



## Solidarity for Ukraine –issue 32- Camaraderie

### DANS CE NUMERO

Spirit of camaraderie

« Tovarich » in Russia

« Brothers in arms » in Ukraine

Camaraderie & game of alliances

Useful contacts

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 10th one for 2024 and the 32nd since the beginning of the war in Ukraine... Camaraderie is both a required quality and skill, sometimes associated with sympathy or empathy, from kindergarten to the Labor work, in social and professional life. In a first point, we will see how camaraderie or friendship has been addressed in art

(song, literature, cinema...); a fragile relationship to be jealously protected and preserved in troubled times. In a second point, we will explain how the Russian president defines a good comrade "tovarich" in Russian, at home and internationally. In a third point, we will mention a similar notion, "brothers in arms," in Ukraine and with the allied countries. In a final point we will address the facets of camaraderie at an international level, with the complex game of alliances, a permanent negotiation according to the balance of power. The objective is clear and concrete, even existential, for democracies – to survive together in the face of frontal or insidious attacks by predatory states and terrorist organizations.

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\* the logo was designed by Caritas Canada in February 2022

## Spirit of camaraderie

French singer Charles Aznavour mentions it in a song. “You were my only friend, my comrade/ We both made the barricades/ The maquis, commandos, ambushes/ My comrade”. At the end of the song, it is clear that the two comrades did not have the same destinies or successes. A gap has widened (1).

An example of friendship or camaraderie often cited is that which linked French humanists La Boétie and Montaigne, «because it was him, because it was me» (2). A mutual crush that seems to have been the result of a long way together. Yet it is revealed that it only concerned the last four years of their lives. Two men who have had a great journey, and a reputation, who met when they can share their experiences serenely. There is no more stake, no rivalry, everyone being happy with his life.

Camaraderie can be forged in difficult conditions, by sharing a fight or a common venture. In “La Belle Equipe” (3) a French movie in the middle of the Popular Front (Front Populaire, 1936), which allowed workers to acquire new rights, such as holidays (paid leave), the movie tells the camaraderie of five unemployed workers who win the lottery and decide to buy a washing machine to turn it into a guinguette, very popular in times when leisure had just become more democratic (with paid holidays and the development of associations). But the disappointments and difficulties follow each other and their camaraderie fades, it will not have withstood the test of a collective enterprise, unexpected but that does not become a common success.

Friendship or camaraderie is built in stages, with common goals and the shared will to achieve them together. The way to achieve it and the mindset are often sensitive points, each being convinced of having the most suitable method. Direct negotiations are necessary. This spirit of camaraderie is praised in the professional world by a particular skill “team spirit”. The values of sport, especially collective sports disciplines, are brought together by Human Resources or Internal Communication. A French bank has become the Sponsor of the national French rugby team. The champions of the French team at the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games (4) were supported by a luxury French brand, internationally associated with Paris and the French spirit.

The most difficult thing is to make people live together in the same team. Aimé Jacquet’s decision in 1998 not to select French footballer Eric Cantona, "too-star and too personal" and to privilege a team of young talents unknown to the general public, was decisive – they played “collective” because they knew that they had everything to win by joining a team built by a demanding coach who gave them their chance and his first star to France (the World Cup). Mutual recognition is a key motivation for loyalty and effectiveness.

## « Tovarich », changing camaraderie in Russie

In the Soviet era, all citizens, supposedly equal, were called by their first names. Comrade Vladimir Vladimirovich did not escape the rule. But very soon some comrades were luckier than others, joining the leading spheres of the Party and becoming zealous apparatchiks. It was not a sinecure to maintain the scent of holiness, especially under the regime of the «Little Father of the Peoples», Joseph Stalin. Comrades appeared or disappeared according to the paranoid moods of the "best of them". The friendship displayed did not exclude by the jealousies which often took a radical turn (poisonings, imprisonment, Goulags...). Under Vladimir Putin's Russia, camaraderie is hierarchical. An eager court clings to the new Tsar. The most well-known and publicized are the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sergei Lavrov., the former president Dmitry Medvedev, who became a Falcon among the Falcons, the Minister of Armies, General Sergey Shoigu (before his disgrace), or the head of the Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill who is not without ardent praise. The Saint of Saints is, however, made up of Russian oligarchs, former members of the Saint Petersburg team, promoted to the most beautiful positions, without competence, by robbing the real, highly qualified oligarchs who had been able to take advantage of the economic transition of 1991. Friendship and love are blind. Betrayal is not forgiven in Camaraderie. A comrade oligarch tragically disappeared, Evgeny Viktorovich Prigozhin, in August 2023, a message sent to the supporters of the leader of the Wagner's, most unfriendly.

On the international scene, the Russian Federation is healing its friends and allies (5). China has become a priority, a crucial "pillar" with the war in Ukraine. Trade has reached record levels, benefiting the Chinese partner that benefits from Russian energy (oil and gas) at prohibitive costs. Beijing's military and diplomatic support is disappointing. Relations with North Korea have intensified (6) with deliveries of North Korean weapons and ammunition, but also shells (according to South Korean intelligence) and drones (according to US and Ukrainian intelligence). There is a risk of technology transfer. Azerbaijan was preferred over Armenia. The heart has its reasons – as a producer of firecrackers and gas, the Azerbaijani partner allows Russia to circumvent EU sanctions. The war in Ukraine has accelerated the process of integration with Belarus, which is much more friendly than its Ukrainian neighbor. The two countries were bound by a treaty since 1997, borders no longer exist since 2022, annexation is achieved – Belarusians cross the border every day, Russian nuclear weapons have been transferred to Belarus since June 2023.

Another important ally, met in 2013 in Syria in support to the criminal regime of Bashar al-Assad, Iran has become a privileged interlocutor that provides drones against Ukraine and unwavering support to Russia, a friendship between "outlaws" of the West...

## « Brothers in arms », touchstone for a sincere friendship in Ukraine-

On the occasion of the two years of war in Ukraine, in February 2024, the Franco-German channel "Arte" evoked «invisible wounds» of women and men who had been sent to the front (7). They were all suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and could no longer meet their friends who had not been through the war. They even meet during their leave of absence as “brothers in arms”, a very strong bond created by a common traumatic experience. They will return together to the front. This brotherhood is essential, it is the engine of mobilization of Ukrainians many of which are increasingly reluctant to accept to fight. Ukrainian poet, novelist and essayist Andriy Lyubka wrote in February 2024 (8) “This shared experience makes us more than a people, a closer society, something that is more like the family structure. Because we lived it together.” He chose to continue writing to witness the horrors of the invasion. Ukrainian filmmaker Oleh Sentsov (9), who is an officer in the army (with the rank of lieutenant), warns, “In Ukraine, it’s time for unity. Otherwise, we will all die.”

His case is exemplary: «icon of the democratic revolution of Maidan, in 2014, and former political prisoner in Russia, Sakharov prize 2018» he became a soldier since the Russian attack on 24 February 2022. “From a Kiev checkpoint to the front lines around the capital, from a special forces unit shooting helicopters to an infantry company in the 47th mechanized brigade in the Donbass, he has committed himself with all his heart and soul.” He wanted to fight and didn’t want to film the war until he remembered his GoPro, and comrades who had a camera. They made a CNN movie together. The reasons for engagement are personal, but the fight is collective. He regrets that Ukrainians are sometimes treated “as children not to be frightened, when the Ukrainian people have shown that they are adults, ready to accept the truth, however difficult it may be”.

Ukraine most needs support from outside, its allies, whom President Zelensky has never neglected. He was once more in New York to attend the General assembly of the United Nations in September 2024. Since the beginning, the US and the EU immediately came to his aid with significant financial aid and the delivery of increasingly heavy weapons (tanks, and F-16 fighter jets). This is not enough. They must go a step further. Ukraine urgently needs to join NATO.

Western support is older than February 2022. An article in the New York Times published in February 2024 (10) revealed that a very effective comradeship has developed between the US and Ukrainian intelligence services since 2014. The C.I.A. and other US intelligence agencies have provided intelligence for targeted missile strikes, tracking Russian troop movements and helping to support notably Ukrainian spy networks that have performed miracles. Ukraine has not been defeated in three weeks thanks to the effectiveness of this partnership. Ukrainian intelligence, long compromised with the Soviet power, has become “one of Washington’s most important intelligence partners against the Kremlin”. He organized spectacular operations that even surprised his allies. It is easier for Ukrainian agents to recruit agents in Russia. Ukraine is closer; with the US, collaboration would be less spontaneous.

## Camaraderie and game of alliances

Friendship and brotherhood are synonymous with camaraderie. It is not easy to build, can fade away and even go wrong. Though it is indispensable to win common and existential battles. A prerequisite is to specify the common obligations of comrades, and not to neglect any support. In the first letter of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Romans, it is written “*Brothers, if God is for us, who will be against us?*” (11). In the midst of student protest and civil rights struggle, in the 1960s, Bob Dylan criticized that one could invoke God to justify wars in dispute, “*With God on Our Side*” (12). With the attack on the Twin Towers in New York, in September 2001, the Western World knew that destructive forces had taken the offensive, instrumentalizing religion and declaring a war of civilization to the West, with the weapons of terrorism. The far-right movements in democratic countries, insidiously or openly pro-Russian, play the same game of hatred, by instrumentalizing migration for political ends (13), fragmenting Western societies and provoking identity recessions. They are the implicit allies of terrorists.

Sixty years after Dylan’s Protest song, times have changed - western countries are no longer triumphant but worried. Democracies are threatened and attacked on their own territory. They were naive to think the war was over. The fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War did not mark the end of the rivalry between nations. Less deadly economic competition is a formidable place of confrontation. Europe had succeeded in reconciling European countries that had been violently opposed during two world wars. The continent’s prosperity has made it possible to build peace, reduce inequalities between countries, create fruitful exchanges, and prevent the spiral of violence through common public policies. The balance of power is more respected. Economic weight always has a political impact, but influence can also be linked to the country’s internal stability. The budgetary weapon is used against anti-democratic slips (with Hungary) but for how long with the electoral victories of the far-right parties in Germany, France, Italy... that challenge the existence of the European Union while diverting the Community money (14).

Russia’s war against Ukraine since 2022, as the terrorist attacks of Hamas (7<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 ) in Israel, fall under the same logic. Predatory countries (Russia and Iran) directly or indirectly attack democracies, taking as their witness international public opinion and instrumentalizing the ordeal of civilian populations of which they are the first perpetrators. Iranian drones are used in Ukraine against civilians (15). The Houthi rebels, supported by the regime of the mullahs, attack the western civilian boats in the Red Sea. The convergence of struggles is obvious – allies of democracies know which side they are on.

*“Comrades in all democracies, be united”*

- (1) Amnesty International , rapport annuel 2023-  
<https://www.amnesty.org/fr/latest/news/2023/05/death-penalty-2022-executions-skyrocket/>
- (2) Montaigne’s most famous phrase, which evokes friendship. The author of the Essays retraces his dazzling friendship, from 1558 to 1563, with Etienne de La Boétie, before he died prematurely,, Catherine Vincent, Le Monde, 21 juin 2005-  
[https://www.lemonde.fr/vous/article/2005/06/21/parce-que-c-etait-lui-parce-que-c-etait-moi\\_664483\\_3238.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/vous/article/2005/06/21/parce-que-c-etait-lui-parce-que-c-etait-moi_664483_3238.html)
- (3) Juline Duvivier « La Belle équipe », France, 1936 avec Jean Gabin as a main character
- (4) Team composed of champions of all disciplines- swimming (Leon Marchand), judo (Teddy Rinner and his colleagues), ...supported by Louis Vuitton, main sponsor of the Olympics
- (5) Infographic published by Le Monde on 25 & 26 February 2024 based on data from the UN, ComTrade; respective governments; The World FactBook, CIA; European Commission; RFE/RL; rosgranstroy.ru; AFP and Reuters
- (6) Strategic Partnership Agreement signed in June 2024 between Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong--Le Monde, Paris, 19th of June 2024
- (7) Reportage Arte « Les blessures invisibles », samedi 24 février 2024
- (8) Andriy Lyubka « Nous avons appris à vivre sans faire attention à la mort », article publié dans Le Monde, 25 & 26 février 2024
- (9) Interview by Remy Ourdan, Le Monde 25&26 février 2024
- (10) Adam Entous et Michael Schwartz, “The Spy War: How the C.I.A. Secretly Helps Ukraine Fight Putin”, New York Times, Feb. 25, 2024 & Updated Feb. 28, 2024  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/25/world/europe/cia-ukraine-intelligence-russia-war.html>
- (11) 1<sup>ère</sup> Lettre de Saint Paul Apôtre aux Romains - 8. 31 b-34
- (12) Bob Dylan “The Times They Are a-Changin’”, Etats Unis, 1964
- (13) In September 2024, Germany under the pressure of far-right parties forced the Scholz government to tighten its migration policy by reintroducing controls at its land borders; in France, the Barnier government appointed a minister of the interior to the radical speech on immigration after the rise of the National Assembly in the elections of June 2024
- (14) Trial of the National Front which opens in September 2024 , accused of having embezzled public funds by making its parliamentary attachés work for national policy purposes without any connection with the European cause.
- (15) Hugo Van Offel et Martin Boudot “Le coût des armes », France, 2024, diffusé le 25 février sur France 5- <https://www.france.tv/france-5/le-monde-en-face/5707590-ukraine-le-cout-des-armes.html>

Newsletter written on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, updated on September 30, 2024

## Contacts utiles

Pour aider l'Ukraine, nous souhaitons partager le contact du Syndicat national des journalistes d'Ukraine (National Union of Journalists of Ukraine) - <https://nuju.org.ua/>

Voici une liste d'associations & ONG

**Source :** <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/actualites/A15542>

**Support Ukraine** – une plateforme accessible sur - <https://www.supportukraine.co/>

**Croix-Rouge Française** - [Croix-Rouge française](#) pour des dons financiers, en soutien de la Croix-Rouge ukrainienne, au Comité International de la Croix-Rouge - <https://www.croix-rouge.fr/Nos-actions/Action-internationale/Rechercher-un-programme/LA-CROIX-ROUGE-FRANCAISE-EN-UKRAINE>

**Médecins sans frontières** - [fonds d'urgence](#) dans les pays limitrophes de l'Ukraine et cherchent à faire entrer du matériel médical et du personnel. - <https://soutenir.msf.fr/faire-un-don/~mon-don>

**Secours populaire** - lance un appel aux dons d'urgence à l'Ukraine .- <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](#) pour soutenir les centaines de milliers de personnes affectées par le conflit en Pologne et en Roumanie - - <https://dons.fondationdefrance.org/solidarite-avec-les-ukrainsiens/~mon-don?>

**Agence des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés** - situation d'urgence de niveau 3 pour la crise en Ukraine, le plus élevé. L'UNHCR a renforcé ses opérations en Ukraine et dans les pays voisins, pour la soutenir, vous pouvez faire un don : <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>

**ONG Care International** - un [formulaire en ligne de dons d'urgence à l'Ukraine](#) pour apporter une aide d'urgence aux populations et aux réfugiés - - [https://soutenir.carefrance.org/mon-don/~mon-don?ns\\_ira\\_cr\\_arg=IyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyPkRj6HFA1Y69SN8wBpGdbU49oyB0t9PJwOohrrNCWZ1E1xvYyuCP14dJQ2nrY0C9CFXInHRxueOqPBpQ7tkkn%2F&private\\_server\\_time=1672227862538&cid=13&cv=1](https://soutenir.carefrance.org/mon-don/~mon-don?ns_ira_cr_arg=IyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyMjIyPkRj6HFA1Y69SN8wBpGdbU49oyB0t9PJwOohrrNCWZ1E1xvYyuCP14dJQ2nrY0C9CFXInHRxueOqPBpQ7tkkn%2F&private_server_time=1672227862538&cid=13&cv=1)

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

**association Solidarités International** – une [collecte des fonds](#) 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**, en Pologne, Roumanie et Moldavie, 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>

**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/>

**Les Banques alimentaires** - une aide d'urgence à apporter aux frontières de l'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](#) pour renseigner leur capacité d'hébergement.- <https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/commencer/hebergement-personne-morale-ukraine>

**Bibliothèque sans frontière (BSF)** - Depuis le début de l'offensive russe en Ukraine, BSF se mobilise et déploie, partout en Europe, des solutions d'urgence pour l'accueil et l'intégration des populations réfugiées. « Bonjour France » est une application pour smartphone innovante et totalement gratuite, qui propose un apprentissage accéléré du français depuis l'ukrainien, disponible depuis le 19 octobre 2022.

<https://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/2022/10/14/bsf-lance-bonjour-france-une-application-innovante-dapprentissage-du-francais-pour-les-refugies-ukrainiens/>

La mission catholique de l'Eglise polonaise en France suggère également le lien suivant : <https://mission-catholique-polonaise.pl/polska-we-francji/pere-brzys-la-mcp-lance-une-initiative-nationale-pour-aider-lukraine/> - **Source** : conférence des évêques de France