

*„...and the one who receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward.” Mt. 10, 41*

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY  
INTERNATIONAL

# Ukraine Up date.

No. 2 | 2022

Angel over Kyiv

# Up date from the Ukraine

DEAR FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES,

I know you are all trembling and praying for the Ukraine and our friends there. This helps! People notice this and are grateful for prayers and support. As our dear friends on the ground are busy with other important tasks, I am writing to you again.

Last night was very hard for the Ukraine: there was constant bombing and most people in the big cities spent the night in basements and metro stations. In the early morning, some could no longer find their flats and houses amongst the rubble. Nevertheless, there is great collective joy: Kyiv remained strong, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Odessa remained strong and soldiers and civilians alike fought for their country and freedom.

Even in this situation Ukrainians do not lose their sense of humour. There were videos and reports of such incidents as: elderly ladies with shopping bags beating two Russian soldiers with the words "I'll show you who has what to say here! Go to your mothers and never come back!" Or an old gentleman standing alone on the street in front of a column of Russian tanks close to Kyiv waving his hands: "We don't need your "liberation". We are free, you, idiots!" The homeless of Dnipro asked to "join in" and they mixed Molotov cocktail for hours with other volunteers.

There is a lot of solidarity. People share what they have with each other, help where needed, and are very well and quickly organised, mostly through social media. The first children of the war were born in the underground stations. The joy of the "underground baptismal community" of noisy strangers who suddenly became one family was all the greater: baptised with fire and water.

Ukraine is experiencing great support, especially from neighbours like Poland, who are taking in the injured in their hospitals and the first refugees. In Warsaw, you see big queues of people donating their blood for Ukrainians. Georgians are the masters of demonstrating on a grand scale and their thousand-voiced songs can awaken even the dead. A friend said: "We love each other so much because we don't want anything from each other! We can sit on a beach by the

Black Sea, singing in different languages and sharing the last chachapuri." This support is very touching and some friends from Ukraine write: "I can't cry anymore!" Not because it is hard, but because it is so human. What we are witnessing here are not political solutions to a crisis. Politics has failed. That is clear to everyone now. What can be seen and felt here is a warm brotherhood and sisterly love related to the reality of human suffering. Very concrete and very true.

The life of our congregations is also concrete: Praying and holding each other together. Tatiana Nechytailo walked two hours to the Church today. On her way: between tanks and bombed houses - light and friendliness. Only at night it is terrible. Tomorrow, children want to come to the community and make paper Birds with Tatiana. Odessa with Andreij Ziltsov also remains calm and in prayer, despite the bombing. The parents of Xenia Medvedeva, also her brother and nephews are in Kharkiv, which is under very heavy bombardment. At night they all sit in the catacombs. Xenia's nephews said very matter of factly, as children often do: "Here you can play football and read books. Only we don't want to live here forever."

At the moment, people cannot leave Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, or Odessa. The cities are battlegrounds. Only those who are already in the western part of the country can flee: only women, children, or old people. There are long queues at all four borders: Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. But there is also a queue of people going back: Men who earned their money elsewhere and are now returning to protect their family and their country.

In our churches we can pray for peace. But we can also welcome concrete people: privately, or in our churches. For this, it is important to have contact persons in the churches who can coordinate everything (when the time comes).

The churches, as the need demands, will also be filled with human suffering, but also with new life. And perhaps it is a harrowing renewal of our civic life? Who knows.

Friends in the Ukraine thank you for support and prayers! They can be seen in the sky over Kyiv today.

Grateful and warm greetings

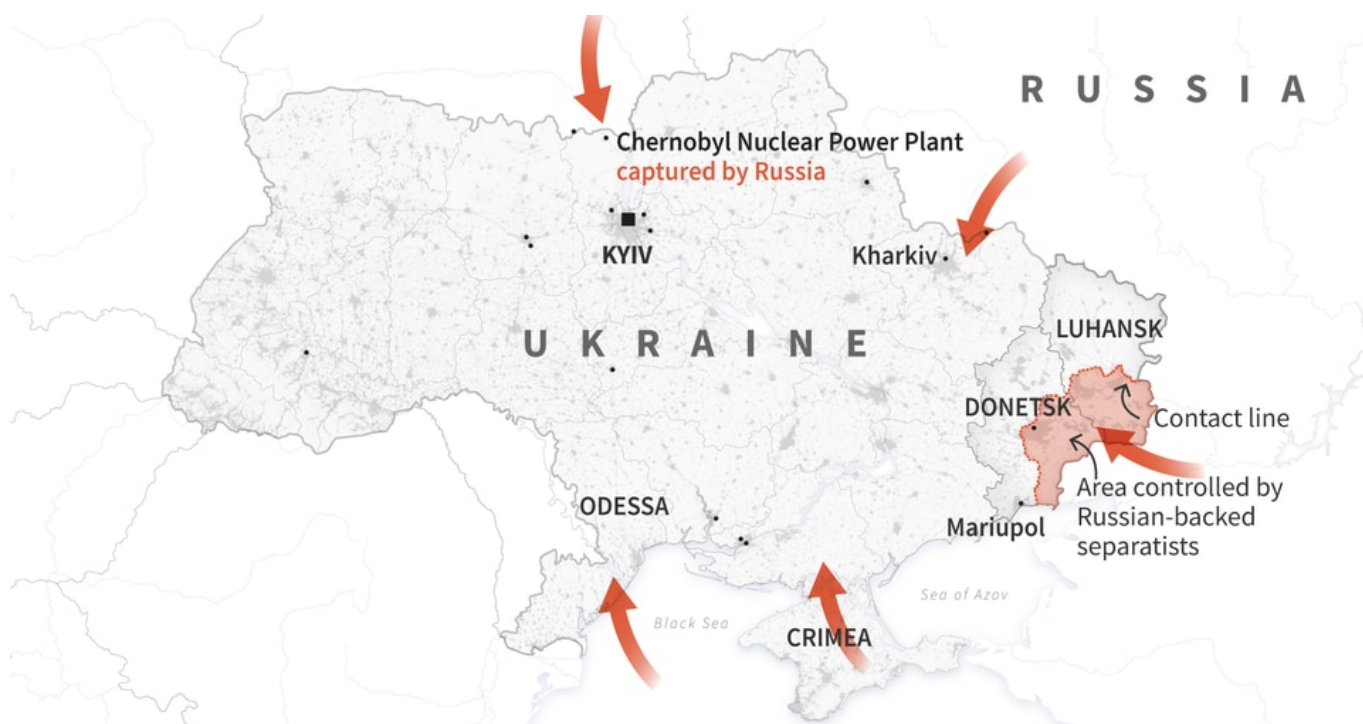
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# In pictures



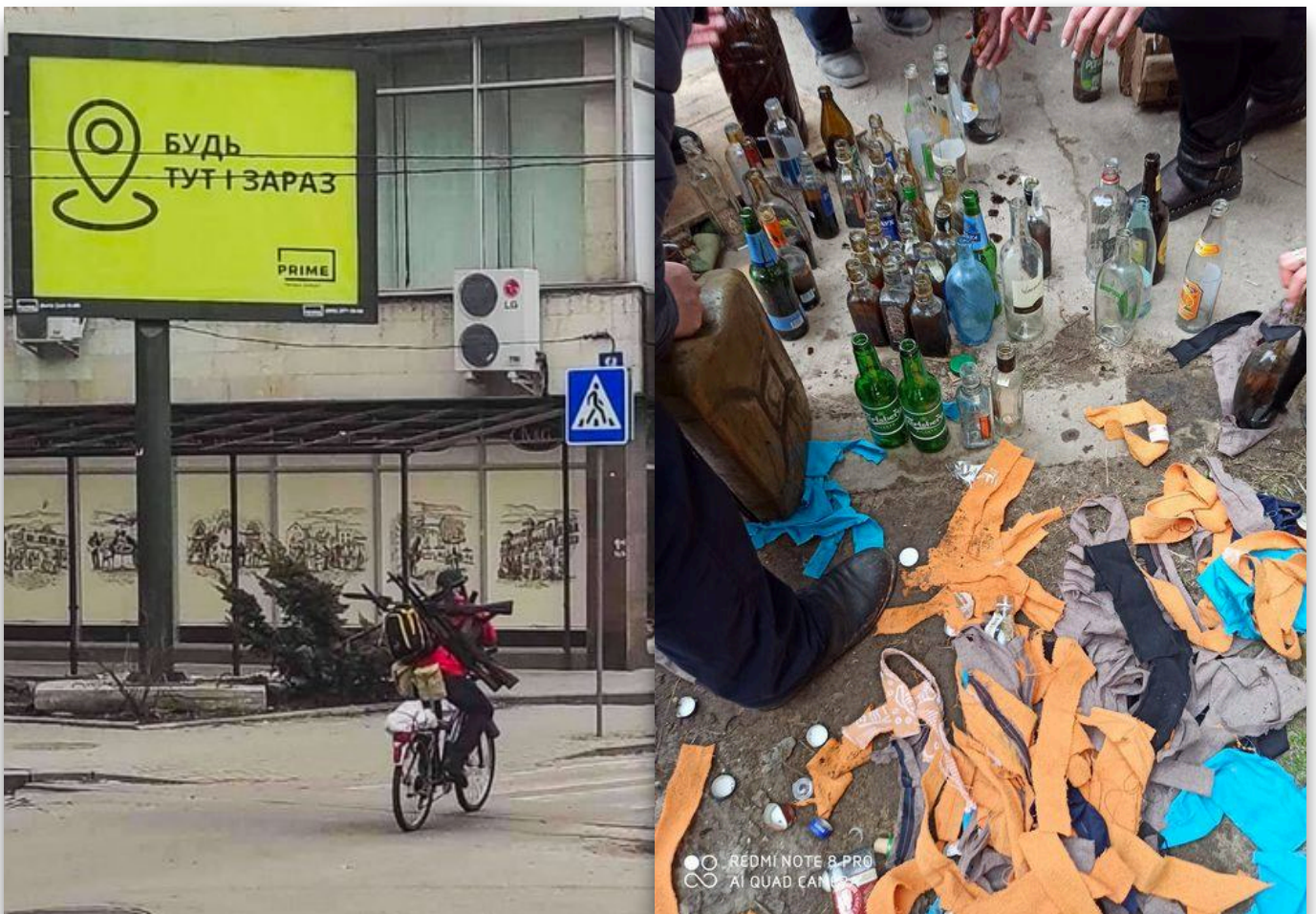
Cleaning up undetonated Rockets in Kyiv 26th February







Cleaning up undetonated Rockets in Kharkiv 26th February



Cycling in Kyiv / Defence preparations for the civilians of Kyiv





Refugees on the Polish border 26th of February











Donations to support refugees and humanitarian aid in connection with the war can please be transferred to the account of the West German Region of the Christian Community with a corresponding reference in the purpose of use:

Bank account holder: Die Christengemeinschaft

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Thank you for all your support, good thoughts and prayers!

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