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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Young survivor of Texas school massacre tells U.S. Congress of day's horror

WASHINGTON, June 8 (Reuters) - An 11-year-old survivor of last month's mass shooting at a Texas elementary school told U.S. lawmakers on Wednesday how she desperately acted to save her own life after the gunman shot a friend next to her, saying, "I got the blood and put it all over me."

Miah Cerrillo, 11, and the parents of multiple young Americans killed and wounded in a spate of recent mass shootings testified on Wednesday before a congressional panel as a bipartisan group of senators worked to see if there was any compromise on gun safety that Democrats and Republicans can agree to.

"He told my teacher 'good night' and shot her in the head," Cerrillo said in a pre-taped interview played for the House of Representatives Oversight and Reform Committee.

"And then he shot some of my classmates and the white board," she said, adding: "He shot my friend that was next to me ... and I thought he was going to come back to the room. I got the blood and put it all on me."

The young girl said she fears such violence could happen again at school.

Cerrillo spoke about two weeks after the shooting by an 18-year-old at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, that killed 19 of her classmates and two teachers.

A spate of mass shootings across the United States in recent weeks has killed dozens and sparked the latest round of bipartisan talks in the U.S. Senate.

Her testimony came as the United States has suffered more than 200 mass murders just this year.

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While the House since last year has been passing a series of sweeping gun-related reforms that likely would be blocked by Senate Republicans, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told Reuters she had "trust" in the Senate negotiators and noted the urgency for Congress to act.

With Democrats and Republicans deeply divided on guns, the Senate talks have focused on modest goals including encouraging states to pass "red flag" laws to deny firearms to people judged a risk to themselves or the public and federal funding to improve school security.

A bipartisan group of senators on Wednesday were haggling over the likely costs of beefing up treatment of mental illnesses that could contribute to gun violence and for funding states' red flag programs, according to senators.



Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal said that while "we're close on a number of these issues," negotiators still have plenty of details to iron out.

During the House hearing, Republicans on the panel vowed to defend the right to keep and bear arms as protected by the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Many of them have objected to proposals such as limiting sales of the assault-style rifles used in the Uvalde massacre and another mass shooting at a Buffalo, New York, grocery store that killed 10 Black victims. read more

'DEFEND MYSELF FROM EVIL'

Another witness, Lucretia Hughes of the DC Project Women for Gun Rights, criticized the idea of more gun control laws.

"Y'all are delusional if you think it's going to keep us safe," she said. She added that her 19-year-old son was shot dead in April 2016 by a person with an illegally obtained gun.

"How about letting me defend myself from evil? You don't think that I'm capable and trustworthy to handle a firearm?" Hughes added.

Public opinion polls show a majority of Americans favor

A pedestrian reads a sign at a memorial honoring 45,000 lives lost due to gun violence in 2020 seen on the National Mall near the Washington Monument in Washington, U.S., June 7, 2022. REUTERS/Leah Millis

steps to expand background checks of prospective gun buyers and other moves to rein in spiking gun violence.

But Wednesday's hearings underscored the deep emotions of the debate.

The sobbing parents of one of the dead Uvalde students urged Congress to take tough steps to control gun sales.

"Somewhere out there, there's a mom listening to our testimony ... not knowing that our reality will one day be hers unless we act now," said Kimberly Rubio, mother of murdered daughter Lexi.

The mother of a victim of the Buffalo massacre, the alleged work of an avowed white supremacist, asked the committee: "What in the world is wrong with this country?"

Zeneta Everhart, mother of Zaire Goodman, who was injured in the shooting at a Buffalo supermarket, added, "Lawmakers who continuously allow these mass shootings to continue by not passing stricter gun laws should be voted out."

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

06/07/2022

Our Gas Prices Could Pass \$5.00 A Gallon



U.S. gas prices could soon pass a national average of \$5.00. An industry expert predicted that this will happen in the next ten days.

Gas prices at the pump have climbed to a record national average high of \$4.87. Today, according to AAA, the national average price for a gallon of gas one year ago was just \$3.05.

An owner of a Ford 150 Super Truck has a 48-gallon fuel tank and to fill up his tank one

year ago would have cost him \$146 dollars. But today, it will cost him \$242 to fill up his tank.

Higher gas prices have also started to take a hit on small businesses and non-profits that rely on the use of vehicles every day. Because of higher gas prices, a lot of volunteers just can't afford to fill up their tanks. To deliver meals to seniors, owners of small trucking companies can't afford to keep the low prices to deliver the

food or other goods.

In fact, the assets of the oil companies have increased by \$530 billion in the past two years by about 24%. Unfortunately, the gap between the rich and the poor in our society has widened. The poor can't fill up their tanks, while the rich just get richer.

Although the president strives to curb oil prices and inflation, these economic conditions

involve both the situation at home and abroad. If the war between Russia and Ukraine continues, the supply of oil and natural gas will inevitably be in short supply and the world's supply chain will be directly impacted. Container prices will rise while oil and natural gas prices also will inevitably continue to rise.

Today the Biden administration should

take both the rising inflation and higher prices, as well as other pressing issues, very seriously. Looking back at our national history, when the economy has been in a bad condition, past presidents found it very hard to get re-elected. Former presidents including Jimmy Carter and George Bush knew the economy was a decisive factor in winning a presidential election.



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Editor's Choice



A car that crashed into a group of people and ended up in a storefront near Breitscheidplatz is pictured, in Berlin, Germany June 8, 2022. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch



Actor Matthew McConaughey, a native of Uvalde, Texas as well as a father and a gun owner, becomes emotional as he holds up a picture of 10-year-old victim Alithia Ramirez as he speaks to reporters about the school shooting in Uvalde during a press briefing at the White House in Washington. REUTERS/Kevin Lamarque



U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen testifies before a Senate Finance Committee hearing on President Biden's 2023 budget, on Capitol Hill in Washington. REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein



A turret of a destroyed armored fighting vehicle is seen in a wheat field, as Russia's attack on Ukraine continues, outside the town of Ichnia, in Chernihiv region, Ukraine. REUTERS/Vladyslav Musienko



A man cools off in a river along other fellow migrants (not pictured) who take part in a caravan to cross the country to reach the U.S. border, in Huixtla, Mexico. REUTERS/Quetzalli Nicté-Ha



Jon Greene, defense advisor to Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), carries Kodak the bear, to decorate the Senator's office on Capitol Hill to raise awareness about New Hampshire, while intern Roderck Emley takes calls, in Washington. REUTERS/Evelyn Hockstein

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BUSINESS

More Than 70 Organizations Have Signed, Calling To Fund Refugee Efforts In Ukraine And Globally

“Stand Up For Ukraine” - An Open Letter Calls On World Leaders To Take Urgent Action for Refugees

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Since Russia began its invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, more than 10 million people in the country have been forcibly displaced... leading to the fastest growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II.

As bombs continue to fall on cities and neighborhoods, more and more civilians are forced to flee their homes, adding to a crisis affecting an estimated 100 million forcibly displaced people worldwide.



UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has reported a \$10 billion funding gap of to address the global refugee crisis. Displacement caused by war, persecution, climate change, and human rights violations require immediate attention.

“That’s why we are calling on governments, philanthropists, artists, and businesses to join us and #StandUpForUkraine,” the letter states.

refugee efforts in Ukraine and globally, and it is our hope that you will show your support by committing to the humanitarian agencies, organizations on the ground and to local authorities at the frontline that need it the most.”

What does the open letter hope to achieve?

More than 6.5 million people are displaced within Ukraine, while more than 4 million refugees have fled across borders, according to data from the UNHCR. An estimated 12 million people are currently in need of assistance as a result of the conflict.

You can read the full letter here below.



Who has signed the letter so far? Able, aable Lending Services AG, Accelerate Global, LLC, Action for Sustainable Development,

American Security Project, Arctic Basecamp, Association « Russie-Libertés », Athena Impact, Australians for Mental Health, Balaklava Blues, Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens, Ben-evity, Blind Media Inc., Charlie Dent, CIVICUS, Co-founder AfterWEVote, DevryBV Sustainable Strategies, Direct Relief, Donor Tracker, Douglas Alexander, Senior Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, e2=equitable energy, EcoVision, Elijah Interfaith Institute, European Food Banks Federation, Focus 2030, Folk Songs of Ukraine, Foreign Policy Community of Indonesia, Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria,



Global Campaign for Education-US, Global Citizens Youth Advocate, Global Solidarity Fund, Globesight, Green Element Group, Hadley Impact Consulting, Heartland Initiative, Inc., I Support Ukraine, International Chamber of Commerce, International Medical Corps, International STEM Council, IsraAID, Jara, KD Leadership Strategies, KM Strategies Group, Kulturehaus, Let's Help, Lot 20 Coffee, Minderoo Foundation, Namati, Natural Resources Defense Council, Netwerk Music Group, Nigeria Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development, One Global Democracy, ONU FEMMES FRANCE, Oshun Partnership, Pallottine Missionary Foundation, Salvatti.pl, PhilanthropyWorks, Public Movement Faith, Hope, Love, Ramesh Ferris Global Health, Advocate & Canadian Polio Survivor, Razom for Ukraine, Refugee Talent, Rotary International, SDG Advising LLC, Shule Foundation, Inc., Social Projects Center of Future, Stand With Ukraine, The Africa 80 Foundation, The Caux Round Table for Moral Capitalism, THE GLOBAL KID: The World's 1st VR/AR Political Comic Book, The Marigold Foundation - Malta, The National Alliance for Rare Diseases Support- Malta, The ONE Campaign, Tonya McCusker AM, Tribeca Enterprise, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, Ukrainian Red Cross Society, Zywiec Development Foundation, and ZestPozmobi.

What is Stand Up For Ukraine?

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy began the call to Stand Up For Ukraine on March 26 in a video address, which implored politicians, business leaders, actors, musicians, and more to show their support for Ukraine. In response, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in partnership with Global Citizen, announced a pledging event on Saturday, April 9, in Warsaw, Poland.

And we will further step up,” von der Leyen said in a statement. “But so much is needed — and the brave people of Ukraine deserve solidarity from citizens and governments around the globe. Together, we can give them a safe home and bring some light in their lives at this dark hour.”



Ahead of the pledging event, a global social media rally is taking place on Friday, April 8, amplifying the voices of advocates and further calling on world leaders to pledge financial support on Saturday.

World Leaders Responded To The Calls Of Advocates To Support Refugees In Ukraine And Around The World. Inspiring Quotes From World Leaders Show Their Support For ‘Stand Up for Ukraine’



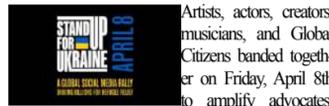
Leaders, advocates, and more met at the Stand Up for Ukraine pledging summit in Warsaw, Poland on Saturday, April 9 which saw \$10.1 billion pledged in new grants and loans to support refugees from Ukraine and around the world.

It started with a call to action, grew into a movement, and now world leaders are making new commitments and reaffirming pledges to deliver humanitarian aid to support refugees and displaced people from Ukraine and all around the world.

More than 40 world leaders from Germany to Qatar and Switzerland to Slovakia made and renewed their commitments to Ukraine and all global refugees on Saturday, April 9, as part of a pledging event in Warsaw, Poland for the Stand Up for Ukraine campaign.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began on Feb. 24, thousands of lives have been taken while more than 10 million people have been forced to leave their

homes and families behind. With an estimated 13 million people in Ukraine in need of urgent assistance and at least 82 million refugees worldwide in need of aid, humanitarian efforts are struggling to reach all those who need help.



Artists, actors, creators, musicians, and Global Citizens banded together on Friday, April 8th to amplify advocates’ voices on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and TikTok in a social media rally piling pressure on world leaders ahead of Saturday’s pledging event.

Although the participation of so many around the world showed the powerful strength of unity and collective action, and what we can achieve when we raise our voices together, there’s still more that world leaders can do to continue their support for people facing forced displacement, whether due to conflict, climate change, human rights violations, and more.

Before Russian aggression exacerbated the global refugee crisis, people from Afghanistan, Yemen, South Sudan, and many more regions were already being forced to flee their homes and these displaced people deserve global support too. Take action in support of all refugees globally here, and take this action today to urge world leaders to act now to prevent a global food crisis being triggered by the conflict in Ukraine.



The social media rally was held before the Stand Up For Ukraine pledging event on Saturday in Warsaw, Poland, hosted by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in partnership with Global Citizen.

(Article Continues Below)

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(Article Continues From Above)

Stand Up For Ukraine: An Open Letter Calls On World Leaders To Take Urgent Action for Refugees

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Inspiring Quotes From World Leaders Show Their Support For ‘Stand Up For Ukraine’ Here below are quotes and pledges from some of the dozens of world leaders that answered the call to action to Stand Up for Ukraine and for all refugees globally.



1.Scott Morrison, Prime Minister of Australia “We might be separated by half an earth but Australia stands with Ukraine,” said Morrison. Morrison announced no new pledges but reiterated Australia’s commitment to support Ukrainian efforts. He also mentioned that along with prioritizing Ukrainian visa applications, Australia has provided \$65 million toward refugee relief efforts and is working with the UN and UK to provide additional humanitarian assistance.

our solidarity, and our help in these moments when we are standing by Ukraine and the Ukrainians.”

7. Carlo Monticelli, Governor of the Council of Europe Development Bank

The Council of Europe Development Bank stands passionately behind Ukraine and their people,” said Monticelli. “We are proud to be part of the Stand Up for Ukraine campaign and join forces with others to stand up against this war and to contribute for peace in Europe.”

On behalf of the Council of Europe Development Bank, Monticelli announced a 1 billion euro loan to member states to support long term needs of refugees and the areas they have evacuated to. 8. Nicos Anastasiades, President of Cyprus “In addition to our commitments so far, which are exceeding 2 million euros, I would like to announce a fresh and symbolic financial commitment of 100,000 euros to support the humanitarian work undertaken in Ukraine and neighboring countries by the relevant entities of the United Nations agencies.”

9. Petr Fiala, Prime Minister of Czech Republic

Fiala emphasized the need for more assistance for the 300,000 Ukrainian refugees who have arrived in Czech Republic, most of whom are women and children, and announced that 200 million euros would be released in support of those refugees. “We will also continue to help directly in Ukraine,” he said. “You can count on that. The Czech Republic stands behind Ukraine.”

10. Mette Frederiksen, Prime Minister of Denmark

“Our world changed six weeks ago. A brutal aggressor invaded a peaceful and democratic country. We have all seen the horrible pictures from the war. The total lack of humanity. It is heartbreaking,” Frederiksen said. “Denmark stands in full solidarity with Ukraine. We support your fight for freedom and peace. And we open our hearts and homes to Ukrainians fleeing the war.” Frederiksen added that Denmark has donated \$53 million toward support in Ukraine and neighboring countries along with \$22 million to the World Bank’s budget support package for Ukraine. She also stated that her country is “ready to do more.”

11. Odilio Renaud-Basso, President of The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

“The invasion and war is a tragedy for the country and its people, and we are determined that we should stand up for Ukraine alongside our many friends and partners,” said Renaud-Basso. “Millions of people have been displaced either within Ukraine or forced to live as refugees, and alleviating the impact on them is one of our main priorities.” Renaud-Basso and the EBRD announced a pledge of 1 billion euros to support Ukrainian refugees as part of a larger resilience package that will also benefit surrounding countries taking in refugees. The plan also includes investments in municipal infrastructures such as funding companies so that refugees can find work. “I congratulate you on organizing this initiative, and I’m sure that together we can make a difference,” Renaud-Basso told Global Citizen.

12. Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank Hoyer announced that the European Investment Bank plans to mobilize 4 billion euros toward investments and refugee assistance by the end of 2023. “As millions of Ukrainians flee their homes seeking safety, we cannot be paralyzed by horror,” he said. “We must live up to the exemplary bravery and resilience of the Ukrainian people. We have to support them and those who are hosting them in Poland and elsewhere.”

13. Sanna Marin, Prime Minister of Finland

“Finland is ready to assume its responsibility in this common effort. There is no time to waste,” Marin said, describing the concerted efforts of Finland and the EU. “Our entire society is with the Ukrainian people,” she said. “We [will] do our best to help Ukraine and those fleeing from the atrocities of the war.”

14. Olaf Scholz, Chancellor of Germany

“Only a few hundred meters from here, at Berlin Central Station, trains with Ukrainian refugees are pulling in by the hour. I met with some refugees a few days ago. Their stories are heart wrenching,” Scholz said. “I told them that they are welcome here and that in a joint effort, the federal government, our lender, and our local communities are doing all we can to provide shelter, health care, schools, and a safe future.” Scholz added that Germany has pledged 425 million euros to humanitarian assistance for Ukraine and its neighbors plus 70 million euros for medical supplies through the European Civil Protection Mechanism. He said: “Germany stands with Ukraine and side by side with all of you.”

15. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece

“When the war is over, we should rebuild what was destroyed and make it better for the heroic people of Ukraine,” said Mitsotakis. “That is why Greece commits to rebuild Mariupol Maternity Hospital as we stand up for Ukraine and lift our sights for the future. What better way to do so than by securing the best conditions for welcoming new life?”

16. Ignacio Galán, Chairman and CEO of Iberdrola

“I can announce today a further donation of 1 million euros to international organizations. Iberdrola is and will remain committed to help.” Galán said, adding that Iberdrola and its employees have also provided electrical equipment and humanitarian supplies to Ukraine.

17. Micheál Martin Irish Taoiseach

“We pledge from within our national resources and in line with the Temporary Protection Directive to provide our state support to them, including social welfare, accommodation and housing support, education, and health care, as we have said to the many thousands of Ukrainians who have fled to Ireland,” said Ireland’s Taoiseach Micheál Martin. “Our home is your home.”

18. Mario Draghi, Prime Minister of Italy

“Italians have thrown open the doors of their homes and of their schools. We will not look the other way,” said Draghi, alluding to new governmental funding for Ukraine that would come in addition to the 500 million euros that has gone toward assisting refugees in Italy and 110 million euros for the Ukrainian government.

Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Icelandic Red Cross, and the World Bank’s Reconstruction Fund. “I thank the organizers of the Stand Up for Ukraine campaign,” she said. “Iceland is ready to do more and the people of Iceland stand with the people of Ukraine.”

20. Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister of Japan

“Japan stands with the people of Ukraine who are facing a national crisis,” said Japan’s Prime Minister Fumio Kishida. He announced that Japan will provide a total of \$300 million — including \$200 million in emergency humanitarian assistance through international organizations and NGOs, for example of health and medical care, food assistance, and protection of displaced people, and \$100 million in loans to support Ukraine’s economy. “Japan will continue to implement assistance in solidarity with the Ukrainian people,” he continued. “Stand up for Ukraine!”

For additional statements of support, please go to the following link: https://www.globalcitizen.org

Related

“We Can Give Them A Safe Home And Bring Some Light Into Their Lives At This Dark Hour” “Stand Up For Ukraine” Campaign Aims To Drive Billions In Aid For Refugees Worldwide



As the humanitarian crisis caused by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine continues to grow in urgency, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the success of the “Stand Up for Ukraine” pledging event, that took place on Saturday, April 9, in Warsaw, Poland. The event aimed to mobilize significant funding to help vulnerable civilians impacted by the conflict and to support refugees everywhere. Ahead of the event, a global social media rally supported by Global Citizen took place on Friday, April 8, in response to a new video from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in which he called on the international community to help people affected by the invasion. The rally encouraged citizens to call on governments, institutions, corporations, and individuals to donate to humanitarian efforts for Ukraine and refugees from conflicts worldwide, such as Yemen, South Sudan, and Afghanistan.

Together, the Stand Up for Ukraine pledging event and rally seek to raise billions of dollars to bolster the United Nations’ flash funding appeal to assist the more than 3.7 million refugees who have fled Ukraine, the 6.5 million people displaced within the country, and other global humanitarian priorities.

“A Ukrainian child has become a refugee almost every single second since the start of the war,” von der Leyen said in a statement. “The world must stand up for them. The European Union is catering for the needs of the millions of refugees it hosts. And we will further step up. But so much is needed still — and the brave people of Ukraine deserve solidarity from citizens and governments around the globe,” she added. “Together, we can give them a safe home and bring some light in their lives at this dark hour.”

More than 12 million people are currently in need of emergency aid — food, water, shelter, health care, and more — as a result of the war. Russia’s relentless

bombing campaign has killed more than 1,900 civilians and made entire cities unlivable through the destruction of apartment blocks, key infrastructure, and health care facilities.

“Today, our message to the Ukrainian people is this: We are standing with you,” Trudeau said. “Whether you need food, water, shelter, or medical aid — we are rallying the world to continue to have your backs and provide critical assistance where it is needed most. When we all work together, we can achieve the best outcomes for those displaced by Putin’s illegal and unjustified invasion of Ukraine.”

The consequences will only worsen as the conflict drags on and the Russian army seeks to overwhelm additional parts of Ukraine. In his video message, Zelenskyy further described the impact of the war. “Millions of Ukrainians had their own home, had their own dreams, had their own quiet place, had their own world they could close their doors or open it to everyone,” he said. “They had their own home until Russian missiles, bombs, shells came in. Until the invaders have come, and have destroyed and burned down absolutely everything. City after city, village after village, thousands of houses ruined, thousands of destroyed apartments,” he added. “Hundreds of cities and towns are annihilated, some are erased to ashes, burned down completely.”

The UN is leading efforts for a ceasefire, and Zelenskyy has been urging Russian President Vladimir Putin to negotiate an end to the conflict — but little progress has been made so far.

Zelenskyy urged people around the world to support the pledging event and social media rally.



“I ask you to support Ukraine, to support Ukrainians with the ‘Stand Up for Ukraine’ motto,” he said. “I’m inviting everybody: musicians, actors, athletes, businessmen, politicians, everybody. Everyone who wants to join this movement and ‘Stand Up for Ukraine.’” The surge of refugees from Ukraine adds to a larger crisis worldwide. Globally, 82.4 million people are displaced, and there’s a \$10 billion gap in funding for their support. Stand Up for Ukraine aims to mobilize funds to assist with this funding gap to ensure all refugees, everywhere, receive the aid they need.

“History has shown us that conflict and poverty are closely interconnected, resulting in the weakening of the rule of law, a collapse in economic development, and often catastrophic humanitarian situations,” said Hugh Evans, CEO of Global Citizen. “There is no doubt that the conflict in Ukraine has led to a humanitarian crisis — members of



Global Citizen saw this ourselves at the Ukrainian-Polish border. More than 3 million refugees have fled their homes, with millions more likely on their way,” he said. “Global Citizen has a history of responding rapidly to humanitarian crises, and this is no different. We’re calling for an immediate end to this crisis, and the provision of immediate financing to support refugee relief efforts not just in Ukraine but around the world.” For more information about the Stand Up for Ukraine pledging event and social media rally, you can visit ForUkraine.com. (Courtesy globalcitizen.org.)