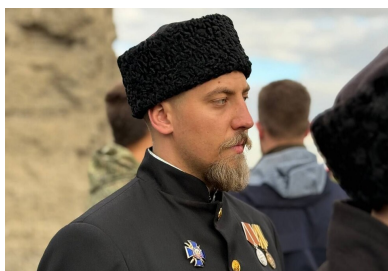
According to its Ataman, the organisation claims to have expanded its influence rapidly over the past two years and seeks to consolidate its role as a leading structure promoting Cossack traditions among young people. At the same time, it emphasises that its main goal is the “revival of Cossack culture” and the “patriotic education” of the youth of Donbas.

To promote these narratives, a three-day seminar on establishing military-patriotic education centres was held in Donetsk, bringing together more than 40 mentors and students from Cossack military-sports clubs representing 12 regions, including the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson oblasts.

During the seminar, participants received training in tactical medicine, firearms handling, and methods for organising military-sports games. Volunteers and military chaplains who had participated in the so-called SMO were also involved in delivering the training.

Upon completion of the training, representatives of higher education institutions presented and defended their own road maps, while participants received certificates confirming completion of specialised training. According to the organisers, the new centres are intended to provide systematic preparation of Cossack youth for military service on the basis of universities and youth organisations.

<https://surl.li/nemkwh> <https://surl.li/qymfmj>



- From 1 September, schools across the Russian Federation, and consequently in the TOT of Ukraine, will significantly expand the amount of basic military training (BMT) delivered as part of the subject Fundamentals of Security and Defence of the Motherland (FSDM), according to the Minister of Education of the Russian Federation, Sergey Kravtsov.

According to him, 50% of teaching time will be allocated to BMT, compared with the current 20%.

Soviet-era basic military training classes were reinstated in schools following the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Upper secondary school students are taught the basics of drill and firearms training, combined-arms tactics, first aid in wartime, methods of protection during various types of attack, and the handling of firearms and hand grenades.



In April, the authorities began discussing the introduction of BMT as a separate school subject. According to the plan, students would study the discipline for 64 academic hours per year—almost twice the amount of time currently allocated to Fundamentals of Security and Defence of the Motherland (34 hours). A pilot project is scheduled to begin in September 2026 for schoolchildren in Years 9–11 and students at colleges in ten regions of the Russian Federation and annexed Crimea. If successful, the programme will be expanded nationwide. In practice, this amounts to the return of pre-conscription training in an updated format, with a particular emphasis on survival skills and drone operation.

In addition, the curriculum will include a “historical and patriotic component” intended to fulfil ideological objectives.

Previously, members of the State Duma called for making basic military training compulsory for all, arguing that Russian children should begin preparing for war with NATO immediately after primary school. They justified this position by referring to statements made by Western politicians regarding the possibility of escalation by 2030.

The active militarisation of schools began following the invasion of Ukraine. The authorities not only renamed the subject Fundamentals of Life Safety and reinstated basic military training, but also regularly hold the Zarnitsa 2.0 games, during which children are taught how to escape from captivity, storm positions, counter hostile hackers, navigate terrain in combat conditions, operate combat drones, and practise propaganda techniques.

According to the Movement of the First, 3.1 million people took part in Zarnitsa 2.0 in 2025—almost three times as many as in 2024 (805,000). The project engaged 35,000 schools.

In addition, over the past five years the Russian authorities have spent more than RUB 50 billion on establishing and operating military-patriotic centres to which schoolchildren are sent for compulsory military training camps.



SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES



- The fuel supply crisis in occupied Crimea is deepening as a result of Ukrainian drone strikes on sections of the “land corridor” route used for both Russia’s military and civilian logistics. Russian military equipment, freight lorries, and fuel tankers have been among the targets. The local Russian authorities are attempting to address the fuel shortage through various measures.

One such measure involves the introduction of QR codes that allow motorists to purchase up to 20 litres of fuel once a week at designated filling stations. However, these QR codes can only be generated through the Russian messaging application MAX, which has recently become unavailable to iPhone users. Many people are unable to obtain the codes in time, and even those who succeed are often unable to use them because they quickly expire.

A telephone hotline operated by the Ministry of Resorts and Tourism in Crimea has been launched for tourists stranded in Crimea as a result of the fuel crisis. Officials claim that they will arrange refuelling for them at designated filling stations.

Fuel shortages have also resulted in insufficient public transport services across Crimean cities. Residents are being forced to walk to work or cycle. Demand for electric vehicle rentals has increased. Against the backdrop of the fuel crisis, a “shadow market” has emerged in Crimea, where petrol is being sold at approximately three times its normal price.

The so-called governor of Sevastopol, Mikhail Razvozhayev, called on residents to remain calm and avoid panic, stating that “the rush, queues, and the ‘race’ for fuel only worsen the situation by creating unnecessary tension and placing additional strain on logistics”.

<https://surl.li/qbjogb> <https://surl.li/deajps> <https://t.me/razvozhayev/21256>



■ Since the beginning of June, panic buying of food has been observed in Crimea.

Against the backdrop of Ukrainian strikes on Russian logistics, Crimean residents have sought to build up food supplies in case deliveries from the Russian Federation are disrupted.

The Russian occupation authorities in Crimea have described the panic buying as unfounded. They claim that the Crimean Peninsula is fully supplied with socially significant goods and that part of the food consumed is produced locally.

According to the so-called head of Crimea, Sergey Aksyonov, the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Republic of Crimea has organised refuelling for vehicles belonging to logistics and distribution companies, retailers, and retail chains. According to him, priority is being given to ensuring supplies of construction materials, food products, and medicines.

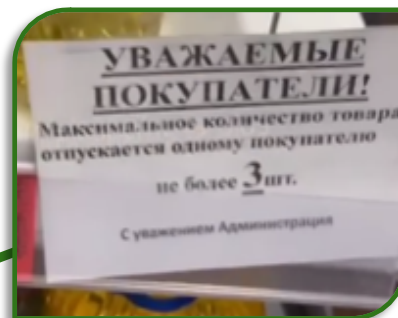
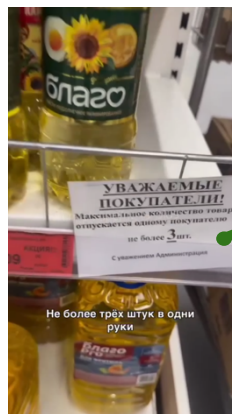
<https://surl.li/deajps>

■ In Sevastopol, restrictions on the sale of certain food products have begun to be introduced.

According to local residents, the Dobrostroy retail chain has introduced purchase limits of no more than three bottles of vegetable oil and three packets of pasta per customer. Similar restrictions may also be introduced in other retail chains.

These measures are being implemented against the backdrop of existing supply problems in Crimea. The occupation administration attributes them to logistical difficulties.

<https://t.me/andriyshTime/59708>



Не более трех штук в одни руки

► **Problems affecting the provision of essential services in Sevastopol are becoming increasingly multifaceted.**

Following a Ukrainian strike on an electricity substation, the city was left without electricity for almost 24 hours, and the occupation authorities introduced rolling emergency power outages the following day.

The simultaneous loss of electricity and fuel shortages had a significant impact on the functioning of the city's infrastructure. Following the power outage, residents reported disruptions to mobile communications, fixed-line telephone services, mobile internet services, and, in some areas, water supply.

Some supermarkets remained open only because they were operating on generators. However, payments could be made exclusively in cash. In shops where generators did not provide adequate lighting, customers used the flashlights on their mobile phones. Many smaller shops remained closed or operated without cash registers.

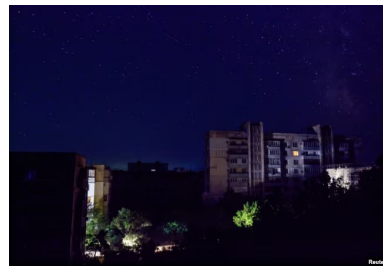
Against the backdrop of continuing uncertainty, residents began buying bottled drinking water and long-life food products to build up emergency supplies. At the same time, public transport services were also disrupted: trolleybuses were unable to operate because of the power outage, while some buses were reassigned to the busiest routes. As a result, long queues formed at bus stops.

Power supply disruptions also forced some businesses and offices to suspend operations temporarily. The occupation authorities additionally advised parents, where possible, not to send their children to kindergartens.

The healthcare sector was also affected. Owing to communications disruptions, the contact centre for medical institutions was temporarily out of service, and booking a doctor's appointment proved extremely difficult even through backup telephone numbers.

The situation also became critical for facilities whose operations depend on an uninterrupted electricity supply. In particular, the Director of the Sevastopol Marine Aquarium reported that the collection of approximately 4,500 marine animals had been placed at risk because petrol for generators was unavailable. According to him, around 100 litres of petrol per day are required to keep the compressors operating, yet it was impossible to purchase fuel even at the largest filling station chains.

<https://surl.li/pzjfyy>



► **Against the backdrop of fuel supply disruptions, a shadow fuel market has emerged in Melitopol.**

According to local activists, representatives of the Akhmat unit may be involved in these illicit sales schemes.

They report that, amid fuel shortages, fuel is being sold to the local population at inflated prices, turning a basic resource into a source of profit under conditions of humanitarian shortage. According to the activists, representatives at various levels of the occupation administration may be involved in these schemes and are effectively doing nothing to prevent such practices. According to the reported information, the price of fuel may reach approximately RUB 500 per litre, further exacerbating the situation for local residents who have no alternative sources of supply.

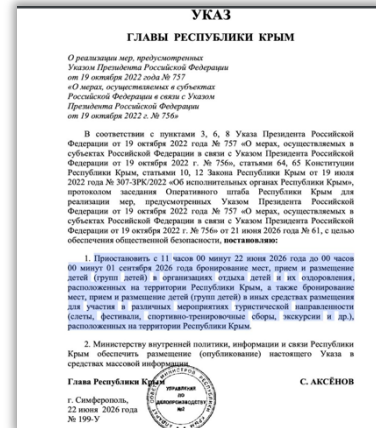
https://t.me/otpor_move/1834

- The occupation administration of Crimea has suspended the booking, admission, and accommodation of children and organised children's groups at holiday and health resort facilities across the peninsula.

The restrictions will remain in force until 1 September 2026 and apply both to children's camps and to other accommodation facilities where tourist, educational, or sporting activities involving children had been planned.

The local authorities have organised the planned transfer of children from Artek to their places of permanent residence. Representatives of the security services are coordinating the transfer throughout the entire route. Information is being provided to parents individually, and they are being offered alternative options for their children's holidays and recuperation in other regions of the Russian Federation.

According to the statement issued by the occupation authorities, the measures have been introduced in order to ensure "public safety". At the same time, the introduction of such large-scale restrictions itself indicates a deterioration in the security situation on the temporarily occupied peninsula against the backdrop of Russia's ongoing aggression.



<https://surl.li/lodyk> <https://t.me/minprosrf/18681> <https://t.me/andriyshTime/61111>
<https://t.me/andriyshTime/61128> <https://surl.li/tqvxim>

- Fuel shortages, transport difficulties, and the deteriorating security situation resulting from Russia's aggression are forcing tourists to cancel bookings on a large scale, while businesses in occupied Crimea are counting their losses.

Tourists are increasingly regarding travel to Crimea as unsafe and are cancelling their holidays despite having already purchased tickets and booked accommodation.

Representatives of the TurEtno tour operator report that around 80% of booked tours are being cancelled in June, while cancellations for July and August have reached 50%. According to the company's management, demand had been in line with projected levels until May, but the situation changed abruptly following the deterioration in the security situation.

Hotel owners are also reporting substantial losses. A representative of the Rassvety-Zakaty hotel in Bakhchysarai District stated that, during the ten days of the fuel crisis, the number of cancelled bookings exceeded the total recorded for the entire previous year. The hotel is currently operating at only around 30% occupancy, although an occupancy rate of 65–70% had been expected for the summer season.

A similar situation is being observed in the private accommodation sector. Owners of guest houses near Alushta report that up to 90% of bookings scheduled for June have been cancelled. According to them, only one out of every ten tourists actually arrives.

Businesses are also encountering difficulties in refunding customers. As many entrepreneurs have already spent advance payments on repairs or current expenses, they are unable to refund all tourists.

<https://surl.li/obgstt>

- Residents of the TOT of Donetsk oblast have been posting videos on social media demonstrating the quality of the water flowing from taps in their homes.

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13633



■ **Against the backdrop of fuel supply disruptions, a transport collapse has been reported at Simferopol railway station.**

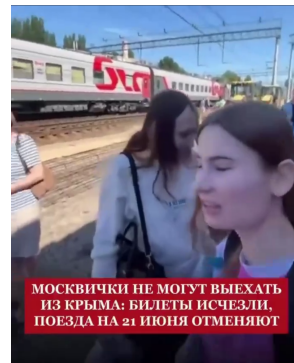
Passengers describe buses being delayed for many hours and large crowds gathering at the station. Trains are currently not operating to Simferopol, with passengers instead being transported by bus to Kerch, where the number of available buses is clearly insufficient.

According to eyewitnesses, tourists travelling to Kerch are being forced to wait at least three hours for transport. Passengers estimate that around one thousand people are waiting to board at the station.

At the same time, buses arriving in Simferopol from Kerch are already full of passengers. After dropping passengers off, they leave the station without taking on new passengers, further exacerbating the situation. Passengers also complain about the lack of information provided by the station administration. According to them, staff are unable to explain the reasons for the delays or indicate when normal transport services will be restored.

All Tavriia trains are temporarily originating from and terminating at Kerch Pivdenna station. The restrictions also apply to train services that, under the revised timetable, were due to operate to Simferopol and Sevastopol.

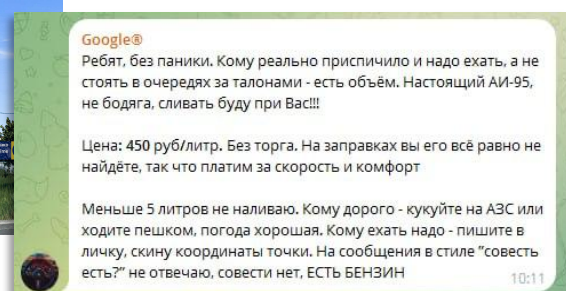
<https://surl.li/dcksdh> <https://t.me/truexanewsua/139712>



■ **Ukrainian strikes on Russian energy infrastructure have created a petrol shortage, leading to higher fuel prices and long queues at filling stations across the TOT of Ukraine and the Russian Federation.**

The taxi sector has also begun experiencing difficulties, as the number of vehicles in service has declined significantly because of fuel shortages at filling stations. Approximately 30% of taxi drivers have stopped working regularly. As a result, both taxi fares and passenger waiting times have increased.

<https://surl.li/yrlcgu> <https://t.me/andriyshTime/61449>
<https://t.me/andriyshTime/60825>

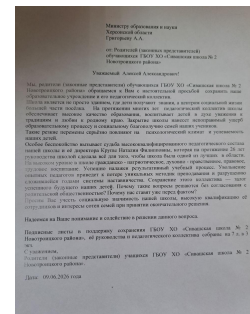


■ **The occupiers continue to scale back the education network in the TOT of Ukraine.**

Schools in the temporarily occupied part of Donetsk oblast are being subjected to so-called reorganisation. Activists from the Zhovta Strichka movement report that the occupation authorities have confirmed the closure of School No. 11 in Svitlodarsk and School No. 10 in Myronivskiy, citing a lack of funding and low enrolment. Local residents had previously also reported the closure of School No. 35 in the settlement of Kocheharka near Horlivka.

None of these schools has officially been recognised as unsafe or unfit for educational use. Despite public statements about developing the education system, in practice the occupation administration is cutting expenditure precisely in peripheral settlements, where it is more difficult to create a favourable image for Russian propaganda reports. For local residents, this means the gradual dismantling of infrastructure and the loss of prospects for their communities. Similar processes are also being recorded in Kherson oblast. Residents of the village of Oleksandrivka appealed to the so-called governor of Kherson oblast, Volodymyr Saldo, over plans to close the local school. According to residents, the decision was taken without consultation with parents, teachers, or the local community, and they learned about the possible closure of the educational institution only after the decision had already been made. This is particularly striking against the backdrop of the pseudo-governor's recent statements that schools and kindergartens in Kherson oblast would supposedly not be closed without taking parents' views into account. In practice, however, residents of Oleksandrivka state that no public hearings or consultations were held.

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13623 https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13643
https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13625



■ **In Melitopol, the occupation authorities announced strengthening control over real estate and the verification of Ukrainian documents relating to housing, land, and other property for their so-called “authenticity” and compliance with Russian registers.**

According to the so-called governor of Zaporizhzhia oblast, Yevhen Balytskyi, a special commission has been established to conduct these inspections. The process is expected to involve the FSB, the prosecutor's office, the tax authorities, and other Russian state bodies. In practice, this amounts to a comprehensive verification of property rights, covering not only the documents themselves but also the history of their registration. Against this backdrop, owners of real estate in the TOT risk facing a verification of property rights that were lawfully registered under Ukrainian legislation.

<https://t.me/riamelitopolua/89184>

■ **The occupation authorities have introduced a state of emergency in Crimea and Sevastopol.**

According to the so-called head of Crimea, Sergey Aksyonov, the decision was taken to enable a prompt response to problems affecting the provision of essential services to the population. The state of emergency provides for restrictions on freedom of movement, the suspension of business operations, and the possibility of compulsory evacuation. According to the occupation authorities, the state of emergency will remain in force until the situation stabilises.

<https://surl.li/xiztqe>

- The President of the Russian Federation stated that, by 2030, the occupied parts of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia oblasts are expected to reach nationwide Russian levels across the principal socio-economic indicators.

According to him, around 300 measures have been planned to achieve this goal, including the development of social, housing, transport, and public utility infrastructure, as well as the implementation of projects aimed at creating new jobs.

The Russian leader also claimed that more than 25,000 facilities had allegedly been restored or constructed in the occupied territories, including schools, hospitals, sports grounds, and energy and public utility infrastructure.

He further claimed that approximately one million square metres of housing were put into operation and that nearly 260 industrial enterprises were launched.

The statements were made during a meeting devoted to the implementation of the programme for the socio-economic development of the occupied territories, which runs until 2030 and provides for their further integration into the Russian economic and humanitarian space.

<https://surl.li/rqmlgt>

- The occupation authorities are attempting to mitigate fuel supply problems through insurance mechanisms and additional bureaucratic procedures.

The so-called Ministry of Transport of the LPR, together with representatives of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and suppliers of fuels and lubricants (F&L), discussed a mechanism for insuring transport and cargo against so-called war risks.

According to the so-called head of the ministry, Albert Apshev, these measures have become necessary because of problems affecting fuel infrastructure. He stated that, owing to the “increasing frequency of Ukrainian UAV attacks” on filling stations and fuel tankers, the occupation authorities are being forced to seek new mechanisms to protect transport operations. According to Apshev, a special insurance programme is already in place for the so-called new regions of the Russian Federation, intended to cover losses resulting from damage to property caused by “acts of war-related sabotage and terrorist attacks”. During the meeting with F&L suppliers, participants also discussed problems arising during the implementation of this programme.

<https://surl.li/nvdoem>

UKRAINIAN RESISTANCE TO THE RUSSIAN OCCUPATION



«Do not be
afraid. Gather
your strength ...»

- Tetiana (name changed for security reasons) was 14 years old when her hometown in Luhansk oblast came under Russian occupation following the start of the full-scale invasion. From the very beginning, she decided that, after graduating from school, she would leave for Ukrainian government-controlled territory to continue her education.

Access to Ukrainian online resources was blocked. The settlement experienced disruptions to the electricity supply and communications, while Ukrainian mobile operators effectively ceased operating. Instead, residents were forced to switch to Russian SIM cards. At first, efforts were made to continue teaching online under the Ukrainian curriculum, but the lack of stable internet access made this virtually impossible. The school was subsequently transferred to the Russian curriculum, Russian textbooks were introduced, and teachers were required to undergo so-called retraining. The school also held propaganda lessons and involved children in militarised activities.

During the occupation, searches and inspections were carried out in the settlement, targeting families suspected of holding pro-Ukrainian views. Tetiana's family was repeatedly subjected to such inspections, accompanied by pressure and threats.

When Tetiana was 17, her family endured searches conducted by armed Russian military personnel, while her grandfather was detained for eight days following a denunciation.

While in Year 11, Tetiana made the final decision to leave. She contacted Save Ukraine, and within a few days an evacuation route had been organised. The journey lasted for more than a week.

After leaving the occupied territory, Tetiana stayed at the Hope and Healing Centre, where she obtained the necessary documents, received psychological support, and was able to enrol at a Ukrainian university.

Today, Tetiana lives in Kyiv, continues her studies, and is gradually rebuilding her life after the experience of occupation.



“Do not be afraid. Gather your strength. If you want to leave rather than remain under occupation, contact the hotlines, make the call. You will definitely receive help, advice, and transport to your destination. You will not be abandoned halfway,” Tetiana advises everyone who remains under occupation.

<https://v-variant.com.ua/article/istoriia-divchini-z-tot>

- Activists of the OTPOR movement distributed leaflets in Donetsk calling for resistance to censorship, internet blocking, and information isolation.

https://t.me/otpor_move/1835



- Activists of the Zhovta Strichka movement continue to believe and work every day to ensure that the Ukrainian flag once again flies over Crimea.

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13621 https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13575 https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13639
https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13669 https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13679



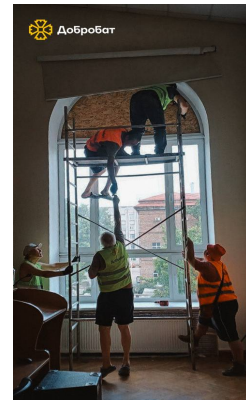
- Patriots in the temporarily occupied territories marked the Constitution Day of Ukraine with a support campaign.

https://t.me/yellowribbon_ua/13697



- Volunteers from Dobrobat helped eliminate the consequences of another Russian attack on the building of Zaporizhzhia National University.

https://t.me/dobrobat_in_ua/18089



NEW LIFE IN EVACUATION

- Before the full-scale invasion, Viktoriia Shapovalova lived in Mariupol, worked in the pharmaceutical sector, and was building an ordinary life.

Before the full-scale invasion, Viktoriia Shapovalova lived in Mariupol, worked in the pharmaceutical sector, and was building an ordinary life. She devoted more than 17 years to medicine. Viktoriia studied at Donetsk Medical University and, before the start of the full-scale war, worked for a Japanese pharmaceutical company. Her family managed to leave Mariupol on 16 March 2022. They initially stayed in Zaporizhzhia before later relocating to Izmail.



The idea of establishing a rehabilitation centre stemmed not only from Viktoriia's professional experience but also from her personal story. After undergoing treatment for cancer several years earlier, she found that water therapy had helped her recover and ease the effects of treatment.

"I know very well how water affects the body. After my treatment, it was water that helped me recover – hot baths relieved muscle spasms and significantly improved my wellbeing," she recalls.

She was ultimately inspired to establish her own centre by a friend who had opened a children's swimming pool in Kyiv. Viktoriia decided to implement a similar project in Izmail, but to make it more than simply a place where children learn to swim. Instead, she envisioned a centre

dedicated to children's rehabilitation. Construction of the future Kapitan Centre is currently under way in Izmail, with its opening scheduled for August.

The centre will cater for children aged from seven months to ten years. It will offer both regular swimming lessons and specialised programmes for children requiring physical rehabilitation or those with developmental needs. According to its founder, water-based activities have a positive effect on speech development, motor coordination, muscle tone, and a child's overall physical condition.

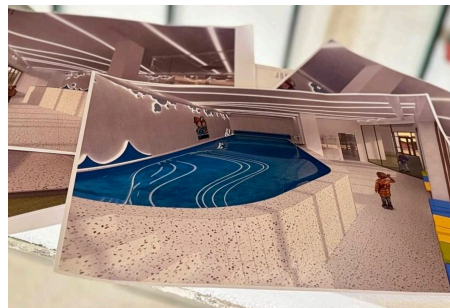
Particular attention will be paid to the conditions in which lessons are conducted. The water temperature will be maintained at around 30 °C to prevent hypothermia and muscle spasms, particularly among children with impaired muscle tone.

Viktoriia plans to assemble a team of specialists with medical education to work at the centre. In addition to swimming lessons, the centre will provide consultations for parents, organise themed meetings with specialists, and offer a comfortable waiting area.

The Kapitan Centre will be open both to children who simply wish to learn to swim and to those requiring rehabilitation. Viktoriia also plans to introduce preferential attendance terms for internally displaced families, children of fallen servicemen, and large families.

For Viktoriia, this project has become far more than a private business. After losing her home in Mariupol, it became an opportunity to create a place that will help other children develop, restore their health, and receive support regardless of their life circumstances.

<https://surl.li/mbjard>



► **When Russia's full-scale invasion began on 24 February 2022, Dmytro Prudov left Siverskodonetsk together with his family and friends.**

They believed it would only be temporary, but they were never able to return home. The city where he had spent many years of his life now exists only in memories. He admits that he still avoids looking at old photographs of his hometown.

"I don't look at photographs. Once you immerse yourself in those memories, you stay in that emotional state for a long time afterwards. You grieve. I try not to dwell on it. But how can you not avoid it when it appears in your dreams and always stays with you?" Dmytro says.

Before the full-scale war, he worked as an architect and designer, creating public spaces, hospitality venues, and commercial facilities in Siverskodonetsk. Many places that today live on only in the memories of local residents were once part of his professional life.

After losing his home, Dmytro found an unexpected way to preserve the memory of his city. Together with his childhood friend Pavlo, he created a board game about Siverskodonetsk – a city that no longer exists in the form remembered by thousands of displaced people.



The idea had emerged long before the full-scale war. About four years earlier, the friends had been playing board games dedicated to Kharkiv and Kyiv when they first asked themselves why they could not create something similar about Siverskodonetsk.

At first, it was merely a conversation. Then came a few notes and sketches. Work on the project was repeatedly postponed because of everyday responsibilities, work commitments, and fatigue. Yet, the idea of the game never disappeared.

“Then, all of a sudden, the memories come back, and you sit down and continue working,” Dmytro recalls.

After the loss of his hometown, the project took on an entirely different meaning. What had once been a creative idea became a way of preserving the memory of the places, people, and atmosphere of pre-war Siverskodonetsk.

The first versions of the game were created almost entirely by hand. The cards were printed in small batches, cut out with scissors, glued together, and tested with groups of friends, while every comment and suggestion was carefully recorded. At that stage, only a small circle of people knew the project existed.

“There was one strict rule: you could play the game with us, but everything that happened during the game had to stay in that room,” Dmytro says with a smile.

The packaging became an important part of the concept. The creators decided to design it in the form of the legendary Siverskodonetsk Diplomat suitcase, once produced at a local enterprise and well known far beyond the city itself.

Inside, players find more than just a board game—they discover a kind of memory map of Siverskodonetsk. The game board features streets, venues, local legends, and humorous stories that have been passed down among friends and acquaintances for many years.

Players build their own businesses, interact with one another, make decisions, and encounter situations characteristic of life in Siverskodonetsk. The cards feature well-known local landmarks, while the events are based on real stories from the city’s past.

According to Dmytro, every section of the board has its own character. Some spaces bring success, while others create difficulties. There are even special spaces that only those who lived in the city before 2022 will fully understand.

For Dmytro, this project has become far more than a board game. It offers an opportunity to walk once again along familiar streets, visit a favourite pub, meet old friends, and return to the Siverskodonetsk that continues to live on in the memories of its residents.

Today, the city can be seen in photographs, memories, or dreams of those who were forced to leave it. Thanks to Dmytro Prudov’s game, however, it can also be visited at a gaming table—allowing people, if only for a few hours, to return to a time when Siverskodonetsk was home.

<https://sd.ua/news/38168>

