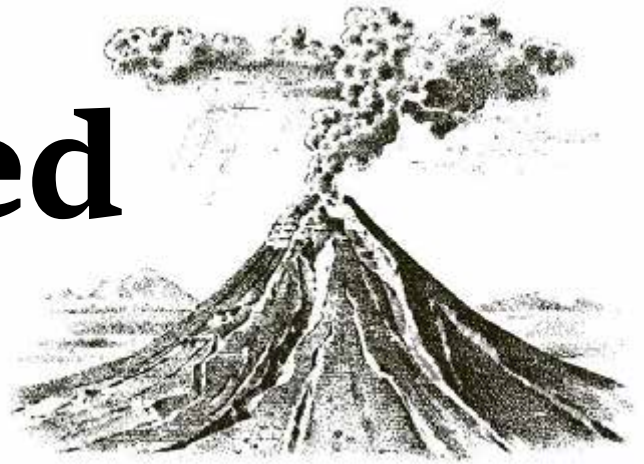


# Inhabited Island



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The editorial board of "The Inhabited Island" expresses sympathy and support to all those who suffered from the floods on January 28-29.

## Editor-in-Chief's Column



*Olga Belokon*

Dear readers, Happy New Year 2023 to you! To all of you health, happiness and love. I think I will not be mistaken if I say that the main wish on New Year's Eve for each of you was to wish that the war would end as soon as possible (and no-one needed to explain which one). Yes, no-one wants a repeat of what happened in 2022, a continuation of that nightmare that is impossible to get used to, no

matter how long it lasts.

Almost three months have passed since the release of the previous, 3rd issue of The Inhabited Island. The end of the year in the Russian community of New Zealand was marked by a rapid outbreak of activity. Concerts and performances were given one after another in Auckland. This is a natural manifestation of the cultural "hunger" accumulated during the Covid lull. We will not list these concerts and performances. Detailed information about them can be found in other Russian-language newspapers in New Zealand.

I will share my own experience, which revealed to me how rapidly, rudely and, I am afraid, irreversibly, this war has broken into our culture.

In early December, our studio "Russian for Children" arranged a large New Year's performance and a Christmas tree. We had the idea to invite to this Christmas tree children who came to New Zealand from Ukraine after the beginning of the war. We really wanted these guys, who are so in need of moral and psychological support, not to miss the opportunity to get to a cheerful New Year's celebration, to get acquainted with their peers with whom they can communicate in a



*New Year's Tree, organised by the school-studio "Russian for children. 4 December 2022, Rose Centre, Auckland*

language familiar to them. I appealed to the leader of the Ukrainian community in New Zealand, Yuriy Gladun, with a request to spread information about the celebration and our

offer of free tickets for children among Auckland Ukrainians. I did not expect the reaction. Yuriy refused, explaining that since Grandfather Frost (the Russian version of Santa Claus) is now entering Ukraine in tanks, he, Yuriy, would not recommend anyone to come to our Christmas tree. It wasn't the rejection that amazed me: it's understandable. I was surprised by the attitude towards Grandfather Frost. I had never associated him as a symbol of Russia. Anyway, in response, I expressed regret that our good intentions were not destined to come true. After a couple of weeks, everything fell into place. As the New Year approached, photos and videos of Grandfather Frost riding in tanks began to appear in various news channels. These grandfathers made my skin crawl.

So Grandfather Frost, following the innocent Pushkin and Brodsky, has been stained with Putin's vile dirt. Just like the holy Victory Day (9th of May) has become tainted for us ... After the monstrous tank Grandfather Frost, I do not think that we will release this hero on stage when we celebrate with children the arrival of the New Year, 2024. It's a pity .... As a child, he seemed so good, kind ... And when a video appeared with the now famous phrase "There will be missiles for you, Vova", uttered by Duma deputy Oleg Nilov at the "Christmas tree of wishes", I understood to the depths of my soul and realised what Yuriy meant. For those who do not know: during the annual New Year's Eve of the so-called "wish tree", famous Russian politicians pull out postcards sent by children from this Christmas tree live broadcast, and their innermost desires are recorded on postcards. Vova is a real boy living in Kyiv ... What Nilov said is monstrous ...

One way or another, the New Year celebration — the holiday of the beginning of a new happy life — went ahead. I have already written about how we celebrated the New Year. But it is worth comparing how this holiday was celebrated in our homeland — and in Ukraine, which is close to our hearts. Radio Liberty published a montage of two photographs: one of them showing the Russian president wearing a tense expression against a background of people in military uniforms looking unhappy (in the original version of the photo, the soldiers stand in three rows, and in the right row there are no or partially missing heads) — and the Ukrainian president and his wife, at home, smiling in front of a Christmas tree (<https://www.svoboda.org/a/novogodnie-pozdravleniya-i-voennye-prestupleniya/32205463.html>). These photos are so eloquent that they do not require comment. Russia's future is scary. The future of Ukraine is not .

Back to New Zealand. How do you sum up the results of last year and greet the new one in the Russian-language press? For more than ten months, the main information source

published in Russian in New Zealand, the newspaper, *Nasha Gavan* (Our Harbour), wrote virtually nothing about the war in Ukraine, nor about the reaction of Russian society in New Zealand to this war, nor did it state the position of the newspaper in relation to the war. In the issues of the newspaper published after February 24, we find a call (not addressed to anyone) on the front pages for a cessation of hostilities and general phrases about the fact that war is a great evil. Some hints indicated that this topic did not deserve the attention of the newspaper. Thus, in the May, 112th issue of "*Nasha Gavan*", an article was published dedicated to the anniversary of the publication and entitled "Celebrated peacefully and without politics." Obviously, what was meant by the word "politics" was precisely mentioning the invasion of Ukraine. And against this background, suddenly, unexpectedly, in the latest, 115th issue of "*Nasha Gavan*", we see a New Year's greeting, which begins with the words: "This year, complex and difficult, full of tragedies and upheavals, is coming to an end" and ends with the words: "Happy holidays and the approaching New Year!" It's a surprise. If the year has been full of tragedies and upheavals, why hasn't the newspaper published a single article or remark on this tragedy for 10 months??? But in an editorial note of the same issue, the authors turn to some ill-wishers, who are asked not to interfere with them "... prepare musical performances, attend concerts and exhibitions... and continue to lead ... public life in our



<https://mos-tour.moscow/excursions/moscow/novogodnyaya-elka-kaskaderov-vlastelin-kolec-hobbit-strelec/>

Russian-speaking community" ... Cosily. Without "politics." Holding hands, in complete silence ... Unfortunately, positioning the newspaper as an independent publication engaged exclusively in covering the cultural life of the Russian-speaking community is superficial and incorrect. "*Nasha Gavan*" has become, in fact, the centre of the Russian World in New Zealand. What the term "Russian World" means, we wrote in the last issue of "The Inhabited Island". In this issue you will find an article about how the "branch" of Russian World in New Zealand is organised. In this issue, we also continue to publish Grigory Oklensky's Wartime Diary and the last part of an interview with Tatiana Tymoshenko, who survived the occupation in Gostomel and is now in New Zealand. I hope you will also be interested in the article about Vakhtang Kikabidze, whose death was a big loss to many of us. We publish a short review of a recent episode of the famous animated series by Oleg Kuvaev "*Masyanya*". Finally, we publish a brief summary of the recent actions in defence of Alexei Navalny and other political prisoners in Russia.



# Beware: The Russian World in New Zealand

**Editor's note:** An article by Irina Salavatova "The Russian World – What Is It?" was published in the second issue of "The Inhabited Island". In this issue we continue the theme of the Russian World.



**Mikhail Vorobyov**

New Zealand's Russian-speaking community is made up of immigrants from Russia and other post-Soviet countries, primarily Ukraine. Here we are all united by the Russian language and the common cultural space in which we have all lived since the days of the Soviet Union.

For many years, there has been an active cultural life in the Russian-speaking community of New Zealand. Theatre studios, dance and choral ensembles organise regular performances and concerts that amaze the audience with the professionalism of the entertainers. Cultural centres and weekend schools help to preserve and maintain their native language. There are clubs, newspapers in Russian language are published, annual fairs are held. You and I have something to be proud of.

So it seemed ... Until February 24 came. Since then, the contradictions that began in 2014, caused by people's different attitudes towards the annexation of Crimea and the military provocation in the Donbass, have resulted in a split in the community. At one pole are Ukrainians and a few people who identify themselves as Russians and who support Ukraine in its resistance to the Russian invasion. At the other pole are everyone else. The rest are Russians who either support the invasion or hide behind the notorious phrase "not everything is clear-cut."

The split in the community was expressed in an unprecedented number of broken ties between people who until recently were buddies, friends and even relatives. And how did the split affect the cultural life of the Russian-speaking community? The uninitiated will be surprised. In almost no way at all. New seasons have begun in theatres, there are concerts, and classes in schools. How so, you ask? After all, there is a schism. All these centres, groups and clubs would be expected to fall apart ...

Let's try to figure it out. First, there are relatively few immigrants from Ukraine in New Zealand. The main flow of migration comes from Siberia and the Far East. Secondly, only a few Russians support Ukrainians. This is evidenced by this figure: usually 15-20 people gather for anti-war actions organised by the Russians in Auckland. The departure of one or two people from a club or choir will not destroy this club or choir.

Another source of stability for many local cultural organisations is that they belong to the Coordinating Council of Russian Compatriots (KSORS). The world KSORS was formed with the direct involvement of the Russian president in 2007. By 2018, KSORS branches already existed in 98 (!) countries. The activities of the so-called country councils and their financial support are carried out through the embassies of the Russian Federation (for more information about the Russian World and the KSORS, see the article by Irina Salavatova in the second issue of the "The Inhabited Island")

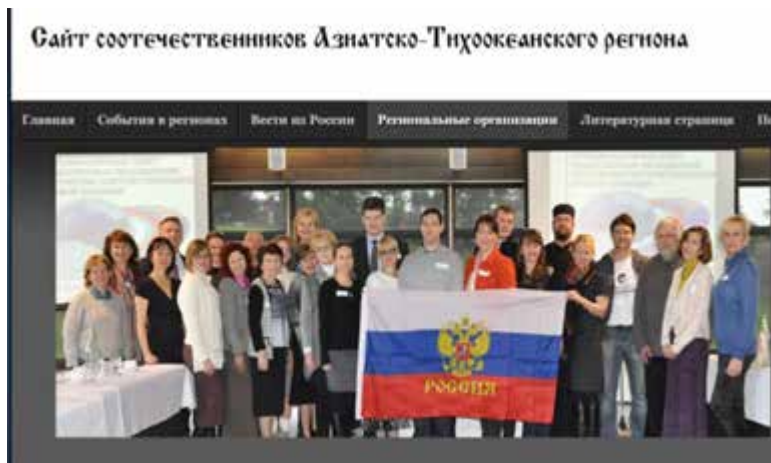
The Coordinating Council of Societies of Russian Compatriots in New Zealand (CSSORNZ) was established in 2011. The CSSORNZ includes the editors-in-chief and executive of the New Zealand Russian-language newspaper, ("Nasha Gavan") and representatives of 24 organisations from Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Hamilton and Tauranga, including representatives of the two largest Russian educational centres-schools in Auckland, one religious organisation, two societies of friendship with Russia, a theatre studio, an association of Russian kindergartens and others. Thus, most Russian-speaking organisations and groups in New Zealand are "under the wing" of the Coordinating Council.

According to the general concept voiced by the Kremlin, the activities of the councils are aimed at supporting and developing Russian culture in the Russian-speaking diaspora. Indeed, the funds that come to the Russian embassies from Moscow and are then distributed through coordination councils

between public and other organisations in the form of grants are spent on good purposes: the organisation of holidays, the support of schools with textbooks, and so on. How can you treat this badly. A good cause? And this is where we fall into a trap. This is the strength of "soft power": it acts gradually. People who receive grants, awards or other support through the KSORS become dependent on Moscow. Therefore, none of the members of the CSSORNZ spoke

out against Putin and against the Russian invasion of Ukraine. After all, in addition to other reasons for cooperating with the Putin regime (pro-Putin views, fear), financial interest is also added.

KSORS is an instrument which, for many years, effectively spread imperial ideas, myths about Russophobia and other concepts of pro-Putin propaganda among millions of people who emigrated from Russia.



**Meeting of members of the Coordinating Council of Public Organisations of Russian Compatriots of New Zealand (KSORSNZ)**

The chairman of the KSORSNZ since 2015 is the President of the Wellington Russian Club, Viktor Gaiduch. If you go to the page of the Wellington Russian Club <https://wellington-russianclub.org.nz/en/>, you can see what the club organises: 1) Victory Day celebrations, 2) children's New Year's celebrations and 3) Russian festivals. Why in that order? The fact is that over the past two years, the club has organised two Victory Day celebrations, one children's New Year party and not a single festival. During the difficult Covid years, apparently only the top priorities remained. If you open a post dedicated to the celebration of the 76th anniversary of Victory Day, you will see a video in which several young men in military uniforms and helmets with rifles march at the ready through a hall filled with spectators, then they go up on stage, stand to attention, and military equipment appears on the screen behind them. Do you recognise the style? On the same website there are photos of the exhibition. artifacts of the Great Patriotic War. We see young men in NKVD uniforms and boys about seven years old with St. George ribbons looking at artifacts, including... – a portrait of Stalin (!). That's propaganda. Now, after a year of war in Ukraine, it looks simply monstrous. But that's not all. On his Facebook page, the chairman of the KSORSNZ, who is called upon to develop Russian culture in New Zealand, places insane speeches by the main current Russian "politicians", primarily Sergei Lavrov and Dmitry Medvedev, about "cave Russophobia" and about "Ukrainian neo-Nazis and Banderites"<sup>1</sup>. The editor-in-chief of the newspaper "Nasha Gavan", Alexander Zdor, served as Deputy Chairman of the CSSORNZ for three years. "Nasha Gavan" remains silent about the war in Ukraine and avoids mentioning cultural events of an anti-war orientation. But this newspaper published an article by Olga Ovsyannikova, where she complains about Russophobia. Let me remind you: Ovsyannikova runs Miss Russia contests in New Zealand. After the war began, several representatives of our community asked her not to hold this contest in 2022, because such contests are inappropriate against the background of the war. There were several publications about this in the New Zealand press<sup>2</sup>. Ovsyannikova gave an interview to "Izvestia", where she spoke "about the problem of oppression of Russians in New Zealand and around the world"<sup>3</sup>. The topic of Russophobia is also reflected on the Facebook page of "Nasha Gavan". After the introduction of sanctions prohibiting the acceptance of money transfers from Russia to local banks, the executive editor of the newspaper, Rimma Shkrabina, wrote: "According to confirmed information, your pension was received by local banks, but for various reasons (primarily related to the benefit for the bank) is not transferred to your personal account<sup>4</sup>. Russophobes have stolen your money." In reality, banks were not

allowed to receive transfers because of the sanctions imposed in response to Putin's war.

"Nasha Gavan" spreads propaganda among older people and pensioners. Much more dangerous is the propaganda of imperial ideas and myths about Russophobia among children in clubs and schools associated with the KSORSNZ. After all, children take everything seriously. Dancing in military uniforms, wearing St. George ribbons, reading "patriotic" literature, and most importantly — adult conversations — all this affects the child's psyche. The notorious Antonina Ovchinnikova, against whom an investigation was recently launched in Auckland for raising funds in favour of the Russian occupation army<sup>5</sup>, participated in the life of the Cultural and Educational Centre "Our House" associated with the KSORSNZ for several years. Antonina is a popular blogger in Russia. In her Telegram channel, she managed to gather 23,000 subscribers, attracted by her posts and videos, in which she, using the sharp style characteristic of Putin's propagandists, supported the Russian invasion and accused Ukrainians of Nazism, and everyone else of Russophobia. Such an effective propagandist, of course, influenced the general atmosphere in "Our House". I will add that now the chairman of the KSORSNZ, Viktor Gaiduch, is going to arrange a conference in New Zealand of teachers, teachers of Russian schools, leaders of circles — everyone who is engaged in teaching in the Russian language, to exchange experiences.

How dangerous is the propaganda of the ideas of the "Russian World" among Russian-speaking children and young people living in New Zealand? I know a young man who, to the horror of his parents, went from New Zealand to serve in the Russian army, because he believed that it was his patriotic duty. The young man grew up in New Zealand and did not speak Russian well. Thank God, this happened before the war, and the boy returned home safe and sound. These days, young people who have succumbed to the propaganda of the "Russian World" can go to protect Russians from "Ukronazis." If we do not interfere with this, their blood will be on our hands.



**Celebration of the 76th anniversary of Victory Day. Russian Club of Wellington**

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2. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/300588251/future-of-miss-russia-nz-pageant-uncertain-as-venue-pulls-out>; <https://www.newstalkzb.co.nz/news/national/highly-insensitive-and-disrespectful-organisers-of-miss-russia-nz-pageant-urged-to-cancel-or-change/>
3. [https://ren.tv/news/v-mire/950579-priteksenie-rossiian-v-mire-nazvali-bullinom-zemnogo-masshtaba?fbclid=IwAR2qUYTjzaOk3SWnqsKRdVnVHcd4p7mMmhP\\_VtGyxYpNAoPHaCC53EqHmVbc](https://ren.tv/news/v-mire/950579-priteksenie-rossiian-v-mire-nazvali-bullinom-zemnogo-masshtaba?fbclid=IwAR2qUYTjzaOk3SWnqsKRdVnVHcd4p7mMmhP_VtGyxYpNAoPHaCC53EqHmVbc)
4. [facebook.com/groups/170012719719627/](https://facebook.com/groups/170012719719627/), post of 21.05.2022
5. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/300731525/auckland-woman-leaves-for-moscow-as-police-investigate-russian-army-fundraising/>

# Wartime Diary.

## Part Three

**April 4, 2022.**

I look at the pictures from Bucha,  
And blood pours into my words,  
And the cold is impenetrable and prickly —  
It tolls like a bell in my temple.

Twenty-first century, greedy and arrogant,  
Like an old, distraught jackal!  
We will remember all the scum by name,  
Who betrayed the name of humanity.

**April 5, 2022.**

After Bucha...

Rashist (a combination of the words “Russian and Fascist”) official faces, their propagandists and voluntary slanderers, not burdened by conscience or morality, are trying to brush off the terrible crimes of the soldiers of the era in Bucha and in other cities and villages of Ukraine. They declare fakes and staged atrocities, about the humane attitude of the Russian troops to the civilian population, about the Ukrainian Nazis and their liberation mission. They dump all this sheer nonsense, first of all, on the dumbed down Russians, increasing the dose and disinformation so that the zombified do not wake up. I don't see any point in proving anything to them, to appeal to common sense, to compassion. The whole world has already seen terrible documentary evidence of the atrocities of the barbarians, and international lawyers and experts will collect the necessary evidence for the future trial of war criminals. Since the Second World War, there has been nothing like this on the territory of the former USSR. Then subhumans appeared in the uniform of the German Wehrmacht, today — in the form of the Russian Armed Forces. All these soldiers, their commanders, their generals, are the brainchildren of Putin, who grew up and “matured” during his autocracy, and this speaks most strongly about what a useless country Russia has become in the 21st century.

Before our eyes, it has turned into a fascist state, brutally killing “foreign” Ukrainians on their land, brutally beating “their” citizens in the streets of Russian cities. This is the agony of a regime that is doomed. Remember the difficult path Germany took after the capitulation of Hitlerism. Russia's path after the fall of Putinism will be both more painful and longer. Some may see the light on this path, some will repent. But there will be no forgiveness during the lifetime of the current generations!

Ukraine will not forget and will never forgive! Only contempt and damnation to the Russian World. Today, Ukraine is going through tragic, dreadful days. But it will overcome and win, rebuild more beautifully than before, become a truly independent state within Europe. Otherwise, who needs it, this world?!

I can sympathise with responsible and conscientious Russians who see and understand everything, who have cringed from impotence and live in kitchens again (in Soviet times, criticism of the regime was whispered in kitchens, so that others could not hear) The country is overrun by Sharikovs and Schwanders (a reference to scoundrels in Mikhail Bulgakov's



**Gregory Oklensky**

novel, “Dog's Heart”) who have raised murderers, rapists and looters. Do you want to live and work next to them, raise children and grandchildren, posting cats and dogs on social media? It's your choice. To build a new Russia “after Putin”, or wait for someone to arrange it for you? Your choice. Life will not be enough, but you have the right to be in command of your life.

To everyone else, I wish — a boring voyage on a Russian warship! Putin's no longer just a meme, he's become a ghost — he's nowhere, and everywhere. And there is enough space there for everyone!

**April 7, 2022.**

It is impossible to convince people who stubbornly refuse to turn on their brains. Yes, they are zombified by the long-term propaganda from the zombiebox Z and blindly believe its speeches. This is their usual picture of the world, the “comfort zone”, from which it is frightening to stick out even a nose. Because then you need to answer the questions: how to live with this? what to do next? who to believe. These zombies want nothing, wish for nothing. Passive, inert people, they are comfortable to follow the “Pied Piper” from the TV.

Ukraine will win this war. Epiphany will come sooner or later, but for the zombies it will be a complete collapse of the universe, which will bury many alive. Do you feel sorry for them? The aggressive and brainwashed definitely don't evoke sympathy. Especially if you imagine how many residents of Ukraine were killed and mutilated by the occupiers, how many people were buried alive under the ruins after the Rashist bombardments.

**April 11, 2022.**

Again and again I read the bitter revelations of Russian liberal intellectuals — writers, political experts, etc. — clinging to straws — to native birches, grass near their homes, and their potholed paths ... “We don't want to leave!” they declare desperately, loudly in their hearts. It's not a heroic deed, ladies and gentlemen. Until the curtain falls, until the cage slams shut, it's your choice. And deciding to leave Mordor is also not a heroic deed. It's freedom of choice. The days of sausage emigration (a derogatory Soviet term for those who went abroad for a better material life) are a thing of the past. From my own experience, I know that people do not emigrate in search of paradise apples. They leave when they truly realise that it is no longer possible to live “here”: stuffy, nauseating, unsafe, unpromising, unbearable! They leave for new life experience — for themselves, for unlimited prospects — for their children. And then the circumstances of “force majeure” become surmountable.



The fight against the repressive regime is possible only after its fall and debunking. Among those who live in Russia, only a few are capable of self-sacrifice today. They have already been thrown into detention. I believe that a new gulag is already under construction — far from the Black Sea health resorts ...

What's left? "To those who remain is Calvary," as poet Boris Chichibabin wrote. And also — the capital's theatres, flowers to the actors from the grateful audience, the bold winking of like-minded people in the stalls. And also — the letter "Z" on the facades and cars, on the streets and in the brains. Even the air is saturated with this poisonous letter, reminiscent of the vile, inhuman war of a faceless state with Ukraine. The war has taken many in the Z of the Alohzniki (a play on the Russian word for hostage). It's a war with oneself, where the instinct of self-preservation and self-esteem are gradually giving way to Stockholm syndrome of varying degrees of severity.

**April 17, 2022.**

More and more often I see the texts of compatriots from different diasporas who admit that they are embarrassed to speak in Russian, that they pose as Ukrainians, that in this way they disown the aggressive, shameful war of the Rashist regime against Ukraine. It all reminds me of a child's game of "It's not my fault!" You can't throw away your native language! It is not guilty of anything. Russian emigrants, who managed to get out of the Bolshevik bloody "Mochilov (mass murder)", who escaped the Red Terror, managed to preserve the Russian language, carefully passed it on to their children, and they — to further generations. Until recently, in different countries it was possible to meet the children of the so-called White émigrés — elderly people who speak a beautiful, old-fashioned, pure Russian language. And we need to make efforts to preserve the Russian language in our families and pass it on by inheritance. Mordor is doomed — the language is eternal. The Russian language in the diasporas, having absorbed the whole tragedy of the shame of today's duped Russia, will endure and survive. Just as Ukraine will endure and survive unthinkable suffering and losses.

**April 19, 2022.**

The battle for Donbass, the battle for the future of Ukraine, has begun. Courage, perseverance and victory to the Ukrainian armed forces, the people of Ukraine! They are also fighting for our future. All the forces of Good and Peace support Ukraine in the fight against the Rashist invaders.

**April 19, 2022.**

Speaking about the role of television pictures, more and more often I recall the excellent German film "Good Bye, Lenin!",

created in 2003. There, however, we are talking about one person for whom relatives built a parallel reality. Russia's zombiebox has spread this idea to the whole country and achieved shocking results. They can, if they stick to their guns!

**April 22, 2022**

British scientists have identified a curious historical pattern that explains a lot. It turns out that the imperial syndrome paired with Stockholm syndrome provokes the development of cognitive dissonance even in soulless people. Ships sent in a certain direction (an allusion to the Moskva, flagship of Russia's Black Sea fleet, which Ukrainian troops told "go f\* yourself" and soon after sank) are simply fooled by this: they lose their orientation, then stability ... and eventually find themselves at the bottom. "The bottom will accept everyone!" — say British scientists, citing the permanent inhabitants of the sea depths.

**April 23, 2022.**

Too bad the wives of Rashist warlords don't watch blogger Arestovych (Oleksii Arestovych, until recently an adviser to the administration of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky). They would understand how insignificant their husbands were and would tell them to surrender.

**April 23, 2022.**

Russia is degradation and degeneration. A huge ward No. 6 (reference to a novella by Anton Chekhov set in a lunatic asylum). A terrible picture of clouding of the mind of the majority of the population. Those who will rake up these garbage dumps and clean the Augean stables have not yet

been born.

**April 24, 2022**

The war will end in the coming months if, at the same time as delivering long-range howitzers and other heavy weapons to Ukraine, the American Congress sends toilet bowls and a couple of boxes of nails to Russia (a reference to the items, most commonly stolen by Russian soldiers in Ukraine, Nails are not produced in Russia) .

**April 26, 2022.**

Everything has already been said about the absurdity of the organisation of an assassination attempt on (leading TV war proponent Vladimir) Solovyov. But the choice of Solovyov as a victim (read, the national hero) means that it will not be possible to jump off the armoured train, except under the wheels. And this is the main signal that the gebe[KGB]-power sends to its propagandons: keep in line! Otherwise, the next attempt may be successful.



**Bucha – up to...**

[https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%91%D1%83%D1%87%D0%B0\\_%28%D0%B3%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B4%29](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%91%D1%83%D1%87%D0%B0_%28%D0%B3%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B4%29)



**.... and after.**  
[https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%91%D0%BE%D0%B8\\_%D0%B7%D0%B0\\_%D0%91%D1%83%D1%87%D1%83](https://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/%D0%91%D0%BE%D0%B8_%D0%B7%D0%B0_%D0%91%D1%83%D1%87%D1%83)

**April 27, 2022.**

Russian fascism is not an abstract concept. It has been rebuilt by the political elite in power. It was supported by persons known throughout the country. Alexei Navalny's associates compiled a list of 6000 people. Their names were published by the opposition online publication Meduza.

How can we not recall (Soviet dissident) Alexander Galich: "We will remember by name all those who raised their hand (in support of the regime)."

**April 27, 2022.**

This bloodthirsty and dastardly war is a little more than 2 months old. All this time I am tormented by one question, to which I can not find a good answer. And I would like to address this question both to emigrants with 25+ years of experience, and to responsible Russian citizens living there where they were born.

The country we left in the late '80s and early '90s, at the breakdown of epochs, at the transition from underdeveloped socialism to unclear, market capitalism, and the current country, Putin-minded, the majority of Russia's population distressed — is it the same country? Are the people the same as they were — minus us emigrants?

Or has something irreparable happened to the people in the hinterland in these 25-30 years? They have been completely confused, screwed up and angered by eternal poverty, lack of toilet bowls and being asked to rise up from their knees. Or, on the contrary, corrupted by the cult of money and permissiveness, imbued with hatred for everything Western, alien, dumbed down by the zombiebox.

I'm not asking when this slide into the abyss of stone-age consciousness began. To do this, you need to rewind the history of more than 100 years, or even more. I ask, when did these processes begin to take such ugly forms that they reformatted a huge country, formed the foundations of Russian fascism, and today made this ideology dominant? When did this tunneling transition into a cruel, unscrupulous and aggressive darkness, from which there is no way out occur?

**June 6, 2022.**

My mentality has taken an amazing and bitter path in the past 100+ days since the beginning of the treacherous and SVOloch (a play on the contraction of special military operation and the Russian word for bastard) war. What does "Our EVERYTHING" (Alexander Pushkin), the brilliant Russian poet, one of the founders of the modern Russian language, have to do with the ugly Russian World, demonstrating its imperial stubbornness through the destruction of Ukraine? It's embarrassing to celebrate Pushkin's birthday (6 June) this year. We remember this day as an optimistic celebration of Pushkin's genius with its juicy and imaginative Russian language — the personification of Russian literature. And today the cannons (pushki) speak, and Pushkin's lyre goes into the shadows ...

Maybe I am being over the top. Perhaps everything will somehow settle down after the defeat of Putinism and the end of the war. After the repentance of the Russian World, after the revival of Ukraine on the ruins of cities and villages. Who would have known how many years it would take to heal the wounds of this senseless and brutal war. This war has ended the centuries-old transition of the cruel Russian mentality into the fascist ideology of exterminating dissidents.

**June 9, 2022.**

Translation of an article by the American president in The New York Times, the main newspaper of the Democratic Party,,on May 31 and a detailed expert analysis of this article by Andrei Illarionov.

War is hard work. And Joe Biden is far from being Roosevelt. And Illarionov is not the ultimate truth. But it certainly deserves attention.

The intricacy of geopolitical interests occurs against the background of a merciless war against Ukraine. Ukraine cannot defeat its monster neighbour on its own. And today it can fully rely on the leading countries of the British Commonwealth and young Europe. And the rest of the political heavyweights must be put in a framework where they can continue to waggle their tail but remain allies of Ukraine.

**June 12, 2022.**

When I listen to the interceptions of the conversations of Rashist mercenaries or watch the Ukrainian journalist Volodymyr Zolkin's interviews of Russian prisoners of war , I cannot escape one thought ...

What wretched motivation drives these soldiers of fortune! Just a lot of money! For 200,000-250,000 rubles (about \$2500 to \$3125) a month, they are ready to carry out criminal orders, kill peaceful Ukrainians, and raze their homes to the ground. To what poverty line, to what low point, to what cesspool mentality should young Russian men from the deep hinterland be brought to to so cheaply sell their lives to Moloch of war?! What if luck turns away and you become a soldier of failure? Will you go back to your mum in a military coffin? Or as an injured soldier? And life is over ... I earned my mother a few "lemons (millions of rubles)" to buy a house with a warm toilet inside, with running water, and maybe even with hot water. And the soldier himself is either in the graveyard, or a disabled person not needed by anyone. The homeland certainly does not need such people. They are just processed cannon fodder. And it often happens that the soldiers disappear so that there is no trace, no body — and no payments to the family of missing people. If you really wanted to help your family with money, sell your organs, whatever! But you went to a foreign country to kill innocent people! People we consider cousins. Cain's seal has nowhere to put on you, soldier!

Congratulations on the day of independence from duty, and conscience, Russia! (June 12 marks the day the adoption of The Declaration of Sovereignty of the Russian Federation was made in 1991 and is celebrated as Russian Independence Day)

**June 22, 2022.**

It is a pity that General Alexei Gromov is already a very old man. Remember him? In 1989, he led an operation to withdraw a huge (but in every sense limited) contingent of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Such a general would be able to withdraw the entire Rashist army from the territory of Ukraine! Lead the army to the devil's mother, that is, to Russia, and end this shameful war!

Mr. General, judge for yourself -  
Can a dastardly war be won?  
Save the soldiers — mums pray!





**July 1, 2022.**

In order not to lead the tsar into temptation, all the buttons were painted green (so that he does not find the red button to launch nuclear war).

**July 2, 2022.**

Have the United States, Europe and NATO finally decided on unconditional support for Ukraine until the complete victory over the aggressor? Or are there options?

**July 4, 2022.**

About sauna and water procedures (a play on the Russian word for sauna [banya] and the word 'ban,' here meaning Facebook ban)

I came out of the sauna as if from a fight. I had lost nothing. I would like to know why I was banned twice in a row? I don't go to the sauna so often! Two posts — not a single word of my own. They were purely quotes from a venerable writer and a great scientist. These quotes came not from the Russian banned book archive, but they had been published more than

once and long ago in books and on the Internet. What sort of hate speech are Facebook's algorithms worried about here? Who is Facebook bowing down to? Maybe they're trying to wean me off "re-reading the classics"?

I fully admit that Facebook algorithms have nothing to do with it. The nefarious time of lawlessness in the country that stands on bent legs spawned a new generation of informers. These informers have mastered high Internet technologies! Most likely, someone denounced me — in the best traditions of the era of Stalin's Great Terror. I have a few friends on Facebook who hold views contrary to mine. Of course, I will not reveal their names. Let's allow them the presumption of innocence. I'll just clean up the list ...

And the civil war of opinions will continue. There's still a long way to go with that.

We once had a clear road ahead, but somehow, we have gone backwards.

**END OF PART THREE**

## Two weeks between life and death Termination

**Editor-in-Chief's Foreword.** In the last issue of The Inhabited Island, we published an abridged version of the entire story, from start to finish. Here, Tanya describes in more detail the "road of life" that she and her children had to drive. The interview was recorded on August 12, 2022. A video of this excerpt of the interview will be available shortly on YouTube and in our "Inhabited Island" Facebook group. The video recording of the first part of the interview (duration 1 hour 2 minutes) is available on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7\\_68VG\\_OG0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7_68VG_OG0), video trailer for the entire interview (duration 10 minutes) is available at <https://www.facebook.com/olga.belokon.142/videos/5556313681100962?idorvanity=749056416155424>.



**Tatyana Timoshenko**

We were told to count the milestones on the road. The 52nd milestone was supposed to mean that we had broken out of there ... It was so hard; it was so long. The road was not cleared, there were fragments of shells lying on it, which had to be bypassed. I clung to the steering wheel. I understood that everything depended on me, on my car, on my driving skills. I was worried about my car as it was not new or in very good

condition. You realise that when you're driving on shell fragments, you're driving a car, not a tank. The vehicle is not armoured. At any moment, it can stop. I remember stroking the car and begging her, "My girl, get me out of here, take me out ... We've been together for so many years" I didn't want to eat. I wanted to drink. Andrei, a fellow traveller from Gostomel, covered my daughter Lyalya, 11, with himself and said: do not worry, I will cover her with my body. My little one sat silent, and Andrei prayed. We all prayed for only one thing: to get out of this hell as soon as possible. You see, all this

horror: these destroyed buildings, this destroyed overpass, holes in the road surface, piles of stones ... It's one thing when you see it on TV, and it's another thing when you find yourself there.

Sometimes those milestones just weren't there. Then the hysteria began inside. You don't understand where you are, whether you left or not, arrived, or didn't arrive. There were no other signs on the road. They were removed. The territory controlled by Ukraine began after the 52nd milestone, which did not exist ...

When we were met by our guys with chevrons on their sleeves, on an armoured personnel carrier with a Ukrainian flag, there came such a moment, you know, of extraordinary happiness. It's indescribable. You both believe and don't believe. You have not yet reached the cherished goal, there is still a long way ahead of you, Zhytomyr is ahead, they are also shooting there, but here you are already among your own ...

The Ukrainian military accompanied our convoy for a very long time. At one of the checkpoints, they gave us a break, removed the sheets from the hoods of the cars. When we stopped and were able to get out of the cars, my friends and I hugged ... Some of us was crying, some were laughing, some were just silent ... It was a feeling of happiness, but on the other hand, and the understanding that not everyone was so lucky. Not everyone was able to get there. We still do not know the fate of those who rode at the end of our convoy. We

don't know if they've made it. After all, in the beginning there were about 50 cars in the convoy ... I wanted to know that they are all alive ...

We had to decide what to do next. Where to go. We were told that we would not be allowed to enter Zhytomyr because there was fighting there, and we decided to move towards Western Ukraine. Immediately, mobile phones started working. The phone, which was saved, helped a lot. We contacted my aunt, who called her sister, and she said she would accept everyone, me and the kids, and three of my friends. Andrei asked to be dropped off on the road in the Kirovograd region.

I remember the first time we stopped at a petrol station to fill up the car. We had a strange feeling after we had sat in a basement for two weeks without a shower and normal conditions. And here the people were walking around in high heels, drinking coffee and smiling ... I went to the counter to order coffee. The woman in front of me in the queue immediately suggested: please order. When I called my friend to tell her that I was alive, the woman who was standing next to me, having heard my conversation, began to cry ... We went to Rivne, where we were well supported by volunteers.

*How Tanya and her children spent the evening in a hostel for tractor drivers in Rivne, and how volunteers helped them, was told in the first part of this interview. The story continues from the moment when the wonderful dinner with fresh bread in the dining room of the hostel ended.*

We washed up, I put the kids to bed with the hope that tomorrow would be a quiet day. It was such a joy that we finally got out. We went to bed. And then in the middle of the night I woke up because the air raid siren was on. I jumped up in horror (out of habit we slept in our clothes). We're being bombed again! I woke up the kids, grabbed them, ran to the guys in the room and shouted, "Guys, we're being bombed, quick to the bomb shelter!" The commandant ran out: "Where are you going?" — We answered: "We are being bombed! The siren is on!" He said, "No, it's a training siren. Calm down, it's OK." And that's when I remember crying for the first time. I hadn't cried for two weeks. I just couldn't afford it. And then ... I just sat down, and I was overwhelmed... I kept saying, "Lord, when will this stop ..." The female commandant stood, sighed and left. Apparently, she couldn't bear me crying ... Later it turned out that that night the Rivne region was hit, so they turned on the sirens and notified the civilian population that there was shelling.

We slept until morning. We woke and moved to Lviv. When we left Rivne, not only were we given necessities, but women came and gave us bags of food. Some baked pies at night to give to us on the road. It was so nice ... And they cried as they said goodbye to us.

The road was long, and we were taking a detour. On the way we dropped off Andrei, he said goodbye to us. He hugged and

kissed me, said thank you for taking him out. I don't think it's heroic, I just did what I had to do. We keep in touch, now we are good friends. I offered a spare seat in the car to other people, but there were no takers: they were afraid to ride with strangers. At the same time, I know that in Gostomel many left in the same way as Andrei, getting into cars with strangers.

In Lviv, my aunt received us, gave us a room, fed us broth, and we began to get used to the peaceful life, when you can go outside without hiding behind fences, and calmly walk, go to the store and buy something. In Gostomel, all stores were looted. Shopkeepers gave away food for free because they knew they couldn't save it from looters ...

*Tanya, tell me, please, in Rivne, where you were met by volunteers, were you provided with psychological counselling?*  
No. We arrived at 8pm and left the next day at 6am or 7am. It was a short stop. We decided we had to move on.

*Were you registered in Lviv in any way?*

Everyone who came to Lviv could register and get a certificate that they came from the scene of hostilities. But I didn't. My aunt does not live in Lviv itself. And it was dangerous to go for a certificate, since at that time missiles had already begun to strike Lviv. My aunt said she wouldn't let me go to

register I called my husband, and we agreed that I and the children would immediately go from Lviv to Italy to visit my friend.

I left my car in Lviv, at my aunt's yard, the glass in it was broken. After three days on the road driving, I made the decision that I would take the bus to my friend.

*Tanya, were any of your relatives or ac-*

*quaintances killed or raped?*

Not among my relatives, but some acquaintances were. My friend's sister's husband was shot dead. He went out for a smoke and was shot. Men in times of war are identified as soldiers. I was very worried about my son. There have been cases when people committed imprudent acts and paid for them with their lives. There are rules that must be observed in such a situation: you cannot open the door sharply, you cannot jump out into the street when military vehicles pass by or make sudden movements, because these things can lead to fatal shootings. In Irpen, I had to go out under fire (it did not stop), including for milk. I wore light clothes so that it was visible I was a woman, that I was going for milk.

When we drove through Gostomel, it was believed that there was an evacuation, and we moved freely. The atrocities that took place in Bucha and Irpen were committed at the same time, on March 9-10. It was a few kilometres away from us. There, as I understand it, there were other soldiers. People like that — I don't know what to call them ...



We were the first to get out, and we were able to let our neighbors know by text. Following our example, other residents of the village began to leave. Russian soldiers began to move into our homes. They lived in my house for a week. They took what they wanted, slept where they wanted, ate what they wanted. The house was looted. And then, after the departure of the Russian soldiers, locals looted what remained.

We did not have any atrocities, but I want to say that after we left, we received the following information: during the withdrawal of Russian troops, there was an order to the Russian officer who commanded this tank division to clear the village. During such sweeps, people are shot. The officer refused. And he himself was then shot for it. I don't know the name of that officer. He saved lives.

*Where does this information come from?*

As the Russians were retreating from Gostomel and fighting was going on, one wounded Russian soldier was carried into the house of our neighbours. This soldier told them that they

should be grateful to his superior, who had refused to clear the village, and was shot for it. Neighbours said there are even recordings from surveillance cameras that were handed over to the Ukrainian military for investigation.



*Do you have any psychological barriers to communicating with Russians?*

No .... At first, I was shocked when someone addressed me in the Russian language. I think it happened at the subconscious level: Russia is an occupier, an enemy, I am afraid ...

I am madly condemning the Russian regime. I hate Putin, I hate this whole team, I hate the people who support them. We will never forgive this, and we will probably not forgive the Russian people for their silence. Because

their silence means the loss of human lives. Now there is no friendship. And there won't be any.

But there are Russians who support Ukrainians. They actively express their civic position, help both in word and deed. These are the people who will help change the mentality and reach out to those who do not understand what is happening.

## In memory of Vakhtang Kikabidze

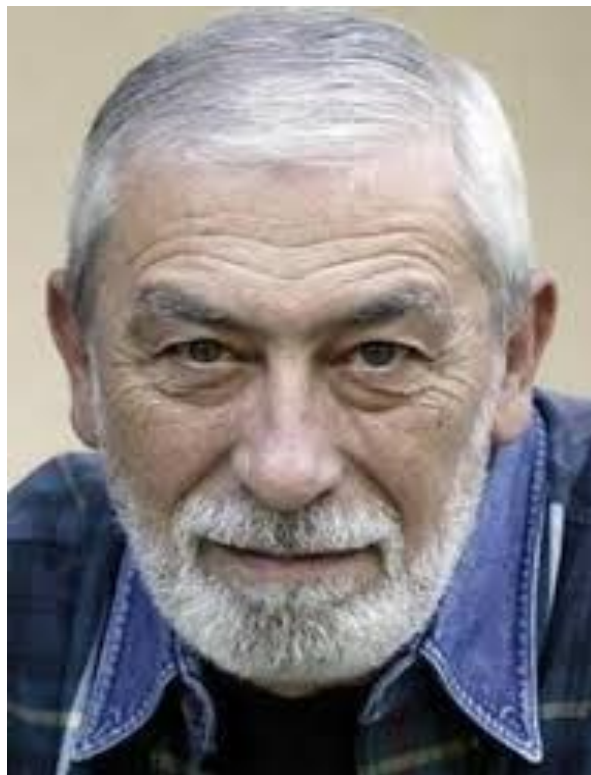


**Olga Belokon**

I remember Vakhtang Kikabidze, who died on 15 January this year aged 84, from the times when he was not yet a well-known and adored film actor and one of the most popular pop singers of the Soviet Union. I remember him from the time when he was a soloist of the vocal and instrumental ensemble Orera. The ensemble originated

in 1958 as an amateur group of students of the Tbilisi Pedagogical Institute. A wonderful musician, Robert Bardzimashvili, gathered and then led the ensemble for many years. Vakhtang Kikabidze joined the ensemble in 1966.

They sang everything: old Georgian folk songs, songs of the peoples of the USSR, Soviet pop songs, songs of the peoples of the world, which musicians brought from numerous foreign trips, classics of the world stage. In total, their repertoire included about 700 songs in 22 languages. Each song they performed could be called a masterpiece. Unusually subtle arrangements, fabulous polyphony, stunningly accurate intonations — everything was fascinating. Especially Russian songs: "Poplars" (Lyrics by G. Kolesnikov, music by G. Ponomarenko), "Vasilki" (words by Y. Khaletsky, music by P. Aedonitsky), Yesenin's poems set to music: "Over the



**Vakhtang Konstantinovich Kikabidze**

<https://www.kino-teatr.ru/kino/acter/m/sov/1949/bio/>





**Ensemble ORERA. From right to left: Zurab Iashvili, Robert Bardzimashvili, Teimuraz Davitaya (bottom), Teimuraz Megvinetukhutsesi (top), Vakhtang Kikabidze and Geno Nadirashvili** <https://tunnel.ru/post-viaorehra-pesnya-moya-zhizn>

"Window for a Month", "You're Still Alive, My Old Woman" and others. As a schoolgirl, I could listen to the Orera records for hours. I never got bored. Their stellar success was completely deserved. Orera actually opened a new musical direction — the synthesis of folk and pop music. Their pop arrangements opened the magical world of Georgian folk songs to millions of listeners. For that, I am eternally grateful to them. Two Orera records, which I repeatedly listened to as a child, travelled with me around the world for 30 years and now stand here in Auckland, on my bookshelf.



**Vakhtang Kikabidze as Benjamin Glonti (Don't Grieve, 1969, left) and pilot Valentin Mizandari (Mimino, 1977, right)**

<https://telegraf.com.ua/lifestyle/2023-01-15/5775507-umer-bolshoy-drug-ukrainy-vakhtang-kikabidze> <https://oteatre.info/umer-vahtang-kikabidze/>

Vakhtang was a favorite in the ensemble, and he was affectionately called Bubo. He received this nickname as a child. Unfortunately, in 1975, due to creative differences, Robert Bardzimashvili left the ensemble and organised a new one, VIA-75, recruiting young graduates of the Tbilisi Conservatory, and Vakhtang Kikabidze became the musical director of Orera, already in a new composition.

Vakhtang Kikabidze's career as a film actor began in the same year in which he began singing in Orera in 1966. Probably,

he was lucky with good directors, and good directors were lucky with him, so the films in which he starred also turned out to be masterpieces: "Do Not Grieve" (1969), "Melodies of the Verian Quarter" (1970), "Mimino" (1977).

In 1981, Kikabidze shot the comedy "Be Healthy, Dear!" based on his script, for which he received the Grand Prix at the Gabrovo Festival in 1983. The last acting work of Kikabidze in 2021 was the shooting in one episode of the seventh season of the series "Matchmakers". In total, Vakhtang's filmography includes more than 20 films.

From the early 1980s until 2008, that is, for about 30 years, Kikabidze lived and worked in Russia. He performed a lot, gave numerous solo concerts in different Russian cities to full houses. Over the years, Vakhtang Kikabidze acquired the cult status of a symbol of Georgia in Russia. Indeed, it was difficult to find a person who equally personified the connection and love between Russians and Georgians.

And in 2008, when the invasion of Georgia began, Vakhtang Kikabidze left Russia forever. He also refused the Order of Friendship of Peoples awarded by President Putin.

In 2011, Kikabidze gave a terrific interview to the BBC, in which he explained why he no longer performed in Russia, where he lived for 30 years. [https://www.bbc.com/russian/multimedia/2011/04/110411\\_kikabidze\\_interview](https://www.bbc.com/russian/multimedia/2011/04/110411_kikabidze_interview). Here are a few excerpts from this interview: ... "Russia is like a second home for me. Understand? Music, art, a lot of friends... I believe it is a great detriment for a person of any nationality to not know Pushkin, Lermontov, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Turgenev or Chekhov ... I really miss not having Russian listeners ... You need to know the Russian language. Because ALL THIS shall pass ... I haven't been going to any Russian city for eight years, not because I want to express some dissatisfaction with the people themselves with this decision, but because I could never imagine that a tank with a Russian flag would enter my land, a tiny republic, and start shooting my brothers here.

Be sure to watch this interview in its entirety (it is short). It will become even clearer to you how to relate to what is happening now in Russia and in Ukraine. And you will see that Vakhtang Kikabidze is not only the personification of Georgian musicality, charm, honour and sense of humour, but also Georgian wisdom.

In 2014, the studio "Kvartal 95" invited Vakhtang Kikabidze to Kyiv to take part in the next "Evening Quarter" (a



<https://tengrinews.kz/music/kikabidze-spel-kievlyanam-chervonu-rutu-gruzinskom-yazyike-272019/>

Ukrainian satirical TV show presented by now President Volodymyr Zelensky). There, with his wit, he eclipsed the experienced comedians of "Evening Quarter" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5EyeRoacLw>. And two years later, in the New Year's issue of "Evening Kyiv", Vakhtang Kikabidze met Zelensky again <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qP3rDsSmeSw>. This is also worth a look.

Ten months ago, Kikabidze recorded a video in which he addressed Ukrainians. Be sure to look at his <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tjD8qhoVRo>. The shortest and most meaningful phrase of this appeal is "GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE."

We lost the Big Man. Rest in peace.

## "Masyanya" as a dystopia



**Tatyana Narozauli**

Commenting on a friend's post in social networks, I discovered Masyanya, the cartoon heroine of a Russian satirical animated series of the same name. She has a large head with a few strands of hair. Why didn't I watch Masyanya before?

We moved to a permanent place of residence in New Zealand in September 2001, and the first series of "Masyanya", created by St. Petersburg artist Oleg Kuvaev, appeared in October of the same year. Oleg distributed the first series via email, and later published it on his Internet page. Then a studio and a website <https://multru.com/> were created, where you can watch "Masyanya" to this day. "Masyanya" first appeared on TV on September 8, 2002, in Leonid Parfyonov's "Namedni" programme. In total, 164 episodes, were created in 21 years. The project is funded by crowdfunding through Patreon: <https://www.patreon.com/kuvaev>. Oleg does everything himself: he draws and voices the characters ...

The title of a recent episode, Russophobe, interested me, and I decided to watch it. The Putin regime's war against Ukraine is over, and Masyanya's boyfriend, Khründel, who had been hiding from "gravedisatation" (a play on words 'mobilisation' combined with the Russian word for 'grave' mogila) for the entire war, has finally climbed out of his hiding place. The couple decided to go outside, and as Masyanya said: "It's as if a neutron bomb was dropped"! Deserted, deserted St. Petersburg resembled disaster films, when after a terrible virus or a nuclear war, only a few people remain alive ... Booming with silence and thus even more terrible, the city is gazing with empty windows. People either died or left the country. Masyanya and Khründel walk through St. Petersburg, loudly ranting in complete silence, and from the buildings terrible

slogans look at them: "Let's die for the old psychopath", "We will not bury our own", "Death to children" and others ... A reverse take on Putin's slogans: "We will die for the Motherland", "We do not abandon our own", "Death to enemies". The conclusion is that in Putin's Russia everything has been turned upside down in recent years. The war unleashed by Putin is unrighteous, terrible and aimless, it takes the lives of innocent Ukrainians, Russian soldiers are abandoned on the battlefield by commanders, and the dead are not buried.

Standing apart is an episode with the Military Tribunal, where the recognisable Foreign Minister Lavrov and other military officials blame Putin for everything. There is a parallel with the Nuremberg Tribunal, where German war criminals justified themselves by saying that they were "Not guilty because they carried out orders."

The episode with the bloodied Russophobe Putin, who climbed out of his bunker, is terrible, ready to devour Masyanya and Khründel, who are huddled in



horror in the corner of the house, but saved by angels who drag the Russophobe to hell. Masyanya and Khründel, like Adam and Eve, will have to start reviving the population of Russia ... The episode ends with a song by Andrei Makarevich: "I will tell you about a country where the light at the crown is in captivity. Where the lips are sealed, where if you want to live you must be silent.

Where for just one phrase you will be jailed at once."

Why is the episode called "Russophobe"? Because along with the thousands of dead and dying Ukrainians, more than 100,000 Russian soldiers died in 10 months of the war. And 1.5 million young Russians left Russia, fleeing from mobilisation. Because a record 11,000 sanctions have been imposed on Russia. Because Ukrainians for many years and generations will not forgive Russia and will hate everything Russian. Because war is terrible, it throws countries back many years, brings destruction and incredible suffering. And because the main Russophobe is not a Ukrainian, not a European, but Russian President Putin.



## From the editors

# New Zealanders in the global action in defence of Alexei Navalny and other political prisoners

The Russian authorities have intensified their crackdown on those who openly call for an end to the war in Ukraine, who are trying to open the eyes of Russian residents to what is happening in their country and who is actually responsible for the bloodbath that has been going on for almost a year.

Two years after Alexei Navalny returned to Moscow and was arrested, rallies were held around the world in support of the opposition politician and creator of the Anti-Corruption Foundation, as well as in support of other political prisoners in Russia. According to Deutsche Welle, Germany, demonstrations took place in 35 countries. Here's how Deutsche Welle describes the events: "There are dozens of participants in Berlin. the demonstrator in front of the Brandenburg Gate chanted the slogans "–Freedom for Navalny", "Putin — to prison", "War criminals - to The Hague", "Glory to Ukraine". In front of the Russian embassy in Berlin, a model of the isolation prison cell, in which Alexei <https://www.dw.com/ru/sizo-navalnego-ustanovili-u-posolstva-rf-v-berline-24012023/video-64503906> has been placed several times, was installed.

New Zealand joined the global action. Ilya Mezentsev describes a Wellington protest: "The action in support of political prisoners in Russia and Alexei Navalny was held as part of the weekly rally in support of Ukraine outside the Russian Embassy on January 18.

About 20 people participated in the rally, most of whom were Kiwis.

The rally began with a prayer song for the dead and wounded in the city of Dnipro as a result of the Russian terrorist attack on Ukraine.

Then I told the audience about Alexei Navalny, Alexei Gori-nov, Ilya Yashin and other political prisoners in the Russia. The traditional song "We Shall Overcome" performed by all

those present was complemented by the verses "Russia will be free" and "Navalny will be free".

Also, Russian-language songs by Olga Arefieva and the vocal group We don't need the war and Viktor Tsoi's "Changes" were performed with a guitar. New Zealanders learned a few

phrases from the choruses.

The action ended with a song in the Maori language, "Aroha."

And here is what Irina Salavato-tova wrote about the protest in Christchurch:

"Almost from the ramp of the Brisbane-Christchurch plane, I went to the rally in support of Alexei Navalny and all political prisoners. We stood outside the Arts Centre near the Canterbury

Museum.

We were approached by an Englishman with his wife and a teenage girl. You could see admiration in their eyes. They told us it was amazing to meet Russians who were openly standing against the president's tyranny and against the war. The family honestly admitted that they didn't know Navalny's last name very well, but they said they would read about him immediately.



**Protest in Christchurch, January 21, 2023**



**Demonstration in Auckland, January 22, 2023**

The second interesting dialogue was with a tall Chinese man. the opposition politician and creator of the Anti-Corruption Foundation, with two sons next to him, who looked about 16-17 years old. The man poked his finger at the poster and said, "Navalny ," " Putin", " Communism", "Ar-mageddon". The man was well aware of who Navalny was."

In Auckland, the demonstration took place in the Viaduct on January 22. Here is what our correspondent, Elena Nikiforova, writes about it on Facebook:

"Auckland today is mercilessly scorching in the sun, 27 degrees in the shade! Despite the heat, quite a few people came to the rally. Thank you to all of you who took the time this hot Sunday to join the action. Russia will be free!"



# New Assistant Police Commissioner to protect ethnic communities



**Elena Nikiforova**

The inauguration ceremony of the new Assistant Commissioner of Police for Auckland and its Regions (Tāmaki Makaurau Assistant Commissioner), Mr. Sam Hoyle, took place on the 25th of January. This new position was created specifically for Auckland in response to the needs of, rapidly growing multinational population of our city and surrounding regions. The audience of the evening was multi-racial and diverse: Chinese, Indians, Latin Americans, Iranians and many other nationalities, including us — representatives of the Russian-speaking community of Auckland. Prior to this new appointment, Sam's position was Senior Liaison Officer for the United States, Canada and South America in Washington DC. In his welcome speech, Sam spoke about how he sees Auckland's interethnic politics. Sam considers the most important priority in working with diverse ethnic communities to be the establishment and maintenance of personal contacts with members of such communities. For the Russian-speaking community of Auckland, this means that we now have our own Ethnic Relations Officer to whom each of us can turn at any time if there are any problems or concerns about the safety of you or your friends and loved ones. If you have something to share with a police officer on ethnic issues, about your personal



Lena Nikiforova and Nadya Dikareva at the inauguration of the new Assistant Police Commissioner for Auckland and its Regions, Sam Hoyle. 25th January 2022, Auckland

safety, or if you see some kind of threat not only to yourself, but also to society as a whole, and it has something to do with ethnicity or nationality, you can always write a letter to [ethnicauckland@police.govt.nz](mailto:ethnicauckland@police.govt.nz) or contact Nadia Dikareva (0210743616) or me (021 082 65472) and we will share with you the contacts of police officers specialising in working with Auckland's ethnic communities.

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## Black humour

Hungry patriots reduced  
Their diet to oats and  
Replaced the Hammer and Sickle  
With a Sledgehammer and a Scythe."

The new slogan of the party "Fair Russia" (this is not a joke)  
Author: Sergey Mironov, leader of the "Fair Russia"

<https://www.svoboda.org/a/nekrofiljskaya-strastj-elity-runet-o-vyhuholi-s-kuvaldoy/32234482.html>

### Explanation

The hammer and sickle symbolise peaceful labour and are the elements of the national emblem of the Soviet Union. A sledgehammer became a symbol of vengeance and violent death after the sledgehammer execution of a Russian defector. The murdered man was a member of a private army controlled by Evgenii Prigozhin. Fighters of this army, who are often recruited among inmates of Russian prisons, can be executed if they disobey orders, try to escape, or surrender. The scythe has been a symbol of death since Europe was devastated by the "Black Death" pandemic in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

"Fair Russia" is a political party that supports all aspects of Putin's policies including the brutal war in Ukraine. Prigozhin sent a sledgehammer to the head of "Fair Russia" Sergey Mironov. Mironov accepted this macabre gift with gratitude and recited a verse about the transition of the emblem symbolising peaceful labour into an emblem symbolising death.





The school "Russian for kids" invites school-age children to study Russian language, literature, mathematics, history and acting. Classes in small groups.

More information about the school: [www.russianforkids.co.nz](http://www.russianforkids.co.nz), <https://www.facebook.com/russianforkids.co.nz/>  
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