

Berlin, November 16, 2022

The Moment is NOW

HELPING UKRAINE THROUGH THIS WINTER OF WAR

The infamy is still increasing. After Putin's plan to militarily disintegrate Ukraine and to annihilate it as an independent nation failed, because of the determined resistance, carried out by Ukrainian society as a whole, now the country is to be brought to its knees by destroying vital supply structures, especially the power supply.

The methods of a war of annihilation against the civilian population, tested in Chechnya and Syria, with Grozny and Aleppo as an example, are now being applied to a free Ukraine as a whole. The bombing of housing quarters, the targeted destruction of the living conditions of millions of people, the assassination of civilians, rapes and deportations, are already violations of the Genocide Convention of the United Nations.

Now, winter is coming. One can already see what it means when heating, light and electrical appliances aren't working anymore, when there is no drinking water, windows cannot be replaced, when cities are sinking into darkness, schools and kindergartens have to close, hospitals can't treat their patients and companies have to close down. Since the renewed Russian assault, already more than 14 million people had to leave their homes, millions more are to be forced to flee.

If Putin succeeded in causing the collapse of Ukraine, it could also destabilize the European security order, the European Union and the transatlantic alliance. No country within the former influence sphere of the Soviet Union would be safe anymore, it would give a boost to anti-democratic forces, and International Law would be in ruins.

For that reason, supporting the Ukrainian civilian and military resistance is not only a moral obligation, it is also in our very own interest.

How can we contribute to Ukraine getting through this winter?

- ▶ **Everyone can donate for Ukraine.**
- ▶ **Humanitarian agencies can increase their support for Ukraine.**
- ▶ **Cities can provide bilateral support for Ukrainian partner cities.**
- ▶ **Companies can provide vital technical support, like generators, vehicles, building materials and fuel.**
- ▶ **The federal government and the EU need to increase their financial and military aid: Ukraine requires urgent emergency aid and, no less urgent, modern weapons to protect its cities and to push back the invading troops.**

On 10 December, we celebrate the International Human Rights Day, to honour the adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on that day in 1948. These days, we are especially thinking about the people fighting for their dignity and their freedom in Ukraine and also in Iran. We want to follow up on the wave of solidarity that swept through our country after the beginning of the Russian invasion. Municipalities, the media, foundations, care organisations, companies, cultural institutes and hundreds of thousands of citizens have reacted to what appeared to be the unthinkable since the end of the Second World War. We need to revive this spirit of solidarity, regardless of all the hardships we are facing. Nothing would be more dangerous for Ukraine than a gradually increasing weariness of the Western public and politics.

Putin's catastrophic strategy may not bear fruits! The slogan „For our and for your freedom“, as quoted by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Oleksandra Matviichuk, also applies the other way round:
„For your freedom and for ours!“

DONATIONS

should best be made to one of the existing initiatives or into the national donation fund UNITED24, established by Volodymyr Zelenskyy:

<https://u24.gov.ua/>

Initial signatories:

Swetlana Alexijewitsch
Aleida Assmann
Jan Assmann
Martin Aust
Rüdiger Bachmann
Gerhart Baum
Marieluise Beck
Christoph Becker
Jan C. Behrends
Pamela Biermann
Wolf Biermann
Marianne Birthler
Helene v. Bismarck
Werner Bohleber
Christoph Buch
Detlev Claussen
Dany Cohn-Bendit
Dan Diner
Sabine Döring
Tom Enders
Benno Ennker
Bianka Pietrow-Ennker
Sabine Fischer
Rüdiger v. Fritsch

Ralf Fücks
Durs Grünbein
Irene Hahn-Fuhr
Rebecca Harms
Andreas Heinemann-Grüder
Ulrike Herrmann
Richard Herzinger
Christoph Heusgen
Wolfgang Ischinger
Andreas Kappeler
Daniel Kehlmann
Gerald Knaus
Gerd Koenen
John Kornblum
Remko Leemhuis
Claus Leggewie
Anna Leszczynska
Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger
Marianne Leuzinger-Bohleber
Renate Liesmann-Baum
Wolf Lotter
Carlo Masala
Markus Meckel

Eva Menasse
Herta Müller
Jan Plamper
Ruprecht Polenz
Katharina Raabe
Jens Reich
Eva Reich
Hedwig Richter
Thomas Roth
Manfred Sapper
Gwendolyn Sasse
Stefanie Schiffer
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Martin Schulze Wessel
Linn Selle
Constanze Stelzenmüller
Sebastian Turner
Andreas Umland
Gert Weisskirchen
Michael Zürn