

Manifestations of Nazism, neo-Nazism and xenophobia in Ukraine in 2021

Informational and analytical review

2021

Content	2
Introduction	3
I. Changes in Ukrainian legislation aimed at glorifying Ukrainian collaborators and collaborators of Nazism	4
II. Practical activities of state institutions of Ukraine on glorification of Ukrainian collaborators and accomplices of Nazism	7
1. Decisions of local self-government bodies aimed at glorifying Ukrainian collaborators and collaborators of Nazism	7
2. Various official events and propaganda actions in honor of Ukrainian collaborators and collaborators of Nazism. Participation of church structures in glorification of Nazi collaborators	11
3. Renaming streets in honor of Ukrainian collaborators and collaborators of Nazism	15
4. Ukraine's position on the glorification of Nazism in the international arena	18
III. Public statements of Ukrainian officials, politicians and public figures aimed at falsifying the history of World War II, glorifying Ukrainian collaborators and collaborators of Nazism. Manifestations of anti-Semitism, xenophobia, use of hate speech in the media	19
IV. Manifestations of neo-Nazism in the socio-political life of Ukraine, public activities of radical nationalist groups.	22
1. Support of right-wing radical organizations by state institutions	22
2. Street demonstrations, marches and other public actions of right-wing radical organizations	25
V. Acts of vandalism, desecration of graves and destruction of memorials dedicated to the heroes of the Great Patriotic War	31
VI. Recommendations	34

Introduction

Since 2014, the Ukrainian authorities have been pursuing a consistent policy of glorifying Ukrainian collaborators and collaborators of Nazism. With the support of State institutions, numerous manifestations of neo-Nazism and xenophobia have become an integral part of public and political life in Ukraine. This was the case during the time of President Petro Poroshenko (2014-2019), and the situation has not changed under the current President Vladimir Zelensky.

To date, in accordance with the current Ukrainian legislation, representatives of Ukrainian nationalist organizations that actively collaborated with Nazi Germany on the eve and during World War II have been officially declared "participants of the struggle for the independence of Ukraine".

In November 2021 Ukraine, together with the United States, once again voted against the UN resolution "Combating the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to the escalation of contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance" (Ukraine has held a similar position throughout the five years of Poroshenko's government.)

Throughout 2021, new cases of vandalism, desecration of graves and destruction of memorials dedicated to the heroes of the Great Patriotic War have repeatedly occurred in Ukraine. Moreover, in many cases, acts of vandalism were committed on the initiative and with the direct support of local self-government bodies.

Purpose of this review - to draw the attention of the international community to the manifestations of Nazism, neo-Nazism and xenophobia in the socio-political life of Ukraine in 2021.

In particular, the review addresses the following issues::

1. Changes in Ukrainian legislation aimed at glorifying Ukrainian collaborators and collaborators of Nazism.
2. Practical activity of state institutions of Ukraine on glorification of Ukrainian collaborators and accomplices of Nazism.
3. Public statements of Ukrainian officials, politicians and public figures aimed at falsifying the history of the Second World War, glorifying Ukrainian collaborators and collaborators of Nazism. Manifestations of anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and the use of hate speech in the media.
4. Manifestations of neo-Nazism in the socio-political life of Ukraine, public activities of radical nationalist groups.
5. Acts of vandalism, desecration of graves and destruction of memorials dedicated to the heroes of the Great Patriotic War.

Recommendations on countering manifestations of Nazism, neo-Nazism and xenophobia in Ukraine have also been prepared.

I. Changes in Ukrainian legislation aimed at glorifying Ukrainian collaborators and collaborators of Nazism

December 16, 2020 The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine has adopted a resolution on the celebration of memorable dates and anniversaries in 2021. According to the authors of the resolution, it "determines the list of anniversaries of the most important events in the socio-political life of Ukraine and anniversaries of outstanding personalities, which in 2021 should be celebrated at the national level".

At the same time, the jubilee list included representatives of the Ukrainian nationalist movement who actively collaborated with the Nazi occupiers during World War II. It is worth noting that the authors of the resolution Ukrainian collaborators named "participants of the struggle for the independence of Ukraine". (http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_2?id=&pf3516=4478&skl=10, <https://strana.ua/news/306764-pamjatnye-daty-2021-hoda-koho-vnesli-v-postanovlenie-verkhovnoj-rady.html>)

June 3, 2021 The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine rejected the bill №2797 "On amendments to certain legislative acts of Ukraine concerning the prevention of the glorification of war criminals and the legalization of Nazism." Only 155 deputies voted for the adoption of the bill (with 226 required).

The author of the bill, Verkhovna Rada deputy Maxim Buzhansky, noted that today in Ukraine " people directly connected with the activities of formations that were recognized as criminal during the Nuremberg trials, as well as those who took part in the persecution and mass extermination of Jews and Roma during World War II (the Holocaust), are trying to rehabilitate by reviewing the results of World War II, which may lead to a threat to the territorial integrity of Ukraine."

During the discussion of this issue, the deputy of the Verkhovna Rada Oksana Savchuk said that the soldiers of the SS division "Galicia" – "these are the true heroes of Ukraine." (<https://strana.today/news/336727-verkhovnaja-rada-ukrainy-provalila-zakonoproekt-buzhanskoho-o-zapreteheroizatsii.html>, <https://www.unn.com.ua/ru/news/1931346-rada-vidkhilila-zakonoproekt-buzhanskogo-proti-geroyizatsiyi-viyskovikh-zlochintsev-ta-legalizatsiyi-natsizmu>)

July 1, 2021 A draft resolution No. 5721 "On celebrating the 80th anniversary of the creation of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army" was registered in the Verkhovna Rada. The author of the document is Verkhovna Rada deputy Oksana Savchuk (the only majoritarian MP from the ultra-right Svoboda party in the current convocation of the Verkhovna Rada). The document was co-authored by another 77 deputies from all parliamentary factions and groups, with the exception of the Opposition Platform – For Life (OPPFL) faction. Among the co-authors – leader of the Batkivshchyna faction Yulia Tymoshenko, first Deputy head of the Servant of the People faction Alexander Kornienko, deputies from the Golos and European Solidarity factions, as well as from the deputy groups For the Future and Trust.

In the resolution, deputies propose to the President Zelensky: award the title of Hero of Ukraine to Taras Bulba-Borovets and return it to Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych.

In addition, the resolution suggests:

- holding in October 2022 in the capital of Ukraine – the city of Kiev, regional centers, and other localities of Ukraine solemn events dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the creation of the UPA;

- organization and holding of scientific, scientific and practical conferences, round tables, informational, educational, cultural and other events, thematic exhibitions of archival documents, material monuments and photographic materials, preparation and publication of scientific works, collections of documents and materials, encyclopedic, reference and other publications dedicated to the UPA;

- creation and demonstration of documentaries and feature films dedicated to the struggle of the UPA.

The resolution also recommends that " local self-government bodies ensure the perpetuation of the memory of the UPA's struggle for independence of Ukraine against the Nazi occupiers during World War II and the Moscow-Bolshevik occupation regime." In particular, local authorities are invited to build monuments and carry out new renaming of toponymic objects of settlements in honor of "fighters for the independence of Ukraine in the twentieth century".

(http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=72398,
<https://vesti.ua/politika/zelenskogo-prosyat-vernut-zvanie-geroya-ukrainy-bandere-i-shuhevichu>, <https://interfax.com.ua/news/political/753766.html>)

Comment

The Ukrainian edition of Vesti notes that the draft resolution on the celebration of the 80th anniversary of the UPA is a matter of special pride for the right-wing radical Svoboda party. In 2019 Oksana Savchuk was the only Svoboda candidate who was elected to the Verkhovna Rada from the majority district in Ivano-Frankivsk. Svoboda leader Oleh Tyahnybok on his Facebook page praised his colleague for the initiative and called on Ukrainian parliamentarians to support the document.

(<https://www.facebook.com/oleh.tyahnybok/photos/a.795680543785995/4308100209210660/>)

Ukrainian historian Maxim Kazakov draws attention to the fact that the current official interpretation of the activities of the OUN-UPA during World War II, as well as the date of its creation, do not correspond to real historical facts. According to M. Kazakov, in this way the supporters of the OUN-UPA are trying to create a kind of alibi for it.

*"This date purposefully distorted the chronology of the events of World War II. In fact, the scattered armed detachments of the OUN (b) merged into the UPA in February 1943. **after** The Battle of Stalingrad. The OUN (b) decided to dissociate itself from the Germans, who were doomed to defeat in the war. Several thousand OUN members who served in the occupation police deserted with their weapons and joined the emerging UPA, " Kazakov said.*

The Ukrainian historian recalled that the first documented "triumph of weapons" of the UPA dates back to February 1943 - the destruction of the civilian population in the Polish colony in Volyn that named Paroslya (now Vladimiretsky

district, Rivne region). According to various estimates, the massacre killed between 149 and 173 Poles, whose homes were later burned down. Thus, the mythical date of creation of the UPA on October 14, 1942 performs another important function-to hide the fact that the first "opponents" of the new army were not the Wehrmacht, not the Red Army and not the Home Army, but "unarmed Polish old men, women and children", – M. Kazakov summed up.

As the Vesti newspaper notes, the topic of collaboration of UPA soldiers and their participation in the events of the " Volyn Massacre – - ethnic cleansing of the Polish civilian population – is extremely painful for the official memory policy in today's Ukraine. The vision of the OUN (Bandera) and UPA as a "third force" was formed in the post-war American emigration. It was the Bandera wing that dominated there, and the Melnikovites were in the minority (the OUN-m completely sided with the Nazis in 1941). They say that Bandera spent almost the entire war in the German concentration camp "Sachsenhausen", so there is no reason to talk about his cooperation with the Nazis.

However, the real facts indicate something else. The backbone of the OUN (b) entered Ukraine in 1941 as part of the Roland and Nachtigall battalions of the Wehrmacht. It was Bandera supporters led by Yaroslav Stetsko who on June 30, 1941 proclaimed the "restoration of Ukrainian statehood" under the auspices of Hitler, after which a bloody Jewish pogrom broke out in Lviv.

Despite the fact that Berlin categorically rejected the idea of an "independent Ukraine", the Bandera activist continued to serve the Germans as part of the field police and other auxiliary punitive formations. These formations, by the way, played an important role in the mass extermination of Jews in the territory of the USSR occupied by the Nazis. And in 1944, many of those who served in these formations enlisted in the SS division "Galicia" ("Галичина" - in Ukrainian). (<https://vesti.ua/politika/bandera-i-pogrom-kak-i-pochemu-planiruyut-spravlyat-vosmidesyatiletie-upa>)

II. Practical activities of state institutions of Ukraine on glorification of Ukrainian collaborators and accomplices of Nazism

1. Decisions of local self-government bodies aimed at glorifying Ukrainian collaborators and collaborators of Nazism

January 19, 2021 The Rivne Regional Council appealed to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the Rivne Regional State Administration with a request to submit a submission on awarding the title Hero of Ukraine (posthumously) Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych. This decision was supported by 45 deputies during an extraordinary session of the Rivne Regional Council.

The head of the nationalist public organization "Right Initiative" Alexander Podvishenny called for " the return of historical justice."

"No one has the right to dictate to Ukrainians who are heroes in our country. Because people like Yevhen Konovalts, Roman Shukhevych, Stepan Bandera, Yaroslav Stetsko gave their lives so that we could sing the Ukrainian anthem today."- said Podvishenny.

The head of the regional Council Sergey Kondrachuk also called on deputies to unanimously support this decision. As a result, all 45 deputies present at the session voted for this decision. (<https://vesti.ua/strana/rovenskij-oblsovet-trebuje-dat-bandere-i-shuhevichu-zvaniya-geroev-ukrainy>)

January 29, 2021 The Verkhovna Rada by a majority of votes supported the deputy's request to the President to award the title of Hero of Ukraine (posthumously) to the former soldier of the SS division "Galicia" Mykhailo Mulyk. 267 deputies voted "For".

"I am glad that the parliament understands the feat of the divisionnaires and their invaluable contribution to the preservation of Ukrainian statehood! Glory to the Heroes of Ukraine, " wrote the initiator of the request, Verkhovna Rada deputy Oksana Savchuk, on her Facebook page. (<https://firtka.if.ua/blog/view/veteranu-diviziyi-galichina-mikhailu-muliku-nadali-zvannia-geroi-ukrayini>, <https://suspilne.media/100412-nardepi-progolosuvali-za-prisvoenna-prikarpatському-veteranu-divizii-galicina-geroa-ukraini/>, <https://www.politnavigator.net/rada-prosit-zelenskogo-prisvoit-zvanie-geroya-ukrainy-gitlerovskomu-kombatu.html>)

Comment

It is worth noting that O. Savchuk's deputy request does not mention the full name of the division in which the deceased M. Mulyk served. – 14th SS Grenadier Division "Galicia". Thus, Savchuk, like other Ukrainian right-wing radicals, deliberately ignores the fact that the Galicia division was part of the Waffen-Ss, and Mulyk himself was a war criminal.

It is also worth recalling that the CC troops, including SS Division "Galicia", by the decision of the Nuremberg Tribunal were recognized as a criminal organization. Despite this, today Ukrainian nationalists in every possible way glorify the ex SS soldiers, and they prefer to talk about the division itself as a unit that "fought for the independence of Ukraine and against the Soviet occupation"

February 16, 2021 Lviv Regional Council appealed to the Cabinet of Ministers and the Verkhovna Rada regarding the granting of legal status to the participants of the [SS division "Galicia"](#). This decision was supported by 57 deputies out of 84 (two did not vote, the rest were absent).

Deputies of the Lviv Regional Council insist on amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On the legal status and memory of fighters for independence of Ukraine in the XX century" regarding the status of "soldiers of the First Ukrainian Division"Galicia".

"Division players are still not recognized at the state level, they are deprived of social guarantees and benefits. Most of them are not rehabilitated. In order to restore historical justice, we appeal to you to initiate for consideration by the Verkhovna Rada the issue of amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On the legal Status and honoring the memory of fighters for the independence of Ukraine in the XX century," the Regional Council said in its appeal. (<https://strana.news/news/318229-lvovskij-oblsovet-prosit-kabmin-i-radu-o-priznanii-na-hosurovne-bojtsov-halichiny.html>)

Comment

It is worth noting that in the appeal of the Lviv Regional Council, the SS division" Galicia "is called "Halychyna".The first Ukrainian division "Galicia". Once again, we have to state that today in Ukraine, supporters of the rehabilitation and glorification of this division deliberately falsify historical facts. Meanwhile the real name of this armed group is – 14th SS Grenadier Division Galicia (German-14. Waffen-Grenadier-Division der SS «Galizien»). The division was part of the Waffen-SS and fought as part of the armed forces of Nazi Germany in World War II.

Since 1943, units of the division took part in combat operations against partisans in France, Poland, Yugoslavia and punitive actions against civilians in Western Ukraine. From the autumn of 1943 to the spring of 1944, units of the division carried out punitive operations in the south-east of Poland (where only in one village – Guta Peniatska, 172 houses were burned and more than 500 people, including women and children, were brutally killed).

After the Soviet defeat at Brody in 1944, the SS Galicia Division was re-formed and took part in the suppression of the Slovak anti-Nazi uprising and in battles with Yugoslav partisans.

March 5, 2021 The Ternopil City Council decided to name the Ternopil City Stadium after one of the leaders of the OUN, the "commander-in-chief" of the UPA Roman Shukhevych. As explained by the Mayor of Ternopil Sergey Nadal, the stadium was renamed on March 5, as it is the day of memory of Shukhevych.

"The commander-in-Chief of the UPA was not only an exemplary commander, but also a good athlete and a leader in many sports. And right now in Ternopil, the XI sports and patriotic competition "Shukhevych Cup" is being held," Nadal said.

The initiative of the mayor of Ternopil to name the stadium after Shukhevych was supported by deputies of the City Council unanimously.

https://zaxid.net/na_chest_romana_shuhevicha_u_ternopoli_nazvali_golovniy_misky_stadion_n1515395)

Comment

Roman Shukhevych actively collaborated with Nazi Germany in 1939-1942: he studied at the secret Abwehr school, served in German armed units, was a deputy commander in the Abwehr Nachtigall special unit with the rank of Hauptmann (captain), and from November 1941 deputy commander of the 201st Schutzmannschaft battalion, a German unit subordinate to the SS. According to the Israeli Yad Vashem Center for Holocaust Studies, the center's archives have preserved a selection of documents obtained from German and Soviet sources that indicate the involvement of the Nachtigall battalion under the command of Shukhevych joined punitive operations against the civilian population of Lviv in the summer of 1941.

Israeli Ambassador to Ukraine Joel Lyon condemned the decision of the Ternopil City Council to rename the city stadium in the city stadium named after the Commander-in-Chief of the UPA R. Shukhevych. He wrote about this on Twitter on March 9, 2021.

"We strongly condemn the decision of the Ternopil City Council to name the city stadium after the infamous hauptman Roman Shukhevych and demand the immediate cancellation of this decision," said Joel Lyon. (<https://strana.news/news/321792-posol-izrailja-trebuje-otmenit-reshenie-o-prisvoenii-ternopolskomu-stadionu-imeni-shukhevicha.html>)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine has responded to Israel's condemnation of naming the Ternopil Stadium after Roman Shukhevych. Press Secretary of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry Oleg Nikolenko called the renaming of the stadium in honor of Shukhevych "preserving the national memory of the Ukrainian people." He wrote about this on his Twitter account.

"Preserving the national memory of the Ukrainian people remains one of the priorities of the state policy of Ukraine. Discussions in this area should take place at the level of historians. At the same time, diplomats should work to strengthen relations of friendship and mutual respect between peoples, and not vice versa," Nikolenko said. (<https://strana.news/news/321930--nikolenko-otvetil-poslu-izrailja-na-trebovanie-otmenit-pereimenovanie-stadiona-shukhevicha.html>)

March 10, 2021 The mayor's office of the city of Zamostie in Poland, after the news about the renaming of the city stadium in Ternopil in honor of R. Shukhevych, announced the severance of partnership relations with Ternopil. This is stated in the statement of the Zamostie authorities.

"We regret to state the fact that on March 5, deputies of the Ternopil City Council named the city stadium after Roman Shukhevych, the head of the UPA, responsible for the brutal murders of the Polish population in 1943-44," the Zamostie city authorities said in a statement.

The statement also said that the murders took place in Volyn, Ternopil region, Galicia and in the modern Ivano-Frankivsk region.

<https://strana.news/news/321998-merija-polskoho-zamostsja-razorvala-otnoshenija-s-ternopolem-iz-za-stadiona-shukhevicha.html>

The Institute of National Memory of Poland has protested over the naming of the stadium in Ternopil after Roman Shukhevych. This is stated in a message posted on the institute's Facebook page.

"Roman Shukhevych, as the leader of the OUN, was one of the most ardent supporters of the brutal purges and physical extermination of the Polish population. The Ukrainian glorification of Roman Shukhevych insults the memory of Polish, Jewish and Ukrainian victims of the Ukrainian nationalists of the OUN-UPA. This anti-Polish ethnic cleansing carried out by Ukrainian nationalists was genocide," the report says.

The Institute of National Memory of Poland recalled that in 1943-1945, the UPA killed about 100,000 Poles in Volyn and Eastern Malopolska (Small Poland).
<https://strana.news/news/322196-polskij-institut-natspamjati-protestuet-protiv-stadiona-shukhevicha-v-ternopole.html>

March 15, 2021 The press service of the Ternopil City Council told the publication "Ukrainian News" that the Ternopil City Council does not intend to cancel its decision to assign the city stadium the name of UPA commander Roman Shukhevych.

"No, it will not (cancel its decision)," representatives of the City Council said.

Employees of the City Council also reminded that near the stadium named after Shukhevych, there is also a street of the same name, "named by deputies of the first democratic convocation." <https://ukranews.com/news/762643-stadion-imeni-shuhevicha-v-ternopole-pereimenovyvat-ne-budut>

March 17, 2021 The Simon Wiesenthal Center, an international human rights organization dedicated to combating terrorism and anti-Semitism, has written a letter to FIFA President Gianni Infantino asking him to respond to the renaming of the city stadium in Ternopil in honor of UPA commander-in-Chief Roman Shukhevych.

The head of the organization, Shimon Samuels, asked FIFA to influence the Ukrainian Football Association to refuse to hold matches at the stadium until it is renamed "in the spirit of the FIFA charter."

Samuels called R. Shukhevych a "Nazi collaborator" and said that "FIFA should not be associated with the abuse of football in the service of hatred."

In addition, the organization called on FIFA President Gianni Infantino to bring this issue up for discussion during the FIFA Congress scheduled for May this year. <https://www.wiesenthal-europe.com/en/news-releases-2021/784-wiesenthal-centre-calls-on-fifa-naming-ternopil-stadium-after-a-nazi-collaborator-sullies-football-worldwide>, <https://hromadske.ua/ru/posts/evrejskaya-pravozashitnaya-organizaciya-obratilas-v-fifa-iz-za-pereimenovaniya-stadiona-v-ternopole-v-chest-shuhevicha>

Comment

"Simon Wiesenthal Center" – A public organization based in Los Angeles that works to protect human rights, fight terrorism, anti-Semitism, and study the Holocaust. The center is named after Holocaust researcher Simon Wiesenthal, who

after World War II dedicated his life to finding Nazi criminals who escaped punishment for their crimes.

July 13, 2021 The Lviv Regional Council has adopted an appeal to the Verkhovna Rada and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine regarding "ensuring appropriate organizational and legal conditions for celebrating the 80th anniversary of the creation of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army at the state level."

The appeal states that "in order to recognize the historical significance of the struggle of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army and honor the military victory, it is necessary to hold events at a decent level to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the creation of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, involving the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, local self-government bodies, socio-political organizations, schools and higher educational institutions."

The deputies of the Lviv Regional Council also called on the Verkhovna Rada to adopt a resolution "On celebrating the 80th anniversary of the creation of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army" (No. 5721 of 01.07.2021), according to which the President of Ukraine is proposed to award the title Hero of Ukraine to Taras Bulba-Borovets and return the title Hero of Ukraine to Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevych. (<https://lvivoblrada.gov.ua/articles/oblasna-rada-zaklikaje-vidznachiti-na-derzhavnomu-rivni-80-richchya-stvorenniya-ukrajinskoji-povstanskoji-armiji>)

August 4, 2021 The head of the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State Administration Svitlana Onishchuk signed an order on the distribution of funds for additional payments. "for veterans" OUN-UPA. For these purposes, the regional budget allocated 2.6 million hryvnias (approximately 7.1 million rubles) for payments. The one-time payment amount is three thousand hryvnias per person per month. (<https://www.if.gov.ua/npas/pro-rozpodil-koshtiv-na-dodatkovy-viplati-veteranam-oun-upa>)

October 7, 2021 Lviv Regional Council voted to declare the year 2022 in the Lviv region the year of the UPA. Lviv intends to prepare a whole list of events in honor of the 80th anniversary of the creation of the UPA. Deputies plan to consider the plan of celebrations by December 1 of this year.

"This is a very important initiative and such an event should be properly celebrated at the regional and all-Ukrainian levels through perpetuating the memory of UPA soldiers, organizing various large – scale events, awareness-raising and conducting research," Svyatoslav Sheremeta, chairman of the Regional Council Commission on Culture and Information policy, said during his speech. (<https://vesti.ua/strana/vo-lvovskoj-oblasti-2022-god-obyavili-godom-upa>)

2. Various official events and propaganda actions in honor of Ukrainian collaborators and collaborators of Nazism. Participation of church structures in glorification of Nazi collaborators

January 1, 2021 representatives of the "clergy" of the OCU of the city of Ivano-Frankivsk during the celebration of the 112th anniversary of the birth of the founder of the OUN (b) S. Bandera, after the "memorial service" for him, sang the

nationalist song "Our Father Bandera" ("Our Father Bandera" – in Ukrainian). A video about this was posted on his Facebook page by the mayor of the city Ruslan Martsinkiv. The song is about UPA "rebels" beating "Moscovites". The nationalist song was performed by the "priests" of the Holy Trinity Cathedral of the OCU.

The representative of the OCU "Archimandrite" Feognost Bodoryak said that the "memorial service" for Stepan Bandera was held on the European Square of Ivano-Frankivsk. (<https://spzh.news/ru/news/76824-v-ivano-frankovske-svyashhenniki-pcu-speli-batyko-nash-bandera>)

May 7, 2021 a priest in Ivano-Frankivsk UGCC Roman Terletsky consecrated a memorial sign in honor of Mykhailo Mulyk, a member of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) and a veteran of the SS infantry division Galicia, opened by local authorities on the "Alley of Honorary Frankovites".

A Uniate priest who serves as a chaplain at the central hospital of Ivano-Frankivsk, said at the opening ceremony that his grandfather also served in the SS division "Galicia", which during The World War II participated in punitive and military operations on the side of Nazi Germany against partisans in Europe and Ukraine.

"My grandfather is also Mikhail and also participated in the liberation wars and the Galicia division. May our grandfathers from heaven help us keep the love for Ukraine in our hearts," said Roman Terletsky, a cleric of the UGCC. (<https://spzh.news/ru/news/79677-klirik-ugkc-osvyatil-v-ivano-frankovske-pamyatnyj-znak-o-voine-ss-galichina>, <https://galka.if.ua/na-aleyi-vydatnyh-frankivcziv-urochysto-vidkryly-vidznaku-ounivczyu-myhajlovi-mulyku-foto/>)

Comment

It is worth recalling that the creation of the SS infantry division "Galicia" (Germ. 14. Waffen-Grenadier-Division der SS «Galizien») Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky of the UGCC gave his blessing, and by his decision Uniate priests were sent to the division, headed by Chief Chaplain of the SS Obersturmbannführer Vasyl Laba.

The Nuremberg Tribunal recognized the SS Galicia Division, among all other SS units, as a criminal organization that committed war crimes. In 2016, the Polish Parliament qualified the crimes of the division's soldiers against the Polish population as genocide.

June 13, 2021 In Kiev, St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral hosted a farewell ceremony for former soldier of the SS division "Galicia", Orest Vaskul. The presidential regiment participated in the funeral.

Vaskul was born in the village of Serafintsy in Austria-Hungary. In 1943, he volunteered for the SS Division Galicia. While fighting in its composition, he was shell-shocked at Brody, was captured by the Soviets and exiled to the Bashkiria. After 1991, Vaskul was a member of the OUN Main wire(b) and chairman of the Kiev Regional Brotherhood of the OUN-UPA. In 2006, he ran for election to the Verkhovna Rada as a member of the ultra-right Svoboda party.

Verkhovna Rada deputy Maxim Buzhansky spoke about the funeral of an SS man in the main cathedral of the OCU.

"I have nothing and cannot have anything against the funeral service, but I became interested in who sent soldiers of the presidential regiment to this event, in particular, after the reaction of the Presidential Office to the march of SS men on April 28 in Kiev. Agree, if the presidential regiment is sent to an honorary funeral of SS men, then what complaints can there be about the SS marching?" asked Buzhansky rhetorically. (<https://vesti.ua/strana/prezidentskij-polk-uchastvoval-v-pohoronah-veterana-ss>, <https://nk.org.ua/politika/v-glavnom-sobore-ptsu-ustroili-proshchanie-s-chlenom-divizii-ss-galichina-pri-uchastii-prezidentskogo-polka-00456065>)

June 30, 2021 Festive events were held in Lviv on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the proclamation of the so-called "Act of Restoration of the Ukrainian State".

He took part in the events and gave a welcoming speech First Deputy Mayor of Lviv Andriy Moskalenko.

"In recent years, we have witnessed the Russian-Ukrainian war, which once again demonstrates the willpower from which the whole world is delighted and sees the real strength of Ukraine. Every hero who defends the independence of our state, defended and will continue to defend, is a great honor and praise," Moskalenko said.

(<https://city-adm.lviv.ua/news/culture/286576-u-lvovi-vidznachyly-80-tu-richnytsiu-proholoshennia-aktu-vidnovlennia-ukrainskoi-derzhavnosti>, <https://loda.gov.ua/news?id=60218>)

Comment

«Act of Proclamation of the Ukrainian State» – this is a document that was announced at a meeting convened at the initiative of the OUN on the evening of June 30, 1941, in Lviv, after the first units of the Hitlerite Wehrmacht entered the city in the morning of the same day, supported by members of the OUN marching groups and soldiers of the Nachtigall battalion.

The third article of this act reads as follows: "The newly created Ukrainian state will work closely with National Socialist Greater Germany, which under the leadership of its leader Adolf Hitler is creating a new order in Europe and the world and helping the Ukrainian people to free themselves from Moscow's occupation."

August 18, 2021 in the village of Lityn, Vinnytsia region, solemn commemorative events were held in honor of the 110th anniversary of his birth Nazi war criminal, commandant of the Ukrainian police and auxiliary police Rovno, participant in the mass murder of 30 thousand Jews Omelyan Grabets. This was announced on his Facebook page by the head of the Ukrainian Jewish Committee Eduard Dolinsky.

A delegation of the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance arrived in Lityn to participate in the anniversary celebrations. Participants of the celebrations laid flowers at the memorial plaque to Omelyan Grabets. A memorial procession was held along Omelyan Grabets Street.

A round table "110 years of Omelyan Grabets" was held in the assembly hall of the Lityn Museum of Local history. The participants of the round table addressed the local authorities with a recommendation to assign the name of Omelyan Grabets

to the Lityn sports complex. (<https://klymenko-time.com/novosti/nikakogo-fashizma-net-v-vinniczkoj-oblasti-sostoyalos-meropriyatie-v-chest-naczistskogo-prestupnika-i-uchastnika-holokosta-nitr/>,
<https://www.facebook.com/eduard.dolinsky/posts/4613384688693563>)

Comment

Omelyan Grabets was born in 1911 in Galicia, which was then part of Austria-Hungary. An active member of the OUN. With the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, Grabets participated in the OUN's operations against Soviet partisans. When the Nazis occupied Rovno, he enlisted in the auxiliary police and became a commandant.

Grabets is a direct participant in the mass murder of about 30 thousand Jews in Rivne and the surrounding area, participated in all stages of the extermination of Jews: pogroms, organizations the ghetto, robberies, violence, use of slave labor, organization of hunger, beatings and mass destruction. In 1943, he defected from the German police and again joined the OUN-UPA. In 1944, he was killed in a battle with a detachment of the NKVD.

September 1, 2021 The publishing house of the Verkhovna Rada has published the book "Taras Bulba-Borovets: We cannot stop our struggle for a minute". The laudatory publication is dedicated to the Nazi war criminal, commandant of the auxiliary police, ataman-pogromist Bulba-Borovets. The book was purchased by the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine for distribution in Ukrainian libraries. At the same time, the book does not contain any references to the participation of Bulba-Borovets in crimes against humanity and the extermination of Jews.

(<https://vesti.ua/opinions/minkult-zakupaet-dlya-bibliotek-knigu-o-natsistskom-voennom-prestupnike>)

Comment

Bulba-Borovets began his criminal activity during the war by organizing a Jewish pogrom in the town of Sarny. After the end of the pogrom, Bulba-Borovets headed the Ukrainian militia of the Sarny district, which, together with the Germans, began the systematic extermination of Jews in small towns and villages of the district. This police unit was called "Poliska Sich".

In Olevsk, where the headquarters of "Sich" is located, Jewish pogroms also took place. American historian Jared McBride describes how Bulba-Borovets' subordinates beat, humiliated and maimed Jews in the summer of 1941.

Since September 1941, the Sich fighters were engaged in the protection of the ghetto in Olevsk. In November 1941, the entire Jewish population of Olevsk-more than 500 men, women and children – were shot by the Germans and the "Poliska Sich" fighters.

The first pogrom "Sich" staged in Olevsk in early July 1941. They dragged 40 Jews to the river, beating them with rifle butts and forcing them to get up and fall flat in the mud. Women were beaten with pistols.

The testimonies speak of the participation of Bulba-Borovets himself, who ran over the unfortunate victims with a cart. As a result of this massacre, dozens of Jews

were injured, a baker and another Jew were killed. Their bodies were left to rot nearby.

Sich soon turned its attention back to the Jews. This time, they were tortured in the courtyard of its headquarters. About 300 Jews were forced to tear out the grass with their teeth. The Sicheviks laughed and beat them with whips and rifles.

The last known episode was the mass murder of Olevsk Jews in the village of Varvarovka, where they were taken by "bulbovtsy", mocking the victims on the way.

In the testimony of Hitl FIALKOV from Vysotsk, it is said that the "Bulbovtsy" sought out, killed and tortured Jews. Not far from Vysotsk, "bulbovtsy" found and killed 40 Jews hiding in the forest.

Bulba-Borovets published its own newspaper "Gaydamaka". In November 1941, the soldiers of Borovets under the command of the Germans shot all the Jews of Olevsk-535 people, as his newspaper solemnly reported on November 22.:

"We, as the public of the Olevsky district, should thank Poleskaya Sich for the work it has done to eliminate partisanship and dirt. The parasitic nation of Jews, which sucked blood from a living human body with a leech, was destroyed.

The wise hand of the brilliant leader of the great German people, Adolf Hitler, gave us a bright future and now we are confident that the entire population of Europe will put up a golden monument to him in his homeland in Braunau during his lifetime.

Let the good memory of the Poliska Sich and its command live on!"

September 27, 2021 in the Ternopil region, a solemn reburial of three UPA fighters took place. The burial ceremony was led by "Archbishop of Ternopil and Kremenets" of the so-called "Orthodox Church of Ukraine" (OCU) Nestor.

The reburial ceremony was held with the participation of the honor guard of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the leadership of the Ternopil Regional Council headed by Mykhailo Golovko, and the Kremenets Regional State Administration.

"The reburial was attended not only by officials, deputies of local councils, residents of nearby villages. It is important that the soldiers of the forty-fourth separate artillery brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine give the last salvo over the grave of UPA soldiers. Today, the Ukrainian State has paid its last debt to its heroes," Vladislav Kutsenko, a representative of the Ukrainian Institute of National Remembrance, summed up. (<https://uinp.gov.ua/pres-centr/novyny/troh-voyakiv-upa-perepohovaly-z-viyskovymy-pochestyamy-na-ternopilshchyni>)

3. Renaming streets in honor of Ukrainian collaborators and collaborators of Nazism

July 5, 2021 in The city of Khmelnytsky was renamed 24 toponyms: 13 streets, 10 lanes and one passage. Thank you for your decision deputies of Khmelnytsky city council voted. In particular, deputies renamed Alexander Matrosov Street into Dmitry Dontsov Street, Matrosov Lane into Dmitry Dontsov Lane, Alexey Maresyev Street into Ulas Samchuk Street.

"In the spring, our public organization appealed to the mayor with a request to rename a number of place names and we were heard. Thus, the city no longer has

Suvorov, Kutuzov, Chernyshevsky and Marshal Peresypkin streets. De-Russification continues, although very slowly, "said the coordinator of the project" Decommunization. Ukraine " Vadim Pozdnyakov.

(https://rus.lb.ua/society/2021/07/15/489437_hmelnitskom_pereimenovali_u_litsi.html)

Comment

The head of the Ukrainian Jewish Committee, Eduard Dolinsky, commented on the renaming of streets in Khmelnytsky on his Facebook page.

"The street named after Hero of the Soviet Union Alexander Matrosov will now be named after the Nazi collaborator of the anti-Semite, ideologist of nationalism Dmytro Dontsov. With his" works "Dontsov incited hatred towards Jews, Russians, Poles, thereby contributing to the destruction of innocent people," Dolinsky wrote.

Dontsov publicly called for a repetition of the Third Reich's policy in Ukraine, in particular, for the use of Hitler's methods to solve the " Jewish question." Almost every article he wrote after 1933 and before the outbreak of the war promoted fascism and preached hatred of Jews and Poles.

The street of Hero of the Soviet Union pilot Alexey Maresyev was even less lucky – now it will be named after the Nazi collaborator, publisher of the anti-Semitic newspaper Volyn Ulas Samchuk.

Samchuk not only promoted anti-Semitism, but also took a direct part in the Holocaust – he was an accomplice in the mass extermination of more than 20 thousand Jews in Rivne.

Ulas Samchuk was an employee of the Ministry of Propaganda of the Nazi Reich. True to the precepts of Dr. Goebbels, he arrived in Ukraine with the Nazi invaders and immediately engaged in information manipulation and solving the "Jewish question".

The situation with such an openly Nazi approach to renaming streets was also commented on in his blog. Twitter well-known Donetsk political scientist Vladimir Kornilov.

"In Khmelnytsky, Maresyev Street was renamed in honor of Ulas Samchuk, who praised Hitler and rejoiced in the shooting at Babi Yar (he called it "cleansing Kiev of Eastern barbarians"). Soon, on the 80th anniversary of Babi Yar, you will see Zelensky shedding crocodile tears, " he wrote.

(<https://www.facebook.com/100000662320481/posts/4510736295625070>, <http://np.ks.ua/vlada/v-hmelnitskom-dekommunizirovali-ulitsy-mareseva-i-matrosova.html>)

November 4, 2021 The Kiev City Council renamed 12 streets and alleys and established the names of 2 squares, a square and a street.

In particular, in the Svyatoshinsky district of Kiev, the street that bore the name of the Soviet intelligence officer, Hero of the Soviet Union Nikolai Kuznetsov, was renamed Oles Babiy Street – a collaborator, OUN activist. (<https://ukranews.com/news/812054-v-kieve-pereimenovali-ryad-ulits-i-pereulkov-spisok-novyh-nazvanij>)

Comment

Oles Babiy (1897-1975) - Ukrainian writer and OUN activist, author of the "March of Ukrainian Nationalists" (OUN anthem). During the war, he collaborated with the Nazi invaders, before the arrival of the Soviet troops and the liberation of Ukraine from the Nazis in 1944, he fled to Germany, and after the war he moved to the United States.

Deputy of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Maxim Buzhansky commented on the renaming of Mykola Kuznetsov Street by the Kyiv City Council to Oles Babiy Street:

"On the 78th anniversary of the liberation of Kiev from the Nazis, the city Council renamed Mykola Kuznetsov Street into Oles Babiy Street.

For reference, Nikolai Kuznetsov personally eliminated 11 German generals and officials of the occupation administration during the Great Patriotic War. In turn, Oles Babiy came to Ukraine after the Nazis in 1941, and left it with them in 1944.

Who spent the war how, the story of one street".

The head of the Ukrainian Jewish Committee, Eduard Dolinsky, also sharply criticized the decision of the Kyiv City Council.:

"The Kyiv City Council has renamed the street named after the heroic anti-Fascist scout Mykola Kuznetsov into the street named after the Nazi collaborator, anti-Semite and accomplice of the Holocaust Oles Babiy.

On August 22, 1941, the Ukrainian police and the Nazis arrested a thousand Jews in Stryi. They were herded into the magistrate's courtyard, where they were tortured, beaten, starved and thirsty in front of everyone. Some of them died on the spot, the rest were shot.

On August 31, 1941, the newspaper *Strijski Visti* published an article by Oles Babiy in which he announced the end of the "Jewish tyranny":

"Many of us understand that the imminent fall of Bolshevism is a triumph of light, of European culture over the darkness of Jewish sadism.

Under the Jewish - internationalist regime, the Ukrainian people were condemned to a slow death."

The article blamed Jews for all the troubles of Ukrainians and actually justified the extermination of Jews.

With the moral and intellectual support of the poet Babiy, 12,000 Jews of Stryi were completely exterminated, as were one and a half million Jews of Ukraine, as well as the Jews of Helm, where Babiy conducted his anti-Semitic propaganda.

In 1944, Babiy fled with his Nazi masters to Germany, later moving to the United States.

Shameful and criminal renaming of the street took place with the support of the secretary of Kyivrada (Klitschko's party) Vladimir Bondarenko, MP Marina Poroshenko (wife of ex-President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko), Institute of National Memory and amateur ornithologist Vakhtang Kipiani.

Musician Andrey Antonenko, accused of murdering journalist Pavel Sheremet, also came to support the renaming."

<https://ukranews.com/news/812105-maksim-buzhanskij-kto-kak-provel-voynu-istoriya-odnoj-ulitsy>, <https://golospravdy.eu/eduard-dolinskij-kiievskij-gorsoviet-pereimenoval/>)

4. Ukraine's position on the glorification of Nazism in the international arena

On November 12, 2021, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution on combating "the glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to the escalation of contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", proposed by the Russian Federation. voted against.

121 countries voted for the document, 53 states abstained, and only two countries-the United States and Ukraine-voted against it.

The resolution recommends that countries take measures, including in the legislative and educational fields, to prevent the revision of the results of the Second World War and the denial of crimes against humanity, as well as war crimes committed during the war.

Moreover, the authors of the document condemn incidents that are associated with the glorification and propaganda of Nazism. In particular, they include the application of graffiti and drawings of pro-Nazi content, including on monuments to victims of World War II.

<https://strana.today/news/362001-ssha-i-ukraina-proholosovali-protiv-rezoljutsii-rf-o-borbe-s-heroizatsiej-natsizma.html>)

III. Public statements of Ukrainian officials, politicians and public figures aimed at falsifying the history of World War II, glorifying Ukrainian collaborators and collaborators of Nazism. Manifestations of anti-Semitism, xenophobia, use of hate speech in the media

Ukrainian Institute of National MemoryI sent out a training manual about how to celebrate Victory Day. It states that "100-thousandth UPA" fought against Nazism on the side of the anti-Hitler coalition. This was announced on May 7, 2021 in Facebook head of the Ukrainian Jewish Committee Eduard Dolinsky, attaching an extract from the manual.

"On the side of the United Nations, Ukrainians fought in the armies of Great Britain and Canada (45 thousand), Poland (120 thousand), the USSR (more than 7 million), the USA (80 thousand) and France (6 thousand), as well as the liberation movement in Ukraine (100 thousand in the UPA) – together more than 7 million people", - says the new tutorial. (<https://vesti.ua/politika/institut-natspamyati-vypustil-metodichku-o-tom-kak-otmechat-den-pobedy>, <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=4303941802971188&set=a.783668934998510>)

May 17, 2021 ex-deputy of the Verkhovna Rada from the nationalist Svoboda partyIryna Farion said that the SS division "Galicia" in Ukraine will be honored at the state level. She said this on the air of the program "Hard with Vlashchenko".

"The SS Division Galicia fought against the Russian army-this is the answer to all my questions. Galicians then, in addition to the fact that they went to the Ukrainian the rebel army, they chose another way – to find a cool training, learn from the enemy and then fight this enemy, which they did, " Farion said.

She noted that after the defeat at Brody, the survivors went to the UPA.

"I am sure that in five years they will be as revered by the state as the Ukrainian Rebel Army. I've done everything for this — at least two studies: about the mastermind of the Galicia division Vladimir Kubiyovich, an outstanding cartographer, and a separate study about the division. These are heroes, " Farion said. (<https://sharij.net/farion-rasskazala-kogda-diviziyu-ss-galichina-budut-chestvovat-na-gosudarstvennom-urovne>)

The Minister of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, Alexander Tkachenko, actually equalized the role of the USSR and Nazi Germany in the Babi Yar tragedy, saying that at the site of the mass murder of Kiev Jews by the Nazis lie the "victims of totalitarian regimes".

About this Tkachenko said October 6, 2021 at the premiere of Sergei Loznitsa's film "Babi Yar", which took place in Babi Yar. (<https://strana.today/news/356339-aleksandr-tkachenko-uravnjal-vinu-natsistov-i-sssr-za-babij-jar.html>)

Comment

Verkhovna Rada deputy Maksym Buzhansky criticized the statement of Minister Tkachenko.

"So, those who gathered more than a hundred thousand people and shot them in Babi Yar, and those who fought on foot from Stalingrad to Auschwitz, broke down the gates and stopped the gas chambers, are the same thing?"

Maybe the minister should go further and assume that, for example, half a million Jews who served in the Red Army is the same as half a million SS men, what are the problems? Buzhansky wrote on his Telegram channel.

Tkachenko's remarks were also condemned by the director of the Ukrainian Jewish Committee. [Eduard Dolinsky](#).

"Minister of Culture Tkachenko at the presentation of a documentary about Babi Yar said that there are victims of two totalitarian regimes. Nothing more unfortunate or disappointing could be heard.

And it's not about which mode is worse. The fact is that such a statement regarding the victims of Babi Yar is a falsification of history and a denial of the Holocaust.

Not the USSR, but Nazi Germany set itself the goal of destroying all the Jews of the world. It was called the final solution of the Jewish question. The Holocaust took place not only on the territory of Ukraine, but also in other occupied and not so occupied European countries, where there have never been totalitarian regimes.

The Soviet Red Army and its allies got in the way of the Nazis and destroyed it, thus preventing the final solution of the Jewish question.

Thanks to millions of Ukrainians of different ethnic backgrounds, including my grandfather Gersh Khaychenko, a part of my family was saved. Another part died in Babi Yar and other places. They were killed by German Nazis and local collaborators. They are the organizers and perpetrators of the mass murder of six million Jews, including one and a half million Ukrainian Jews.

Therefore, Tkachenko's speech is a betrayal of the memory of millions of Ukrainians who laid down their lives in the fight against Nazism, all victims of the Holocaust and victims of Nazism in general, " Dolinsky concluded. (<https://vesti.ua/opinions/tkachenko-zanimaetsya-falsifikatsiej-istorii-i-otritsanjem-holokosta>)

On October 14, 2021, in Kiev, before the start of the march of nationalists dedicated to the Defender of Ukraine Day, one of the participants shouted an anti-Semitic slogan.

Video of the incident was published by various Telegram channels, including the channel "Politics of the Country".

In the footage, groups of people in military uniforms of various types gathered near the car. A man dressed in a modern uniform of the Armed Forces of Ukraine says: "Death to the damned Muscovites!". And then adds: "For a Ukrainian Ukraine without the damned Jews and Muscovites."

Other marchers applauded xenophobic statements with the words " That's right!". (<https://strana.news/news/357428-uchastnik-marsha-natsionalistov-vykriknul-antisemitskij-lozunh.html>)

Comment

The United Jewish Community of Ukraine responded to the anti-Semitic incident. In her Telegram channel, she called on subscribers to help identify the person in the video. The community also said that they intend to file a statement to the police about the incident.

"The United Jewish Community of Ukraine will apply to the State Anti-Semitism Service of Kyiv with an application for an offense under Article 161 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (violation of equal rights of citizens depending on their race, nationality, religious beliefs, disability and other grounds), as this statement is a manifestation of anti-Semitism. We will also send an appeal to the Ministry of Defense, " the community said in a comment.

In one of the restaurants Exactly decided to attract visitors with the help of Nazi symbols. This was announced on October 10, 2021 by the website Klymenko Time. Photo with Nazi symbols from the Rivne restaurant "Volynska Kryivka" published [Telegram channel](#) "Zehail".

It is noteworthy that this institution positions itself as a cafe-museum of the UPA and, judging by the style and design, is a clone of the Lviv "Kryivka", which has been successfully operating in the center of Lviv since 2007. At the same time, in Rivne, along with the symbols of the UPA, they openly use the Nazi swastika and other outright fascist insignia. (<https://klymenko-time.com/obshhestvo/v-ukraine-fashizma-net-tolko-svastika-i-naczijskaya-forma-v-restoranh-yush/>)

Comment

The Klymenko Time website noted in its commentary: that in Ukraine they actively glorify Nazi criminals, and also, hiding behind patriotism, use fascist symbols, and all this is done with the tacit consent of the authorities.

IV. Manifestations of neo-Nazism in the socio-political life of Ukraine, public activities of radical nationalist groups.

1. Support of right-wing radical organizations by state institutions

In 2021, representatives of aggressive ultra-right groups were included in the Public Council under the Ministry of Veterans ' Affairs of Ukraine. Despite the current anti-discrimination laws in Ukraine, right-wing radicals have gained access to state resources.

The Public Council under the Ministry of Veterans ' Affairs is a supervisory and advisory body. It consists of 35 members elected by online voting. The Council may submit to the Ministry draft normative legal acts, proposals, conclusions, and analytical materials on the formation and implementation of State policy. Decisions of the Public Council are advisory in nature, but the Ministry of Veterans must necessarily consider them.

New elections to the Public Council started on March 9 and ended on March 12, 2021. Nine ultra-right organizations joined forces to get there. They created an initiative "Right Veterans", which included members of the organizations "Svoboda", "Sokol", "Tradition and Order", "Society of the Future", "National Resistance", "Unknown Patriot", "Right Sector", "Carpathian Sich" and "Knights of the City".

The list of candidates from the "Right Veterans" consisted of 11 people. They all passed to the Public Council under the Ministry of Veterans ' Affairs. Among them, in particular, are members of the ultra-right extremist organization "S14" Evgeny Karas, Alexander Voitko and Andrey Medvedko. The latter is the person involved in the case of the murder of former editor-in-chief of the newspaper "Segodnya" and writer Oles Buzina.

It is worth noting that international human rights organizations, in particular Freedom House, they count "C14", "Tradition and Order" and "Carpathian Sich" extremist ultra-right organizations and "a threat to Ukrainian democracy."

Two candidates from the far-right organization Sokol passed. Serhiy Kraynyak is being tried in a criminal case against the murder of four National guardsmen under the walls of the Verkhovna Rada on August 31, 2015. According to the investigation, the live grenade was allegedly thrown by his friend Igor Gumenyuk, and Kraynyak at that moment allegedly threw a smoke bomb to distract attention. Another candidate is ex — deputy of the Kiev City Council Vladimir Nazarenko, head of the Kiev city cell "Sokol". On the eve of the 2019 presidential election Nazarenko beat up a Kiev resident which disrupted an ad for the then nationalist candidate Ruslan Koshulinsky without any source data.

This is not the first time that right-wing radicals have claimed access to state resources. In 2019, Bellingcat journalists published an article where they touched upon the links of individual veterans ' initiatives with far-right movements and suggested that they have a significant influence on the Ukrainian government and the Ministry of Veterans in particular, receive funding and public support from them. The investigators pointed out that the Movement of Veterans of Ukraine coalition

associated with the right-wing "Azov Movement" won 34 out of 35 seats in the previous Public Council. (<https://zaborona.com/ru/pravoradikaly-popali-v-obschestvennyj-sovet-pri-ministerstve-veteranov-ukrainy/>)

Comment

It is worth noting that in today's Ukraine, the veteran status launches social elevators, adds credibility in the eyes of the audience and increases the social rating of a person. The Ukrainian far-right actively speculates on the social capital of the veteran movement, converting it into their own political capital and exploiting state resources. In 2020, various satellite organizations of the right-wing radical group "S14", in particular the "Union of War Veterans with Russia", received 1 million 310 thousand hryvnias from the Ministry of Veterans for rehabilitation veteran projects.

On September 21, 2021, the American George Washington Institute published a report "An ultra-right group has taken up residence in Ukraine's main Western training center". The report says that the National Academy of Land Forces named after Hetman Petro Sahaidachny (NALF, located in Lviv on Heroes of Maidan Street) "became the home" for the ultra-right organization Centuria.

"The group, led by people with links to the international activist far-right movement Azov, has attracted many members, including current and former NALF cadets who are now serving in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. In the photos, explicit members of the community give a Nazi salute and make extremist statements online," the report's summary reads.

According to the authors of the report, the Centuria group managed to attract the future military elite of Ukraine to its ranks within the National Academy of Land Force named after Hetman Petro Sahaidachny . Obvious members of this organization also gained access to Western military educational institutions. In particular, one of the obvious members of the group, then NALF cadet Kirill Dubrovsky, completed an 11-month officer training course at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the UK. During his studies, Dubrovsky apparently kept in touch with the group.

Another obvious member and later NALF cadet, Vladislav Wintergoller, attended the 30th International Week held by the German Officers ' Academy (Die Offizierschule des Heeres, OSH) in Dresden, Germany, in April 2019. Meanwhile, inside Ukraine, members of the group apparently had access to American military instructors, as well as cadets from the United States and France.

According to American researchers, Centuria itself claims that its members serve as officers in several parts of the Ukrainian army. This seems plausible due to the confirmed presence of followers of this far-right organization in the NALF. According to the authors of the report, some obvious Centuria members from among the academy's cadets probably joined units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine after graduation between 2019 and 2021.

"Since at least 2019, Centuria has announced several mobilizations, calling on ideologically minded members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine to seek transfer to certain units where members of the group serve. To attract new members, the group

– via its Telegram channel, which has more than 1,200 subscribers and a dedicated mobilisation bot-continues to advertise its alleged role in the Armed Forces and access to Western training, armed forces and exchange programs, " the report's summary reads.

The authors also argue that Centuria has strong ties to the Ukrainian far-right movement " Azov "and this is what causes concern in the United States, since Congress banned the use of American budget funds "to provide weapons, training or other assistance to the Azov battalion in 2018 and has since maintained this provision, including in the 2021 government spending bill.

The United States believes that Centuria's access to Western military training through the NALF and its alleged presence in the Armed Forces of Ukraine can benefit the Azov movement. The report says that US lawmakers have repeatedly called on the State Department to declare Azov a foreign terrorist organization. During the last such call in April 2021, Democratic Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin wrote to US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken that " the Azov Battalion [...] uses the Internet to recruit new members and then radicalizes them to use violence to further its political agenda." However, the US and Western governments have not called on the Ukrainian government to sever ties with the Azov movement, and the far-right organization remains integrated into the Ukrainian government through the Azov Regiment.

The report also contains a lot of photos showing cadets of the National Academy of Land Forces named after him among the members of the far-right organization Centuria. Sagaidachnogo. (<https://www.illiberalism.org/far-right-group-made-its-home-in-ukraines-major-western-military-training-hub/>, <https://strana.news/news/355236-hlavnaja-voennaja-akademija-ukrainy-stala-domom-dlja-radikalov-centuria-doklad-ssha.html>)

Comment

It is worth recalling that on the night of Sunday, August 2, 2020, near Kiev, Ukrainian nationalists presented a new organization based, as its organizers say, on the traditions of Ancient Rome. The main idea of the nationalists call the preparation of the formation for the "Liberation War". During the presentation, nationalists shot into the air. Members of the organization, who hid their faces under special masks, held a "battle prayer".

Soon after the creation of the Centuria organization, right-wing radicals placed hanging loops "for cotton wool" in the center of Kiev (Ukrainian right-wing radicals refer to their political opponents who do not share the nationalist ideology as "cotton wool"). (<https://strana.news/news/282153-pod-kievom-ukrainskie-natsionalisty-ustroili-strelbu-tak-prezentovali-novuju-orhanizatsiju.html>, <https://strana.news/news/285470-v-kieve-pojavilis-viselitsy-dlja-vaty.html>)

Kharkiv National Air Force University named after Ivan Kozhedub has edited a video about the graduation ceremony of military pilots. In masks, under a modern remix of a nationalist song about the leader of the OUN S.Bandera - "Our Father Bandera" young Ukrainian military pilots marched on the parade ground in a long formation. In total, the ceremony was attended by 247 graduates of the Flight

Faculty, who will soon join the ranks of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

A story about the ceremony with a nationalist song on November 3, 2021 was shown by the Ukrainian TV channel "1+1". (<https://tsn.ua/ru/video/video-novini/novosti-harkova-v-vuze-ustroili-vypusknoy-pod-pesnyu-otec-nash-bandera.html>)

2. Street demonstrations, marches and other public actions of right-wing radical organizations

On January 1, 2021, nationalists celebrated the birthday of OUN leader Stepan Bandera. On this day, right-wing forces traditionally organize torchlight processions through the streets of major cities. Street actions were held in Kiev, Dnipro (formerly Dnepropetrovsk), Lviv and Poltava.

The main organizers of the street march in Kiev were ultra-right parties-the All-Ukrainian Association "Svoboda", "Right Sector" and "National Corps". In the regions, the "Capitulation Resistance Movement", which is close to ex-President Poroshenko, announced its participation in Bandera marches.

In Kiev, the Bandera march began at 18: 00 from Shevchenko Park and ended an hour and a half later on the Maidan. Participants in the torchlight procession shouted aggressive xenophobic slogans such as "Moskaliv na noji" and "Moskalyaku na gillyaka", as well as death wishes to enemies and "strangers".

Those gathered called themselves the "Bandera army", which marches with a victorious step through Ukrainian cities. (<https://strana.ua/news/309866-marsh-bandery-v-kieve-1-janvarja-2021-onlajn-transljatsija-video.html>)

In Lviv, the action in honor of Bandera began on the afternoon of January 1. Here, nationalists laid flowers at the monument to Bandera on Kropyvnytskyi Square. After that, a street "veche" was held, which was attended by Deputy Mayor of Lviv Andrey Moskalenko.

"The history of Ukraine always teaches us and shows us a clear lesson. Our history is heroic, legendary, and it also exists thanks to specific figures, thanks to the Hero of Ukraine Stepan Bandera, heroes who defend Ukraine in the Russian-Ukrainian war, the revolution of dignity, " Moskalenko said in his speech. (https://24tv.ua/ru/fakelnoe-shestvie-1-janvarja-2021-ukraina-foto-video_n1498801)

January 2, 2021 Israeli Ambassador to Ukraine Joel Lyon condemned the "Bandera march" in Kiev and called the OUN leader an accomplice of the Nazi regime.

The diplomat reposted the news about the march in honor of Bandera's birthday, which was organized on January 1 by nationalists from Svoboda and the National Corps.

"We strongly condemn any glorification of collaborators of the Nazi regime. It is time for Ukraine to come to terms with its past," the Ambassador commented on the news about the march. (<https://strana.news/news/310149-posol-izrailja-v-ukraine-nazval-banderu-posobnikom-natsistov.html>)

January 6, 2021 in Kiev, a street rally was held near the Israeli Embassy. The rally was held under the slogan "Repent for the genocide". The action was organized by right-wing radical forces : all - Ukrainian association "Svoboda", "Right Sector", "Tradition and Order", "National Corps".

On the eve of the action, right-wing radicals published an announcement: "Repent for the genocide! When will Israel recognize the Holodomor? Come seek justice!"

Nationalists expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that the Israeli ambassador condemned the march in honor of the OUN leader S.Bandera, held on January 1 in Kiev. During the rally near the Israeli Embassy, a crowd of nationalists chanted the slogan " Recognize the genocide of Ukrainians." Yevgeny Karas, the leader of the far-right organization C14, delivered a speech to the participants of the rally. He called the Israeli ambassador to Ukraine "stupid", "warm goose" and "liar". (<https://kiev.strana.news/310627-vozle-posolstva-izrailja-v-kieve-startovala-aktsija-natsionalistov-foto.html>)

Comment

Ukrainian nationalists have repeatedly accused Israel of not recognizing the famine of 1932-1933 as genocide. According to nationalists, the Bolsheviks of Jewish nationality are to blame for organizing the famine in Ukraine, so Israel should "repent" to the Ukrainians.

Polish Ambassador to Ukraine Bartosh Tsikhotsky supported his Israeli counterpart Joel Lyon, who previously spoke negatively about Stepan Bandera and torchlight processions in honor of the OUN-UPA leader. Tsikhotsky called Bandera an ideologue of crime and hatred. He wrote about this on Twitter on January 6, 2021.

Tsikhotsky addressed his entry to an Israeli diplomat.

"Dear Ambassador Yoel Lyon, In connection with the shameful demonstration in front of the Israeli Embassy in Ukraine, I want you to know that you and your team are not alone. Orphans from the ideologue of crime and hate "let them step back and cover themselves with dishonor," the post says. (<https://strana.news/news/310927-posol-polshi-v-ukraine-tsikhotskij-nazval-banderu-ideolohom-nenavisti.html>)

April 20, 2021 A knife fight tournament dedicated to Adolf Hitler's birthday was held in Kharkiv. A video report about this event [appeared](#) on the Nord x Storm Telegram channel.

"Our Leader may have fallen, but His glory will not fade in the ages. A tournament in His honor. Ukraine. Kharkiv, " the video description says.

In the pictures [published](#) in the Telegram channel of the public organization Centuria, you can see the flags of the neo-Nazi group Wotanjugend and the paramilitary neo-Nazi organization Misanthropic Division.

"On April 20, guys from friendly nationalist movements held a knife fight tournament. Strong and spectacular!", – we wrote under the photos on the Centuria channel. (<https://focus.ua/ukraine/481263-v-harkove-proveli-turnir-po-nozhevomu-boyu-posvyashchenny-dnyu-rozhdeniya-gitlera-video>)

April 28, 2021 In Kiev, the "March of vyshyvank" took place in honor of the day of the creation of the SS division "Galicia".

From Arsenalnaya Square in the center of Kiev, about 500 people marched in a column to Independence Square, holding SS symbols, Ukrainian flags, flowers, and flags of volunteer battalions. Participants of the march shouted nationalist and xenophobic slogans, in particular, "Glory to the nation, death to the enemies!", "Remember, a stranger-the Ukrainian is the owner here!", etc.

Representatives of the nationalist organizations "Society of the Future", "Right Sector", and the All-Ukrainian Association "Svoboda" took part in the march dedicated to the 78th anniversary of the creation of the SS division "Galicia".

To create the convenience of holding a march in honor of the SS division, the police partially blocked traffic in the center of Kiev. The marchers followed the security forces. Some nationalist activists raised their hands in a Nazi salute. (<https://zaborona.com/ru/poteryannye-bukvy-rasskazyvaem-o-marshe-v-chest-godovschiny-sozdaniya-divizii-ss-galichina/>)

Comment

The 14th SS Grenadier Division "Galicia" was created in 1943., In 1943-1945, it was part of the Waffen-SS forces of Nazi Germany and was staffed by volunteers, mainly Ukrainians of the Greek Catholic faith. Almost all of them were Galicians. The oath of the SS division "Galicia" provided for the oath of allegiance personally to the Fuhrer of Nazi Germany, Adolf Hitler.

It is worth noting that now in Ukraine, local laws and courts do not consider the symbols of the SS division "Galicia" to be Nazi. Representatives of the nationalist forces insist that the verdict of the Nuremberg Tribunal regarding the recognition of the SS as a criminal organization allegedly does not apply to the SS division "Galicia".

Ukrainian online publication "Strana" commented on the march in honor of the SS division "Galicia", which was held in Kiev:

"In the capital of Ukraine, which was severely affected by Nazi atrocities during the war, such a march was held for the first time. Some marchers even raised their hand in a Nazi salute. Although earlier the epicenter of the fascination with the Ukrainian SS division was the Lviv region. It is there that the official cult of "Galicia" has been kept in recent years. He is supported, among other things, by Governor Kozitsky, an appointee of Vladimir Zelensky.

The Kiev march was organized mainly by Svoboda and C14. But there are also signs of a loyal attitude of the authorities. The march was held under the auspices of the organization "Golosiivska Kriivka", which has long been funded by the capital's mayor's Office.

The event in honor of "Galicia" in the KSCA (Kiev City Administration) also agreed. However, it was officially declared as the "march of vyshyvank". But in fact, the organizers did not hide their true intentions in social networks.

And this is very significant in general for the Ukrainian authorities, which could easily have stopped the praise of the SS and the march in its honor at any level. They did not do this and even escorted the nationalists with security guards

and flashing lights." (<https://strana.news/news/330868-marsh-divizii-halichina-cto-hovorjat-v-ukraine-i-mire-o-shestvii-v-chest-ss.html>)

The political party "Opposition Platform-For Life "(OPPFL) demanded a tough reaction from the current government to the holding by right-wing radicals of the "march of vyshyvank" in honor of the creation of the SS division "Galicia" in Kiev and called such actions of nationalists another "attempt to rehabilitate Nazism". The OPPFL also demanded a ban on all organizations and movements that took part in this march. This is stated in the statement of the party, published on April 28, 2021 on the official website of the OPPFL.

"Today, on April 28, in the hero city of Kiev, on the eve of Victory Day, right-wing radicals decided to organize their own sabbath-to hold a march glorifying the SS division Galicia. As in April 1943, they want to march through the streets of the city to remind Ukrainians and the entire world community of who their predecessors and idols are. Modern fans of Nazi greetings have no other heroes than collaborators who swore allegiance to Hitler. In their dreams, Ukraine can only be a regime camp, in which they will be guards", - said in the statement of the party.

OPPFL stressed that the cowardly position of the authorities causes indignation.

"Referring to the quarantine, it (the government) blocks the celebration of Victory Day at all levels. But immediately forgets about any restrictions when it comes to radicals. The authorities prefer to hide in their offices and sit out in the hope that the rioters will leave without completely destroying the presidential "shop". Probably, the authorities expect that the radicals' antics will distract public attention from the country's trade, poverty, meager pensions and rising tariffs. But the impunity of extremists only underlines the irresponsibility, weakness and inactivity of the current state elite.", - noted in the OPPFL.

The OPPFL believes that attempts to rehabilitate Nazism are the main threat to Ukraine's democratic future, undermine the country's hope for peace and unity, and destroy its international reputation.

"We demand from the authorities a tough response to the provocation of followers of Nazism in accordance with the law. Ban all organizations and movements that will take part in this march. Criminal prosecution and punishment of leaders and sponsors of forces that promote war, violence, xenophobia, incite interethnic, racial and religious hatred, and infringe on human rights", - stated in the OPPFL. (<https://ukranews.com/news/772684-marsh-v-chest-sozdaniya-divizii-ss-galichina-v-kieve-yavlyatsya-ocherednoj-popytkoj-reabilitatsii>,

https://zagittya.com.ua/news/zajavlenija/oppozicionnaja_platforma_l_za_zhi_zn_trebuje_zhestkoj_reakcii_na_popytke_reabilitacii_nacizma_v_ukraine.html)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Israel has condemned the march in honor of the creation of the SS division "Galicia", which took place in Kiev. This was announced on April 30, 2021 by the press secretary of the Israeli Foreign Ministry Lior Hayat on Twitter.

He said that his office was concerned about the parade in the center of the Ukrainian capital and added that SS units were involved in terrible crimes during the

Holocaust. According to him, preserving the memory of the Holocaust and fighting anti – Semitism is "not only the internal affairs of each country, but also part of the collective responsibility of human societies, wherever they are located."

"We condemn the glorification of Nazi collaborators that continues, and expect the Ukrainian government to unequivocally condemn all such phenomena and prevent their recurrence," the Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman wrote. (<https://strana.news/news/331122-lior-khajajt-press-sekretar-mid-izrailja-osudil-marsh-divizij-ss-halichina-v-kieve.html>)

October 14, 2021 In Kharkiv, nationalists held the so-called "march of defenders of Ukraine". At the head of the column, the marchers unfurled a red-and-black flag of the UPA several meters long, and the marchers also held national flags, red-and-black flags, symbols of the "National Corps", the Union of Veterans of the Anti-terrorist Operation of the Kharkiv region and the right-wing radical organization "Fraikor".

Participants of the march chanted various nationalist slogans – "Heroes don't die, enemies die", "Ukraine is above all", "Glory to Ukraine-glory to heroes", "Our demands: No surrender", "OUN-UPA-heroes of Ukraine", "Bandera, Shukhevych – heroes of Ukraine", etc. (<https://kh.depo.ua/rus/kh/ukraina-ponad-use-u-tsentri-kharkova-marsh-zakhisnikiv-foto-202110141379408>)

In Kiev, the nationalists installed a memorial cross to the leader of the OUN S.Bandera in Kurenevsky Park.

This was announced on October 15, 2021 in Facebook "Right Sector".

"For the first time in the history of independent Ukraine, on the Feast of the Intercession and Defender of Ukraine Day, the Right Sector, the Music Battalion, the OUN and other nationalist organizations jointly installed the first memorial cross to Bandera in Kiev," the organization said in a statement.

The opening took place in Kurenevsky Park, formerly named after the prominent Soviet military leader Mikhail Frunze. Currently, Bandera Avenue (formerly Moskovsky Avenue) passes through the park. (<https://strana.news/news/357546-v-kieve-v-kurenevskom-parke-natsionalisticheskie-orhanizatsii-ustanovili-krest-bandere.html>)

October 31, 2021 in Kiev, a rally of supporters of the Ku Klux Klan movement was held. A group of people dressed as a racist organization marched through the city center with signs reading " Yes, we are racists, ""The Ku Klux Klan is back," and " White Power." After the action, its participants took photos on Khreshchatyk throwing up their hands in a Nazi salute.

As noted in the reports of Ukrainian Internet sites, this racist action in the center of Kiev took place with the open connivance and encouragement of the authorities.

(<https://korrespondent.net/city/kiev/4412294-v-kyeve-hruppa-nariadylas-v-kostuimy-ku-kluks-klana>,

https://www.kpu.ua/ru/100300/neonatsysty_proshly_po_tsentru_kyeva_v_kostjumah_kukluksklana)

Comment

The Ku Klux Klan was a white supremacist far-right organization in the United States. The secret society was founded by former Southern soldiers after their defeat in the Civil War of 1861-1865.

V. Acts of vandalism, desecration of graves and destruction of memorials dedicated to the heroes of the Great Patriotic War

In Kherson, unknown vandals damaged monuments of the mass grave of soldiers-liberators of the Great Patriotic War.

January 12, 2021 The police received information from a 39-year-old local resident that unknown persons damaged about 20 monuments of the mass grave at the memorial cemetery in Kherson.

"On the spot, employees of the investigative and operational group of the Kherson police Department found 17 broken and knocked to the ground stone slabs of the mass grave of soldiers-liberators of World War II," the press service of the police in the Kherson region said.

Information about the crime is included in the Unified Register of Pre-trial Investigations information is included on the grounds of Part 2 of Article 297 (abuse of a grave, other place of burial or over the body of the deceased) The Criminal Code of Ukraine. The sanction of the article provides for punishment in the form of restriction of liberty for a term of three to five years or imprisonment for the same term.

At present, operational search activities are continuing to identify those involved in the commission of the crime. (<https://strana.news/news/311510-v-khersone-vandaly-oskvernili-pamjatniki-bratskoj-mohily.html>)

July 23, 2021 in Lviv completely dismantled soviet Monument of Glory - memorial in memory of the victors over Nazism in The Great Patriotic War,

De-installation of the Soviet memorial we started in April. On July 23, the last two figures of the Soviet monument were dismantled – the soldier of the USSR and the Motherland. They, like other figures of the monument, will be transferred to the Territory of Terror Museum.

According to local media reports, a square "in memory of the heroes of Ukraine", underground parking, and a bike path will be built on the site of the Soviet monument in Lviv. They also want to install a cable car station here.

Anton Petrovsky, an activist of the right-wing radical movement "Society of the Future", who initiated the dismantling of the memorial, said in a comment to the media that the Soviet monument should not stand near the Ukrainian Army Academy, and therefore it should be dismantled. (<https://lviv.tsn.ua/ru/vo-lvove-polnostyu-demontirovali-sovetskiy-monument-slavy-foto-1831582.html>)

Comment

Monument of Glory (full name "Monument of Military Glory of the Soviet Armed Forces") was installed in Lviv in May 1970. The memorial ensemble consisted of a 30-meter stele, a concrete composition with figures of soldiers and allegorical figures of the Soviet soldier and the "Motherland". For many years, the memorial site has served as a traditional venue for celebrations dedicated to the celebration Victory Day in the Great Patriotic War.

July 31, 2021 it became known that the City Hall of Lviv is preparing a draft decision on the dismantling of the Soviet star on the Field of Mars.

According to the Lviv City Hotline, the initiative was sent for approval to the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory and the State Interdepartmental Commission for Perpetuating the memory of participants in the anti-terrorist operation, victims of war and Political Repression.

In response, the Institute of National Remembrance noted that this issue should be resolved by the city community.

The State Interdepartmental Commission has not yet received a response. If it is not received in the near future, the decision on dismantling will be made by the executive Committee of the Lviv City Council.

Also, as reported on the Facebook page of the community "Suspilstvo Maybutnogo Lviv" ("Society of the Future of Lviv" - in Ukrainian), a response was received to the repeated appeal to the City Council of Lviv, provided by the Department of historical environment protection. According to information from the letter of the Department of Historical Environment Protection, together with the Lychakovsky Cemetery Museum, a draft decision of the executive committee is being prepared to dismantle the Soviet star placed on the Field of Mars next to the UPA Memorial. (<https://nv.ua/ukraine/events/vo-lvove-demontiruyut-sovetskuyu-zvezdu-na-marsovom-pole-rossiya-vozmutilas-50174831.html>)

Comment

Field of Mars-Soviet war memorial in Lviv. It is located on Mechnikov Street, adjacent to the Lychakovsky cemetery from the north. In summer, the Field of Mars is a holiday destination for Lviv residents.

September 30, 2021In the city of Kolomyia, Ivano-Frankivsk region, a monument to Soviet soldiers was dismantled, and instead they want to install a memorial to " heroes of Ukraine who fought for its freedom and independence." This was announced by the mayor of the city Bogdan Stanislavsky.

"We are getting rid of the Soviet ideology. An emergency monument on Sorrow Square was dismantled today. In general, the memorial is waiting for further reconstruction based on the project approved back in 2018. Now the technical and estimated calculation of the necessary works has been started. At the same time, we will set up a memorial to the victims of World War II on the territory of the cemetery on Bandera Street," Stanislavsky wrote.

He said that in the future, Sorrow Square will become a place to honor " the heroes of Ukraine who fought for its freedom and independence."

At the same time The mayor of Kolomyia did not mention that the Soviet memorial still remains in the register of historical and monumental art monuments of the Ivano-Frankivsk region. (<https://sharij.net/v-kolomye-demontirovali-pamyatnik-sovetskim-voinam-i-obustroyat-memorial-pamyati-zhertv-vtoroj-mirovoj-na-ulicze-bandery>)

Comment

It is worth noting that on the territory of the memorial complex in Kolomyia there is a mass grave in which 571 soldiers of the Soviet Army who died during the liberation of the city, including two Heroes of the Soviet Union, are buried. The mayor of Kolomyia did not say anything about the fate of this grave, but noted that

the city "will arrange a memorial to the victims of World War II in the cemetery on Bandera Street." Thus, the fallen Soviet soldiers will lie either next to the monument to the " Heroes of Ukraine "(Stepan Bandera, Roman Shukhevych, Yevgeny Konovalts, etc.), or in the cemetery on Stepan Bandera Street.

It is noteworthy that on the same day, September 30, 2021, the Vice-Mayor of Lviv Andrey Moskalenko told local "activists" that until October 8, the Lviv City Executive Committee will decide to dismantle the sculptural image of the Soviet Order of the Patriotic War, which is located on the Field of Mars (the Soviet military memorial next to the Lychakovsky cemetery). According to Moskalenko, a "Ukrainian national symbol" will be installed in this place.

The authorities of Kolomyia and Lviv carry out the dismantling of Soviet memorials, referring to the "law on decommunization", although the latter explicitly provides for the inviolability of military graves. But" decommunization " in Western Ukraine is understood as broadly as possible. So, on September 30, at a public hearing in Uzhgorod (Transcarpathian region), local authorities proposed to change the name of Gvardeyskaya Street. But residents of the city have not yet supported this proposal.

October 26, 2021 on the Field of Mars in Lviv began dismantling copies orders of the Patriotic War. The corresponding decision to destroy the monument was made by the Lviv City Council more than 2 weeks ago. This was announced in a media commentary by the representative of the right-wing radical movement "Society of the Future" Anton Petrovsky.

"The initiative to dismantle this Soviet star has been permanent since the beginning of Ukraine's independence. But it was completely non-systemic in nature and, accordingly, did not have its logical continuation. At the beginning of the year, we started to initiate dismantling first in the media field, then in April we wrote an appeal to the city council and were told from the Department of historical environment protection that this object will be dismantled by the decision of the executive committee. And so the executive committee on October 8 made such a decision, which is being implemented today, " Petrovsky said.

Earlier, the Lviv City Council decided to equip the Lychakiv military cemetery and remove the star from the Field of Mars war Memorial. This decision was made on October 8 at a meeting of the executive committee. The metal order with the inscription "Patriotic War", which was installed in the 70s of the last century, is planned to be transferred to the Territory of Terror Museum. (https://24tv.ua/lviv/ru/marsovom-pole-lvove-nachali-demontirovat-sovetskuju-novosti-lvov_n1779015)

October 27, 2021 It became known that in the city of Vinniki, Lviv region, nationalist activists beheaded a monument to a Soviet soldier. (<https://twitter.com/sergua63/status/1453334007601586180>)

VI. Recommendations

Currently, the Ukrainian authorities are pursuing a systematic policy, It is aimed at falsifying the history of the Second World War, exalting and glorifying Ukrainian collaborators and collaborators of Nazism in every possible way. This is evidenced by the analysis of Ukrainian legislation, practical activities of state and local authorities, as well as monitoring of the Ukrainian information space.

On the initiative and with the direct participation of state structures, the cult of S. Bandera, R. Shukhevych and other odious figures of the Ukrainian nationalist movement who are close to them in their views and methods of activity is still actively planted in Ukraine. At the state level, the practice of fully praising the armed formations of the OUN-UPA continues, and in the western regions – and the participants of the SS division "Galicia". Over the past year, local councils in the western regions of Ukraine have repeatedly adopted decisions aimed at glorifying Ukrainian collaborators and collaborators of Nazism in World War II.

At the same time, monuments erected in honor of outstanding Soviet military leaders and heroes of the Great Patriotic War who took a direct part in the liberation of Ukraine from Nazi occupation are being purposefully destroyed or desecrated in Ukraine. In many cases, acts of vandalism are committed on the initiative and with the direct support of local governments.

Systematic manifestations of Nazism, neo-Nazism and xenophobia in Ukraine, which were directly encouraged by the former Ukrainian government during the presidency of P. Poroshenko, actually occur with the direct connivance and on the part of the new government in the person of President V. Zelensky and other high officials, heads of state authorities and local self-government.

In 2021, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, in which the majority belongs to the pro-presidential Servant of the People party, rejected a bill aimed at: prevention of glorification of war criminals and Nazi collaborators.

In the international arena, Ukraine is still one of the few states (along with the United States) that publicly opposes the fight against the glorification of Nazism and various manifestations of neo-Nazism and xenophobia, as evidenced by its position in the UN when voting on relevant resolutions.

In many cities of Ukraine, including its capital, Kiev, ultra – right parties and public organizations regularly hold street processions, rallies, etc., during which the ideas of Ukrainian right-wing nationalism, neo-Nazism and xenophobia are openly promoted, and individuals and organizations guilty of mass murder of civilians in the territories of the USSR occupied by the Nazis, as well as in the countries of Eastern and Southern Europe, are glorified.

In order to combat the glorification of Nazism, as well as numerous manifestations of neo-Nazism, right-wing radicalism and xenophobia in the current socio-political life of Ukraine, it seems appropriate to offer the following recommendations:

1. Demand that the Ukrainian authorities repeal the legislative norms that grant members of the OUN-UPA armed formations the status of participants in military operations with the provision of appropriate benefits.

2. To demand that the Ukrainian authorities take appropriate concrete measures, including in the legislative and educational fields, in accordance with their international human rights obligations, in order to prevent a review of the outcome of the Second World War and the denial of crimes against humanity and war crimes committed during the Second World War.

3. Demand at the international level from the Ukrainian authorities prohibit the holding of any solemn events, both official and unofficial, in honor of the armed formations and individuals who compromised themselves during the Second World War by various forms of collaboration with Nazi Germany, professed the principles of radical nationalism and xenophobia in their practical activities, and committed numerous crimes against peace and humanity.

To remind the Ukrainian authorities that the lack of effective State counteraction to any manifestations of Nazism and neo-Nazism is incompatible with its obligations as a UN Member State.

4. Suggest that the Ukrainian authorities cancel the provisions of the so-called "decommunization package of laws" regarding the ban on the public use of communist (Soviet) symbols.

5. Carry out continuous comprehensive monitoring of manifestations of Nazism, neo-Nazism and xenophobia in Ukraine. It seems appropriate to involve not only Ukrainian, but also foreign human rights organizations in conducting such monitoring. Based on the monitoring results, it is advisable to publish a White Paper on the manifestations of Nazism, neo-Nazism and xenophobia in Ukraine.

6. Form a special monitoring mission under the auspices of reputable international and intergovernmental structures (UN, OSCE, PACE), which would objectively and thoroughly study the current situation related to the activities of right-wing radical and neo-Nazi organizations in Ukraine, various manifestations of racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

7. Demand that the Ukrainian authorities fight against right-wing radical groups, not in words, but in deeds, and seek to bring to criminal responsibility those responsible for violating human rights, inciting national, linguistic, racial, religious enmity or hatred, as well as committing various acts of vandalism against monuments to the heroes of World War II and victims of Nazi terror.