



Solidarity for Ukraine –issue 31- Fair justice

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The Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering (iriv) is associated to the international solidarity for Ukraine attacked by Russia on 24th February 2022. After a pandemic that has weakened democratic countries with the disturbing rise of conspiracy theories and hate speech on social networks, we do hope this war in Europe will be an opportunity to reflect on a new solidarity, among European and international allies. This issue is the 9th one for 2024 and the 31st since the beginning of the war in Ukraine..... Mixed messages were sent from France in 2024 – on the one hand the French president sells Rafale fighter planes to Serbia, a candidate for EU membership but an ally of Russia; on the other hand France arrests Pavel Durov, a Russian oligarch exiled in Dubai, founder and owner of the

Telegram platform, the most used in Russian defense circles. A democracy is characterized by respect for the rule of law, a dictatorship by arbitrary and expeditious justice. We will discuss the state of justice in dictatorships, and its evolution in democracies with the abolition of the death penalty. We will then recall the assassination in an Arctic prison colony of Alexei Navalny, first opponent to Vladimir Putin. In a third point we will see that Ukraine is trying to enforce the rule of law in times of war, a challenge. When France is celebrating 80 years of its liberation (Normandy, Paris, Provence...) we will recall the resistance and execution of Missak Manouchian and his 22 FTP-MOI comrades on February 21, 1944 at Mont Valérien; all entered the Pantheon on February 21, 2024. The 1944 European resistance against the nazi regime struggle echoes that of the Ukrainians in 2024 against Russia.

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2- * the logo was designed by Caritas Canada in February 2022

1- Rule of law and democratic justice

The abolition of the death penalty is an indicator of good democratic health, a step forward according to the French historian Michel Winock. The most troubled periods have corresponded to the massive use of the death penalty in democracies; we must of course distinguish between periods of peace and war. For authoritarian regimes, capital punishment is a weapon to terrorize their population, with the corollary of courts of expeditious justice. According to Amnesty International, the number of executions recorded in 2022 reached its highest level since 1997 (1). Executions resumed in five countries – “Afghanistan, Kuwait, Myanmar, the State of Palestine and Singapore”. They increased in Iran (from 314 to 576), Saudi Arabia (from 65 to 196) and the US (from 11 to 18). It is impossible to know the extent of capital punishment in many authoritarian countries, where data are classified as a state secret. The figures do not consider the thousands of executions probably carried out in China, Vietnam or North Korea. Most known executions took place in China (several thousand), Iran (at least 576), Saudi Arabia (196), Egypt (24) and the US (18). In 2022, 93% of the world’s executions (excluding China) took place in the Middle East and North Africa where the perpetrators note “a deadly frenzy”. With 196 executions, Saudi Arabia has reached the highest annual level recorded in the country for 30 years. In total, 13 women were executed worldwide: 12 in Iran and one in Saudi Arabia.

In France, the fight of abolitionists, started from the French Revolution, continued in the 19th century with Victor Hugo who fiercely defended abolition, then at the beginning of the 20th century with Aristide Briand member of the government of George Clémenceau (with the support of Jean Jaurès) without success (2). The death penalty in France is finally abolished with the adoption of the Badinter act on October 9, 1981 after ten years of fierce fight of a man, Robert Badinter, Minister of Justice under a socialist government, who first distinguished himself as lawyer (1972 - 1980), in criminal cases where the issue of capital punishment has arisen. Appointed in 1981 as Minister of the Interior after François Mitterrand’s victory in the presidential election, he defended before parliament the abolition of the death penalty, which was very unpopular with public opinion. In 2021, Robert Badinter recalled that “The debate has been open for two centuries and all arguments have been exchanged. The only new argument was of a European nature. All the countries of western Europe, except France, had chosen abolition. If it had presented any danger to the bloody crime, the leaders of these countries would never have voted or maintained abolition. He added that “it is impossible to restore the death penalty in France” because it ratified, in 1985, “an international treaty of 1983, the 6th Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). This convention prohibits the use of the death penalty by states that have ratified it. International treaties having a superior value to the law.” Europe has therefore come to the rescue of abolition, ensuring a ratchet effect, there can be no turning back.

Murdering State in Russia

On Friday, February 16, 2024, international public opinion learned of the death of Alexander Navalny in an Arctic prison colony, known for its harsh conditions. According to the French researcher in POLitics Marie Mendras, “the Navalny phenomenon is undoubtedly one of the great fears that pushed the Kremlin to launch Russia into a senseless war against Ukraine” (4). She recalls that he miraculously escaped from being poisoned in August 2020 by the Russian secret service, the FSB, which had been following him since 2016. Rescued from a German hospital, he chose to return to Russia to denounce for three years of imprisonment on false grounds and in increasingly inhumane conditions the "criminal regime" of Putin and the aggression against Ukraine - according to him “the most stupid and senseless war of the 21st century”. Marie Mendras insists on the threat that Navalny posed by openly challenging the authority of Vladimir Putin; his insubordination and insolence were formidable weapons in the eyes of public opinion, both nationally and internationally. After his death, thousands of Russians braved the ban to show their support and pay tribute to him in many cities, where they were vigorously called to order. Marie Mendras recalls the effective communication of the first opponent to Putin: «His message was in two words: Putin kills». Navalny had the sense of the formula that claps, he had invented a lively communication, funny, combative, professional and reliable. Never approximate, never whine.”

Several analysts have pointed out that he was not alone. He has built a solid team around him thanks to his Anti-Corruption Foundation which methodically disassembles the “mechanics of dictatorship” (5). This foundation continues to work in exile and offers a daily program with a high following on social networks. For the French researcher in Russian and Soviet studies Cecile Vaissie (6), «by killing Navalny, the authorities reaffirm their right to life and death on their subjects». She described the profile of a man “who was optimistic and courageous in his denunciation of the corruption and criminal nature of the Putin regime” and added that he also “embodied a formidable hope for renewal for Russia.” She details the ordeal inflicted on him “by imprisoning him, without valid reason, in appalling conditions and by multiplying his detentions” in the jail “where he was isolated from his fellow prisoners: at the mercy of the authorities of the camp”. His isolation is part of the torture--cut off from his family and lawyers. She added that “if Putin and his men killed Navalny, it was because they could not break him and get him to repent publicly in the Soviet tradition”. His attitude was a permanent provocation against his jailers “The day before he died, he smiled and joked” while he was leaner and attending a nth judicial hearing, The relentless, another weapon used by authoritarian regimes to break psychologically and physically before killing.

Fair justice in Ukraine-

French documentary filmmaker Gwenlaouen Le Gouil (7) recalls that in a country at war, there are two fronts - the first visible against the aggressors, the direct confrontation with the Russian forces; the second behind, against the «fifth column», persons suspected of intelligence with the enemy (8). In the occupied areas, or those that have been occupied, there are many “shady areas”, “slippery terrains where acts of betrayal, accusations, settlements of accounts are mixed up.” The “obsession of the saboteur, the traitor, is a palpable reality”. As early as March 2022, a law against collaboration was passed. It targets informants who have provided information to the Russian troops and potentially anyone remaining in occupied cities, refusing to abandon their school, town hall or administration. The risk weighs on the rule of law with its procession of summary arrests, torture and abuses. It is difficult to prevent slippage in times of war, when fear rivals the desire for revenge. Justice and the rule of law are being put to a severe test. An honour for Ukraine as it prepares to join the European Union, where respect for democratic principles (and therefore justice) is a sine qua non condition. The Ukrainian justice system therefore ensures that the rights of the accused are respected. The judges in the courts are aware of this ridge line “On one side is the law, on the other side is the reality of war”. Lawyers defending persons accused of collaboration also fulfil a sensitive and indispensable mission, sometimes at the risk of their lives.

Another aspect of justice is to systematically investigate and document all abuses committed by Russian troops, as Amnesty International points out “Justice for Ukraine requires accountability for all crimes committed by Russia since 2014” (9) to gather information on abuses, including the deliberate targeting of civilians and critical civilian infrastructure, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, acts of torture, illegal deprivation of liberty, forced transfers of civilians and abuses of prisoners of war” so that “those responsible for crimes under international law” can be brought to justice. No matter the times, crimes are imprescriptible. Seven European countries under the aegis of Eurojust have also joined a team to coordinate investigations and share information, Kiev has the political decision to share investigative evidence and all evidence of crimes with countries willing to prosecute a suspect in the name of universal jurisdiction (10).

Since the very beginning of the Russian aggression, and the exclusion of Russia, the Council of Europe has mobilized all existing instruments for the Russian Federation to respond fully “human rights violations and serious violations of international law, and that victims of Russian aggression be compensated.” The Register of Damage Caused by the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine, established by the Council of Europe’s Expanded Partial Agreement, which opens an international compensation mechanism, created at the Summit of the Council of Europe in Reykjavik (Iceland) on 16 and 17 May 2023. (11)

In memoriam - Mont Valérien

Medieval place of worship became military fortress during the 19th century, the Mont-Valérien (in the Hauts de Seine département) was the main place of execution of resisters and hostages in France by the German army during the Second World War (WWII) with the active collaboration of the Vichy regime including zealous French police (Special Brigade of the Paris Prefecture) led to the arrest and execution of Missak Manouchian and his 22 comrades (12), all communist resistance fighters, members of the French Snipers and Partisans – Immigrant Labour (FTP-MOI) executed at Mont Valérien on 21 February 1944. After the war, the site was chosen to honor the memory of the dead for France from 1939 to 1945. On 18 June 1960, General de Gaulle inaugurated the Memorial of Combatant France. «These men, murdered because they were resistance fighters, hostages, Jews or communists are all reminders of our history that naturally made this site the first of the National Memory High Places of the Ministry of the Armed Forces» (13)

A national tribute was paid on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, to Mélinée and Missak Manouchian, and the “23 of the trial called the red poster”, all foreign resisters, condemned because they were members of the “army of crime” according to the German propaganda qualification because they were Jews (Polish, Hungarian and Romanian), Italians, Armenians, Spaniards all anti-fascist militants some of whom had fought in the international brigades (against Franco in Spain in 1936), or whose families had been persecuted or deported (for Jewish resistance fighters from Central and Eastern Europe). (14) For French historian Denis Peschanski, “the nation’s tribute to Mélinée and Missak Manouchian, executed eighty years ago at Mont Valérien, is part of a “universalist” perspective and enshrines the “plural identity” of the Resistance”.(15), a tribute to “all foreign resistance fighters”. The common point of FTP-MOI fighters was to claim themselves «the France of the Enlightenment, not that of Vichy». Many of the shot end their last letter with «Vive la France», recalls the historian.

“At the moment of my death, I proclaim that I have no hatred against the German people” wrote Missak Manouchian to his wife Melinea. To the French police officers who came to arrest him, Manouchian had said: “You have inherited French nationality; we have earned it”. By their heroic resistance against the Russian aggressor (openly since February 2024, insidiously since the 2014 Maidan Revolution), Ukrainians can say to Europeans “You have inherited the European Union, we have earned it”. European support for Ukraine is still high in February 2024 (90% said in a poll) but a tiny minority (only 10% of the respondents) think they can win (16). The slow delivery of aid to Ukraine and the war fatigue with thousands of wounded and tired Ukrainian soldiers and an increasingly difficult mobilization. In a troubled geopolitical period, Ukraine needs concrete commitments to win; the Ukrainians are at the forefront of a fight that concerns us all. They would deserve a European Pantheon on whose pediment one could read –

"To Ukrainians, European democracy is grateful"

- (1) Amnesty International , rapport annuel 2023-
<https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2023/05/death-penalty-2022-executions-skyrocket/>
- (2) Abolition de la peine de mort en France, dossier de Vie publique à l’occasion des 40 ans de l’adoption de la loi d’octobre 2021- <https://www.vie-publique.fr/dossier/19493-labolition-de-la-peine-de-mort-en-france>
- (3) Questions à Robert Badinter, avocat, ministre de la justice de juin 1981 à février 1986
<https://www.vie-publique.fr/parole-dexpert/276987-abolition-peine-de-mort-1981-questions-robert-badinter>
- (4) Marie Mendras « Alexei Navalny, l’homme qui empoisonnait Poutine », Le Monde Idées, mercredi 21 février 2024
- (5) Daniel Roher « Navalny », 2022, Etats-Unis, documentaire primé au Festival de Sundance 2022, meilleur documentaire aux Oscars 2023 et au BAFTA 2023
- (6) Cécile Vaissié « En tuant Navalny, les autorités réaffirment leur droit de vie et de mort sur leurs sujets », Le Monde Idées, mardi 20 février 2024
- (7) Gwenlaouen Le Gouil « Collabos ! L’Ukraine en guerre face à ses traîtres », France, 2023, documentaire diffusé sur Arte à l’occasion de l’anniversaire des deux années de l’agression russe contre l’Ukraine, en février 2024,
- (8) Alain Constant « En Ukraine, la cinquième colonne des « collabos », Le Monde, mardi 20 février
- (9) Nouvelles publiées sur le site d’Amnesty International le 22 février 2024
<https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2024/02/ukraine-russia-justice-for-ukraine-means-accountability-for-all-crimes-committed-by-russia-since-2014/>
- (10) Rémy Ourdan « Sur les crimes de guerre, un travail d’enquête sans précédent », Le Monde, 23 février 2024.
- (11) 42 pays y ont jusqu’à présent adhéré- Conseil de l’Europe « Guerre de la Russie contre l’Ukraine », téléchargée le 23 février 2022- <https://www.coe.int/fr/web/portal/war-in-ukraine>
- (12) Voici le nom des 22 autres résistants dont les noms figurent au Panthéon - Celestino ALFONSO, Joseph BOCZOR, Georges CLOAREC, Rino DELLA NEGRA, Thomas ELEK, Maurice FINGERWEIG, Spartaco FONTANOT, Jonas GEDULDIG, Emeric GLASZ, Lejb GOLDBERG, Szlama GRZYWACZ, Stanislas KABACKI, Cesare LUCCARINI, Arpen MANOUKIAN, Marcel RAJMAN, Roger ROUXEL, Antoine SALVADORI, Salomon SCHAPIRA, Amedeo USSEGLIO, Wolf WAJSBROT, Robert WITCHITZ, Golda BANCIC, et Joseph EPSTEIN.
- (13) Site du Mont Valérien-<http://www.mont-valerien.fr/>
- (14) Robert Guediguiian « L’armée du crime », film, 2009, France
- (15) Denis Peschanski « Avec Manouchian, ce sont tous les résistants étrangers qui entrent au Panthéon », Le Monde idées, jeudi 22 février 2024
- (16) Sondage commandé par le European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) avant la réunion européenne du 24 février 2024 dans 12 pays de l’UE dont la France, l’Allemagne, la Hongrie, l’Italie, les Pays-Bas, la Pologne, l’Espagne et la Suède,
<https://fr.euronews.com/2024/02/21/dapres-un-sondage-10-des-europeens-jugent-possible-une-victoire-de-lukraine-face-a-la-russ>

Newsletter written on Friday, February 23, 2024, updated on February 24, 2024 after the death of Navalny then on August 231, 2024

Useful contacts

We mean to share the following contacts

- 1- National Union of Journalists of Ukraine- [HTTPS://NUJU.ORG.UA/](https://nuju.org.ua/)
- 2- Ukrainian Parish of Saint Volodymyr –Paris – paroisse.st.volodymyr@gmail.com
- 3- Catholic Mission of the Polish Church in France also suggests the following link:<https://mission-catholique-polonaise.pl/polska-we-francji/pere-brzys-la-mcp-lance-une-initiative-nationale-pour-aider-lukraine/>

A list of associations & ONG - **Source** : <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A15542>

Support Ukraine — <https://www.supportukraine.co/>

Croix-Rouge Française - [Croix-Rouge française Redcross - https://www.croix-rouge.fr/Nos-actions/Action-internationale/Rechercher-un-programme/LA-CROIX-ROUGE-FRANCAISE-EN-UKRAINE](https://www.croix-rouge.fr/Nos-actions/Action-internationale/Rechercher-un-programme/LA-CROIX-ROUGE-FRANCAISE-EN-UKRAINE)

Médecins sans frontières - emergency funds in countries bordering Ukraine and seeking to bring in medical equipment and personnel. - <https://soutenir.msf.fr/faire-un-don/~mon-don>

Secours populaire – a call for support .- <https://don.secourspopulaire.fr/ukraine/~mon-don>

Protection civile - un appel aux dons pour financer d'autres besoins (défibrillateurs, respirateurs, groupes électrogènes, etc.) : <https://don.protection-civile.org/soutenir>

Fondation de France - lance un [appel à la générosité](https://dons.fondationdefrance.org/solidarite-avec-les-ukrainiens/~mon-don?) pour soutenir les centaines de milliers de personnes affectées par le conflit en Pologne et en Roumanie - - <https://dons.fondationdefrance.org/solidarite-avec-les-ukrainiens/~mon-don?>

Agence des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés - situation d'urgence de niveau 3 pour la crise en Ukraine, le plus élevé.: https://donner.unhcr.org/fr/fr-fr/urgence-ukraine?_cv=1

Unicef - un besoin urgent de financement pour répondre aux besoins essentiels des enfants Pour faire un [don sur le site Unicef.fr - https://don.unicef.fr/b/mon-don?cid=322&_cv=1](https://don.unicef.fr/b/mon-don?cid=322&_cv=1)

ONG Care International - un [formulaire en ligne de dons d'urgence à l'Ukraine](https://soutenir.carefrance.org/) pour apporter une aide d'urgence aux populations et aux réfugiés - .- <https://soutenir.carefrance.org/>

L'ONG française ACTED organise des convois humanitaires pour l'Ukraine

association Solidarités International –pour envoyer des convois de vivres et biens de première nécessité, distribuer de l'eau et des repas aux réfugiés - https://dons.solidarites.org/b/mon-don?cid=880&_cv=1

Plan International, pour apporter aide matérielle et psychosociale aux jeunes ukrainiens et à leur famille, et [sollicite des dons](https://formulaire.plan-international.fr/urgence-ukraine/~mon-don) pour ce faire.- <https://formulaire.plan-international.fr/urgence-ukraine/~mon-don>

L'Aide médicale et caritative France-Ukraine - envoi de convois d'aide humanitaire, des soins aux blessés, des échanges de savoir-faire médical, une aide psychologique et organise des colonies de vacances pour les enfants orphelins - [HelloAsso](https://www.helloasso.com/associations/aide%20medicale%20caritative%20france%20ukraine/collectes/aider-ukraine-amurgence-help-ukraine/don) - <https://www.helloasso.com/associations/aide%20medicale%20caritative%20france%20ukraine/collectes/aider-ukraine-amurgence-help-ukraine/don>

Le Comité d'aide médicale Ukraine - réfugiés en transit dans l'ouest du pays, et collecte fonds, médicaments et équipements pour l'hébergement et les soins via ses partenaires français, l'association SAFE et l'organisation FONDEMOS. - <http://www.cam-z.org/en/news/121/>

JeVeuxAider.gouv.fr est la plateforme publique du bénévolat, - une page dédiée [Mobilisons-nous pour l'Ukraine](https://www.jeveuxaider.gouv.fr/engagement/benevolat-ukraine/) .- <https://www.jeveuxaider.gouv.fr/engagement/benevolat-ukraine/>

Les Banques alimentaires - une [aide d'urgence à apporter aux frontières de l'Ukraine](https://www.banquealimentaire.org/urgence-ukraine), dans les pays frontaliers accueillant des réfugiés - <https://www.banquealimentaire.org/urgence-ukraine>

La Protection Civile et l'Association des maires de France ont établi une [liste](#) (lits de camps, sacs de couchage, lingettes, conserves, pansements hémostatiques, solutions antiseptiques ...).

L'Association des maires de France a dressé les [lieux de collecte](#) à travers toute la France. Les Maires de France appellent à la [solidarité avec l'Ukraine](#) . De nombreuses villes de France organisent des collectes de produits de première nécessité - <https://www.amf.asso.fr/documents-les-maires-france-appellent-la-solidarite-avec-lukraine/41122>

La plateforme officielle « [Je m'engage pour l'Ukraine](#) » lancée le 8 mars 2022 par le gouvernement pour accompagner les Français souhaitant héberger chez eux des Ukrainiens réfugiés et accueillis en France.- <https://parrainage.refugies.info/>

Les associations, fondations, entreprises et collectivités territoriales peuvent utiliser ce [formulaire en ligne](https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/commencer/hebergement-personne-morale-ukraine) pour renseigner leur capacité d'hébergement.- <https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/commencer/hebergement-personne-morale-ukraine>

Bibliothèque sans frontière (BSF) - elle mobilise et déploie, partout en Europe, des solutions d'urgence pour l'accueil et l'intégration des populations réfugiées. - <https://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/2022/10/14/bsf-lance-bonjour-france-une-application-innovante-dapprentissage-du-francais-pour-les-refugies-ukrainiens/>