

26.6.2022

This week we received the good news that Ukraine has been admitted as a candidate member of the European Union.

After that, almost daily, Russia began active shelling of almost our entire territory. And today there was a rocket hit in a residential building in the center of Kyiv. Of course we are scared. We understand that this is the price of our European choice. But there is no turning back for us. We thank you and all Germans for your support!

3.6.2022

Many thanks to you and your colleagues, and to all Germans for your support.

We understand that many decisions are not easy to make. And sometimes, in order to show support, somebody has to sacrifice something that is necessary for her/him. Therefore, many of today's decisions have to be made after much thought and difficult choices. It must be a difficult time for all of us right now.

As for my family and children. We are still here in Kyiv. The government encourages us to work because we need to support the economy. We believe that we are making our small contribution to the common cause. Although alarms sound several times a day in Kyiv at any time of the day, we are used to working with this. We rejoice that air defense systems protect us and believe in the support of our friends around the world. So, thank you very much for your solidarity and your support.

We believe that together we will be able to overcome this difficult time and enjoy a peaceful life.

19.5.2022

Sorry for not replying to your kind letters for a long time. In fact, I am very grateful to you and all your colleagues for your kind letters and words of support. This is very important, regardless of any political events. I strongly believe that connections between ordinary people mean much more than economic and political categories. I was glad to receive your letters of April 7 and of May 12. They were so inspiring. Everything that you and your colleagues are doing in these difficult days, in fact, works not only for the sake of our country, it is important for all of us now. For Ukraine, Germany and for the whole of Europe. Before that, I lived such a life, probably like everyone else. As they say in Germany, Kinder, Küche, Kirche/Arbeit. In an instant, the war changed lives and touched many people. The Russians, who used to be so close, have become so infinitely distant and even strangers, while Europe, America and the rest of the world have become so close and understanding. It turned out that we have a lot in common, and we can even save someone, and not just sit in our own country and stew in our internal problems. It turned out that we are very close, that we understand each other, that in fact we are capable of heroic deeds, we are able to help each other. The fact that you were going to the Russian embassy Frankfurt is a real heroism. Little by little something is moving forward. And this is also your merit. I apologize if my words sound too grandiloquent. As for me and my family, the situation in Kyiv has now calmed down a bit, if I may say so. Air raid alerts still persist, although there are fewer of

them now. We go to work almost every day because we need to support our economy and pay taxes. But we understand that everything can change every day/every night and that the former calm life will probably no longer exist. During this time, Ukraine won the Eurovision Song Contest. All of us in Ukraine are very grateful to all of you in Europe for your support, for your votes, for your kind emotions and kind words. As if Europe is becoming one big family again.

*4.4.2022*

Thank you for the words of support and help. Yes, my family and I are still in Kyiv. The week before the withdrawal of Russian troops from the suburbs of Kyiv was very tense. Lots of shelling and air raids. There have been fewer of them over the past few days, but tensions remain. Particularly bitter feelings were caused by the news from Bucha. It is not far from Kyiv. Several of my good friends lived there. We have lost contact with them. What we saw is simply impossible to comprehend and understand. Murder, torture, rape, extreme cruelty, mass graves... This should not happen in the 21st century in Europe, in a beautiful modern and beautiful suburb of the capital. People went to Bucha to rest, there is beautiful nature, forest, rest houses, sanatoriums. And now the name of this small town will be associated with the word "massacre".

Now Putin is preparing a new wave of offensive. And we must do everything possible so that a new Bucha does not happen.

When it became known about the events in Bucha, it was very difficult to think and write about something. Believe me, it was very difficult to just gather my thoughts. I couldn't write anything to anyone. It must have been a shock. But we must live on and fight for victory. I think this should be our common victory. Because this wild and some kind of primitive terrible force that unleashed this war showed that it will stop at nothing. For it, neither European nor human values exist. Therefore, we must all work together to stop it.

In this letter, I shared my thoughts, because I think this is important - for our children and for our common future.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

*20.3.2022*

Thanks for the words of support. It's very inspiring and helps keep going. Yes, sometimes it is difficult to answer your letter right away, because the circumstances are different every day. We all do hope that this will all end soon, although this inadequate person (Putin), unfortunately, has other plans. Here in Ukraine we understand very well that he is not going to stop in our country. So I think we, together with the entire European house, must stop

him here. It's scary to think if he crosses the border of our country to go further.

Another week of struggle has passed, which was filled with difficult events and difficult daily life. So far, the situation with food in Kyiv is relatively good. Those who live here leave their shelters in the morning and rush to buy food. There are problems with some products. But the main problem is with drugs, because not all pharmacies work and not every pharmacy has the necessary drugs. Apparently, there are problems with the delivery of products or medicines, because the Russians are trying to encircle the city. So, we have to stand in line to

buy the necessary medicines. But, seeing in the news what problems residents of other Ukrainian cities are experiencing, the people of Kyiv do not complain at all. Every day and every night we hear the sounds of air raids. It is very scary to experience this not just anywhere, but here, realizing that Ukraine is located in the geographical center of Europe. Every time we pray that a rocket or projectile will pass us. We congratulate each other on another night lived, on another day. We look forward to good news, we support each other, we pray for our Ukrainian military forces, for everyone who supports us. During this time, all Ukrainians felt that the time of testing has changed us. We became closer to each other, someone else's pain and grief became yours. And people in different parts of Ukraine are now like your relatives. We think this is what our common European home should be like.

*11.3.2022*

For several days I was unable to write.

Thank you for your support and for your kind letters. It gives me strength I must say.

We really feel the support of many Europeans in these terrible days. Of course, we would

like the support of the governments to be more resolute, because the enemy is very cynical.

First they threaten us with a nuclear strike, now they threaten us with the use of chemical or bacteriological weapons. This is very scary for us ordinary people.

Unfortunately, no civilized rules work for Putin. He methodically exterminates the civilian population. He cynically breaks agreements on "green" corridors for civilians. It bombs peaceful infrastructure, houses, hospitals, etc.

Your sincere support gives us strength and hope. Everything you do in your place is very good, because there are a lot of refugees in Europe now.

We are still in Kyiv. Every day and every night passes here at the cost of a great strain of strength and nerves.

We all now must do everything so that this nightmare ends as soon as possible, but not at the cost of slavery, of course.

So we will keep holding on.

*5.3.2022*

Thank you for your warm words of encouragement and support at Verlag der Autoren, and in Germany. They do help us to survive here.

My family is still in Kyiv. Although we understand that the invaders will try to capture the capital.

Everyone who stayed in Kyiv is trying to support each other.

We have created chat rooms where we arrange a daily roll call to know who needs help, or any support, who else is here.

Yes, of course, we would like to get more support from world governments, if only to stop the shelling of civilians.

Because it is unbearable to see bombed out schools, hospitals, apartment houses, nursing homes (especially for those without legs, in wheelchairs), where there were helpless people.

The thought comes that my house might be next... Anyway we do hope for the best.

There were several air raid alerts in Kyiv yesterday, more than usual. Although the night

passed relatively calmly, if I may say so now.

Every night, the inhabitants of the city hide in shelters or in the subway, and in the morning they go to the store trying to buy the most necessary things (the main thing is bread, which is not always possible to buy). Due to the fact that the Russians are actively shelling the suburbs of Kyiv, there are difficulties with the delivery of products. But the city authorities are doing their best to support us.

We pray every day for this to end soon...

3.3.2022

Thank you so much for the words of support.

It is very important for us to receive moral support, because many people feel fear during the shooting or bombing.

Of course, I don't mind if you share my information about what is really going on here.

But for now, I would not like my real name or my contacts to be mentioned. Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

Because unfortunately, Kyiv is still unsafe. There are separate Russian armed sabotage groups in the city, which our volunteers from the territorial self-defense of Kyiv are trying to identify and eliminate. Therefore, we try not to walk the streets, but move only to the shelter or to the store for the most things.

We are also now advised not to disclose personal information.

We made the decision to stay in the city.

But, now the invaders are trying to capture Kyiv. Therefore, we understand that the most difficult test for us is yet to come.

With your support we will resist together.

1.3.2022

What is happening now in Ukraine is very scary and unprecedented.

All we need now from the whole world is support.

I stayed in Kyiv with my children, my husband and my old mother.

Every evening we go down to the subway to spend the whole night there. I never thought this would happen to me and my loved ones.

When we run on the subway, we hear the sounds of explosions. It's really scary. We hope and pray that this ends soon. But the price is too high. They shoot at residential buildings, at hospitals, at historical monuments and museums etc.

This morning they fired at the maternity hospital - without warning, so not everyone had time to evacuate.

We want you to know the truth about what's going on here.

Tonight we will again go to spend the night in the subway, because this nightmare has not ended for us yet.

I am in a hurry to send this letter, because at any time a shell can fly here.

But we hope and believe that our army and the support of all of you will protect us. Thanks for having your thoughts with us, for staying with us...