

Dear comrades, I'm from Ukraine.

You know - my country today is the site of the largest continental war in Europe since the Second World War. Massive bombing of cities, destruction of everything we have created for decades - hospitals, schools, universities, museums, churches, theaters, factories, power plants, bridges - everything that can be destroyed, but most importantly - people are killed.

Yes, almost on the 5th day of the war, the head of our Donetsk regional organization, Leonid Khaitulov, was killed, who was driving a car to Mariupol to pick up his son from the hospital and take him out of the city already engulfed in hostilities. He was a civilian, unarmed and driving a civilian car with a white cloth like a white flag. His car was shot together with everyone who was in it. Just. Simply because they can shoot. They received an order to kill people and they are also killing en masse, because in fact our civilian losses are many times, and on some days even an order of magnitude, higher than the losses of the military. Very often they are brutally tortured before this in order to cause as much suffering as possible, as was the case in Bucha.

Why do they do this? The occupiers left us the answer on one of the walls of the children's school in Bucha when they fled Kyiv in early April. And this answer sounds like a question: "Who allowed you to live better than us?" So, if you also live better than them, that is, not in hate and dirt, but in brick houses with toilets, with asphalt and street lights, then keep in mind - they will come to you too if we fall .

They not only kill, but also rape people. All of them. Especially women and children.

That is why, from the bottom of my heart and on behalf of the people of Ukraine, I want to thank all of you, all the peoples and not only of our continent, who temporarily sheltered our women and children so that they would not be bombarded or raped. We are infinitely moved and grateful for this solidarity and, believe me, we will never forget it. You saved about 6 million Ukrainians. Another 8 million refugees are inside Ukraine. I think that after the Second World War, Europe did not know such a scale of migration crisis.

But I want to express my special thanks and ask to pass it on to our previous President Antonio Gutierrez. He did incredible things for us. He saved the people of Mariupol - both civilians and those who defended the city. In order to appreciate this, you need to understand who we are fighting with, that we are dealing not with an ordinary enemy, but with a fundamentally different, opposite and hostile civilization, which professes values directly opposite to ours. The least value for them is not a person, there is no honor and dignity, here valor is an insidious deception, and strength is beastliness. And according to this code, the fate of Mariupol and all the people who were surrounded by the occupiers was decided and tragic. And it was impossible for anyone to change it. And Antonio Gutierrez was able to change that. I don't know what he said to Putin, but it was something so convincing that it convinced the dictator to cancel the death sentence for the people of Mariupol, especially the defenders of the city. Many residents were allowed to leave the city in their cars, children and women who were hiding in Azovstal were taken to Ukraine, and the defenders were spared their lives, although they were captured. You should know who these people, the defenders of Mariupol, have done for Ukraine. To say that they are heroes is an understatement, because they, having concentrated on themselves the best, most capable forces of the enemy, which outnumbered them tenfold, thus saved 5 cities of millions residents, which would otherwise have been occupied - these are Zaporizhzhai, Mykolaiv, Kryvyi Rig, Odesa and, perhaps, the Dnipro. Everyone in Ukraine knows this, especially the residents of these cities, so the whole country prayed for the defenders of Mariupol, who actually defended many more cities and villages, drawing the enemy's forces back. Mariupol became the heart of Ukraine and Antonio did

not let our heart break. Yes, our heroes are in captivity, but they are alive. Among them are our Dmytro Shurda - Head of the Territorial Defense of Mariupol and Vladlen Miroschnichenko, a fighter of the Azov Regiment, both of whom are prisoners of war. To imagine the fate of a prisoner of war, it is enough to say that on the 26th day of captivity, Dmitry Shurda, at the age of 40, had such an extensive heart attack that he was hospitalized in a hospital in Donetsk. We ask for the help of the International and Antonio Gutierrez to help free our brothers from captivity.

Unfortunately, there are other nagging problems - as a result of the war, millions of people will be left without work and means of livelihood. For example, Mariupol today is a ruin and the seaport and Azovstal have ceased to exist - their workers partially managed to leave for Big Ukraine, but they have no means of livelihood. I would like to ask the trade unions of dockers and metallurgists close to your parties, if possible, to help the trade unions of the sea port and the Azovstal plant.

In total, out of 22 million employed, 18 million were left without work and means of livelihood. Moreover, despite the war, a draft law is being considered in the parliament, according to which the majority of employees will be transferred to individual labor contracts, thereby removing them from the social guarantees provided by the labor law. That is, where in fact there is a segregation of the employed into those who are provided with social rights and those who are outside the protection of the Labor Code. Moreover, the show-team that today, led by the President of Ukraine, is portraying the government, legislatively introduced a 12-hour workday during the war for those who did not lose their jobs and continues to aggressively attack the rights of the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine.

Today, the whole country is at war, and the Social Democrats are also at war. Yes, three of our heads of regional organizations went to the front - Pavlo Movchanyuk, Head of the Khmelnytskyi organization, Anatoly Ivanenko, Head of the Cherkasy organization, Oleksiy Girenko - leader of the Zaporizhzhia Social Democrats. In Ukraine, under shelling, everything looks different than before the start of the war. More transparent, more contrast. Our war is not a war between two countries. It is not even a war of two worlds - the world of despotism against the world of Freedom. Our war is a war of the Past against the Future. The past, the world of neoliberalism, where money is more important than values, is at war with the Future, where a savage with money is not a respectable partner, but simply a savage and cannibal with whom no one wants to talk. So those German social democrats who are doing everything to negotiate with Russia again are not Willy Brandt's descendants for us, but moral traitors who betrayed their values and their great predecessor.

The future is coming. Its first harbinger was the Communiqué of the Big Seven, adopted a year ago, on June 15, 2021. And the Russian invasion of Ukraine was only a reaction of the Past to the attack of the Future. We have again, for the second time in my life, entered an era of change. And according to the Ukrainian social democrats, this is precisely the main challenge facing us as an International.

The post-war era, the era of the great social democrats Willy Brandt, Francois Mitterrand, and Olof Palme, became the era of building a welfare state. It was the golden era of world social democracy. The Frankfurt and Stockholm declarations of the SI became a monument to it. But after 1991, everything ended and the era of dismantling the welfare state began. The era of neoliberalism and the minimal state. An era for which we were not ready and ran after the destroyers, adopting neoliberal documents such as the Blair-Schröder Manifesto. Because they accepted the picture of the world of neoliberals. And today we are on the threshold of a new era, so we must have a new Stockholm Declaration. Especially since among us there are those who developed the Stockholm Declaration 33 years ago, and our Secretary General organized this work. Today we need a new picture of the world, our view of the future, and therefore a new Declaration.

But no matter what the challenges and threats are, we are sure that together we are able to cope with any dangers and fulfill our mission to protect and affirm our values - Freedom, Justice and Solidarity in the new era.

Everything will be Ukraine!