

Good evening, As mother nature finally begins to say "okay, here you go. I bring you Spring", we here at Artemus Central are collecting our rakes, our shovels, and our bags of mulch to welcome the long-awaited nice weather. Yet, we all know deeply and profoundly that our world is painful. We know that turmoil and devastation is real in Ukraine. And so, we feel compelled and obligated to at least offer content that addresses the problem and the situation rather than replace it with our usual topics of technology, cybersecurity, and the like. We hope that you're okay with this choice and would love to hear your comments. Please feel free to write to us at :

artemuscg@yahoo.com and/or
manny@etsdesigngroup.com

We thank those FANS who have taken the time to send us great content for both the website and the newsletter! Finally, we'd love to hear from the rest of our FANS...take a moment to send us something that we may share with the Group! Thank you in advance.

KHARKIV: BESIEGED BUT NOT DEFEATED

contributed by Artemus FAN, Jim Dykstra

Written by a Ukrainian friend, whose photos accompany her first person account. Maria escaped Kharkiv, but returned to it early in the unprovoked Russian assault and is there now. [Jim Dykstra] met her when she was here as part of the State Department's Professional Fellows Program. She is very brave.

"The only thing Russia has achieved is a united hatred against Russian occupiers in this once-loyal city."

Devastated buildings in the aftermath of Russian shelling in Freedom Avenue, a street once buzzing with cafes and boutiques. It is just off Freedom Square, Kharkiv's architectural landmark and Europe's second largest city-center square. © Maria Avdeeva



Maria Avdeeva, Contributor

I have stayed in Kharkiv since the first Russian Grad rockets started to shell my home city on the morning of February 24. Until that day, my work was as a security expert and disinformation researcher. Since then, my life has turned into a non-stop marathon of uncovering and documenting Russian lies and war crimes in Ukraine.

Every day, I go out to the destroyed streets of Kharkiv to tell the world the true story of this city. I visit makeshift shelters in school basements and underground stations filled with children and their mothers sleeping in subway train cars. I accompany police and territorial defence units. I see patients in the hallways of Kharkiv hospitals hiding from constant bombardments and meet heroic emergency medicine doctors working under fire.

I have witnessed devastating, unprovoked acts of aggression towards innocent civilians by Russia, which lies only 40 kilometres away from my home – as well as unprecedented heroism and self-sacrifice among the people of Kharkiv.

This is a new nation, and one that will never be crushed by evil powers, no matter what Russia is doing or plotting.

Since February 24, 600,000 people have left this city of 1.5 million by train, and the number of women and children fleeing to safer places is constantly growing. My friends and colleagues who were forced to leave the city have lost everything they had here, and now must adjust to the new reality of the ongoing war. It is very hard to lose your home and even harder to lose your loved ones.

I have never seen Kharkiv so empty, silent, and dark. After days of bombardment, the historical city centre looks like a scene from WWII.

Supermarkets are open only a few hours a day. There are long lines and people simply cannot buy food. On February 28, people who came out of apartments and basements to find water and food were killed during a Russian artillery strike. One video clip showed a woman with horribly wounded legs left lying near a shop—a few days ago, such footage would have been unimaginable in an independent, peaceful European Ukraine.

But the morale of Ukrainian defenders is growing. They know that they are protecting their homes, their wives and children. There's no other option for the people of Ukraine than to fight for every bit of Ukrainian territory, pushing Russian troops out of our country step by step.

"This is Putin's revenge for Kharkiv's refusal to surrender."

Those who remain in Kharkiv are trying to be as helpful as possible to the fight. Many have become volunteers, using their cars to deliver humanitarian aid and help people leave the city. Others are organising food supplies. Men are standing in line to enlist in the territorial defence battalions that will defend Kharkiv and are very upset when they are not accepted due to an excess of volunteers. One colleague, a university professor, has joined the territorial defence fighting Russian troops on the front line. Every day, my only hope is that everyone stays alive.

Evidently, Russia's operations are not going to plan. I myself visited a nearby site where six

Russian military vehicles were destroyed and saw the torched machines with the letter Z on them.

Their troops are suffering major losses: aircrafts, helicopters, tanks, trucks and personnel. Last week, the third Russian major general was killed in Ukraine - Major General Andrei Kolesnikov, commander of the 29th army of Eastern military district. Never in the history of modern warfare has the Russian army suffered such critical losses at the highest levels of command.



Kharkiv always was a majority Russian-speaking city, one that used to be called the "first capital" by those who still remember the Soviet Union, because the Bolsheviks declared it the capital in 1919. Located so close to Russia, it is natural that the city had both close economic and family ties with the neighbouring country.

But now everything is different.

Residential districts are under daily missile strikes by Russian Grads, Hurricanes and Tornados. A rocket struck Kharkiv Freedom Square, one of the largest city squares in Europe, in a clear and highly symbolic attempt to destroy the regional state administration.

Russian troops are deliberately targeting apartment buildings. The civilian death toll grows each day. It is reported that more than 200 civilians have died since the beginning of the war—11 children among them. This is Putin's revenge for Kharkiv's refusal to surrender.

The Kremlin continues to brazenly lie to Russians and the whole world that some mythical liberation operation is taking place in Ukraine. But Russia cannot liberate Ukraine from Ukrainians.

Russia's armed forces are killing my people, but the only thing they have achieved is a united hatred against Russian occupiers in once-loyal Kharkiv. We will not give up. Kharkiv will stand. Kharkiv is united like never before; it was and will be Ukrainian. We will win.

Maria Avdeeva is research director at the European Expert Association.

WHY ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER TOLD RUSSIA TO STOP THE WAR IN UKRAINE

contributed by Artemus FAN, George Jameson

Analysis source: [washingtonpost.com](https://www.washingtonpost.com)

Why did Arnold Schwarzenegger fire the latest salvo in the information war over Ukraine Thursday?

It involves social media pleas, a Ukrainian strongman (of the weightlifting variety), a figure from Donald Trump's first impeachment and a long-ago fatherly admonition that he must "be useful."

"He wasn't asked to do this by the government, or anyone in the government," his chief of staff, Daniel Ketchell, told The Daily 202 in a telephone interview about the action star and former California governor's nine-minute video message to Russia.

In it, the "Terminator" and "Kindergarten Cop" star pleads with Russian President Vladimir Putin to "stop this war" and invokes his father's wounds while serving in the Nazi army, telling troops following Moscow's orders "I don't want you to be broken like my father."

The video adds to international efforts to break through Putin's severe restrictions inside Russia on news and facts about the war. That campaign aims to erode support for the military operation and his regime more broadly, although it's too soon to quantify how much of an impact it's having.

What he said

Schwarzenegger explicitly described his message as a counter to Russian propaganda, relating how Moscow unleashed the violence, has been killing civilians, and faces international condemnation and unprecedented sanctions for its "illegal war."

"I'm speaking to you today because there are things that are going on in the world that have been kept from you, terrible things that you should know about," he said, his message also conveyed in Russian subtitles. "Let me tell you the truth about the war in Ukraine."

Schwarzenegger's team wrote the remarks on Friday, recorded the video on Tuesday, edited it Wednesday, added subtitles and pushed it out Thursday at 4:45 a.m. West Coast time, Ketchell said. (The TikTok version had to be reedited because the platform's logo obscured some of the subtitles.)

Why?

But the story of how he decided to weigh in is more complicated.

He had commented at the war's opening shots, expressing profound sympathy with Ukraine but turning down interviews because, as he put it, "I am not a foreign policy expert."

Two things spurred Schwarzenegger to act further. First, a deluge of pleas on social media for him to speak out again. Ketchell estimated they accounted for a quarter of the people interacting with him.

I love the Russian people. That is why I have to tell you the truth. Please watch and share.



Let me tell you the truth about the war in Ukraine.

Schwarzenegger, continued

Second, meet Olesksii Novikov. At the 2022 Arnold Strongman Classic in Columbus earlier this month, the professional strongman from Ukraine announced to fellow competitors that if he won the \$80,000 first prize, he'd use the cash to buy body armor for Ukrainians.

"Arnold was really struck by that," Ketchell said. When Novikov came in second, Schwarzenegger announced he would give him first-prize money, and the gesture helped to crystallize his thinking on the need to speak out.

While the former California governor's team didn't contact anyone in the Biden administration, "we did reach out to a few Russia experts," including retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman, whom Schwarzenegger knew, Ketchell said.

As a White House national security aide, Vindman sounded the alarm about the telephone call in which Trump pressured Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to announce an investigation into Joe Biden in return for delivery of U.S. military aid. (Vindman did not return a call and an email seeking comment.)

Impact

The experts fact-checked the text to avoid Schwarzenegger "looking like a celebrity who's just popping off," Ketchell said.

The team created an account on Telegram — a social media platform not (yet?) blocked by Russia, and also shared the video on YouTube, Facebook, Reddit and TikTok. Despite being a total Boomer, "arnoldschnitzel" has more than 2 million followers on Snapchat.

The Daily 202 reached out to strategist, futurist, information-war expert and all-around smart guy Peter W. Singer of New America to get a professional read on the video, dissecting the message and assessing its reach.

Singer noted the importance of using Telegram, because Putin has throttled other platforms.

"The question, though, is does it actually reach the target, from a technology standpoint," Singer said. "It's rocketed across Twitter, that doesn't mean it's being seen by big numbers on VK. It's being reported on in The Washington Post, that doesn't mean it's in equivalents in Moscow or St. Petersburg."

And a new Russian law could land people in prison up to 15 years if they share it, he noted.

But Singer said the video showed Schwarzenegger as a "master communicator," highlighting the narrative structure and flow of his message to Russia.

"He begins by sharing a personal story that demonstrates his respect and admiration for Russia. He tells that story of the weightlifter who inspired him as a young man. He shows he visited Russia, and has pride in filming the first movie allowed to shoot in Red Square," said Singer.

Having established his long relationship and affection for Russia, "he then pivots to sharing the emotions, the horror that's happened within Ukraine."

Schwarzenegger also stressed Russians' and Ukrainians' shared identity – and contrasted Russian citizens with the regime they're under.

Schwarzenegger "is very clear to distinguish between the regime and Putin, and the individual Russian soldier and civilian," blaming one side and appealing to the other, Singer said.

The man who will forever be Ah-nuld to many a Gen X-er also drew motivation from something his late father said. "His dad told him to 'be useful,'" Ketchell said. "Every time he does something like this, he feels that's what he's done."



THE COOLEST URBAN DESIGN IDEAS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD...PART TRES

IN GERMANY YOU CAN PLAY "STREET PONG" WHILE WAITING TO CROSS THE ROAD.

In Germany, pedestrians can play ping pong while they wait to cross the road. This installation was created by engineering students from HAWK university and quickly became a hit. Imagine getting to play a quick game of ping pong with a stranger across the street while waiting for the red light. Brilliant!



THIS GLOW-IN-THE-DARK BIKE PATH IN POLAND.



The population of Lidzbark Warmiński in Poland very lucky. Back in 2019, a sun-powered glow-in-the-dark bike path was installed to keep cyclists and pedestrians safe at night. The bike path absorbs sun rays during the day and lights up when it's dark, making this invention not only awesome but environmentally friendly.

THIS WEEK IN THE ARTEMUS WEBSITE'S ARTEMUS SPOTLIGHTS



[BLUE, YELLOW AND GRAY ZONE: THE CYBER FACTOR IN UKRAINE](#)



[NEW, NEW SOLID STATE BATTERY NEWS FROM MIT](#)



[BBC WORLD SERVICE RESURRECTS SHORTWAVE BROADCASTS IN UKRAINE](#)



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Thanks for reading! We hope that you found this issue to be of interest and look forward to YOUR contributions. Pray for Ukraine!