



Solidarity for Ukraine –issue 26- from Stockholm to Oslo

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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 4th one for 2024 and the 26th since the beginning of the war in Ukraine. After the terrorist attack claimed by ISIS that killed more than a hundred Russians, on Friday, March 22, 2024, in Moscow, President Putin once again took his people hostage by not giving them the most precious gift in the face of the tragedy that touched them - the truth (1). Stockholm syndrome has been studied by

psychiatrists and psychologists since the tormented but fertile 1970s. It can provide a compelling reading grid for international geopolitics that often reflects the torments of the human soul. In a second point, we will mention its expression in Russia, where the population has been hostage for a very long time to an authoritarian regime set up by Vladimir Putin. In a third point, we will see how Ukraine has freed itself from the Russian grip, emancipating itself, committing a long path towards freedom, and democracy. In conclusion, we will reflect on the challenge of moving from the Stockholm Syndrome to the spirit of Oslo, following the example of “environmental diplomacy” which had many ups and downs before taking hold. The march towards peace of souls is also full of pitfalls...

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* the logo was designed by Caritas Canada in February 2022

Stockholm Syndrome

According to the Swiss psychiatrist Rémy C. Martin-Du-Pan (2), it refers to “the propensity of hostages who have long shared the life of their jailer to sympathize with them and to adopt their point of view. The history of the syndrome goes back to a bank robbery in Stockholm in 1973 by two prison escapees who took four employees as hostages. After six days of negotiations, they release the hostages who will intervene between the police and their captors, whom they will then visit in prison.” The characteristics are “1) the development of a sense of trust between the hostages and their captors to the extent that they can justify their actions; 2) the birth of a positive feeling of the kidnappers towards their hostages and 3) the appearance of hostility of the victims towards the police.” The most surprising is the «paradoxical phenomenon of fraternization between aggressors and assaulted».

International geopolitics provides many examples. The Palestinian population has been held hostage for many years by terrorist movements that proclaimed their defenders while they are their executioners by exploiting the Palestinian cause and using civilian populations as human shields. For more than forty years (1982), an Islamic terrorist militia, funded by Iran, has been waging a covert but continuous war against Israel - the Hezbollah (3). Appearing in Lebanon during the war with Israel, it caused heavy losses to the Israeli army taken by surprise. Hezbollah has never stopped fanaticizing young men since childhood, whose only destiny is to die as martyrs. In May 2021, rocket attacks against Israel had been intense and caused heavy civilian casualties after the Israeli response. Hezbollah militiamen are used to hiding their headquarters among the population. The images that had circulated on social networks (often false, from other conflicts) are as important as the attacks themselves. They are intended to take to witness international opinion by accusing Israel.

The same pattern has been repeated in a much more brutal way, and unprecedented since the Yom Kippur War of 1973, with the Hamas terrorist attacks of October 7, 2023 against Kibbutz in southern Gaza and a Festival of Music for Peace inflicting heavy Israeli civilian casualties - 1,290 dead including 41 French (4). This time, the brutality consisted of inflicting particularly degrading abuses on civilians (women, children, the elderly) and taking hostages so that psychological torture for families, and the whole country, would be total. Again, the Palestinian population served as human shields after Israel’s legitimate reaction to rescue the hostages captured by enemies who vowed its loss. It is not the defence of the Palestinians, the first victims in number (5), but the destruction of Israel that animates the terrorists of Hamas, like those of Hezbollah, all armed and trained by Iran which also intervenes in the Red Sea through the Houthi rebels who multiply attacks against the West (6).

A Russian population abducted

Vladimir Putin has been a saviour of Russia and the Russian people since coming to power in May 2000. The way in which the Russian oligarchs shared the wealth of the Soviet Union was abundantly documented. The strategy of Vladimir Putin, who proceeded in several stages, was very clever to make believe that he was defending the Russian population while it was taken hostage. He first presented himself as a white knight, the one who put in line the «kleptocrats», oligarchs who initially chose him to know that he was not a man of integrity, his professional experience in Saint Petersburg had proved it. The «enemies of the people», a name consecrated since the Soviet era, have been trapped and dispossessed, only the cleverest have pledged allegiance. The loot was then shared among Putin's men, from Intelligence like him, who was a formidable weapon of oppression. The manipulated Russian population applauded such an operation «anti-corruption».

The second step was to not let go of the reins of power, gaining «democratically» in rigged elections as in March 2024 (7) and then eliminating oppositions, like his economic opponents. He proceeded by order, accusing them of every evil. They were executed or poisoned or thrown in jail. Alexander Navalny is an example of Vladimir Putin's murderous determination against a political opponent who denounced his methods, documented his fortune, and ridiculed Russian Intelligence (8). The Russian population is stunned; protesters harshly repressed by brutal police.

The third step, coinciding with the first two, was to restore Russia's greatness on the international stage. The opportunity was offered by Western cowardice in Syria in 2013. Vladimir Putin occupied a place left vacant by western democracies. He undertook a major influence operation with Bashar al-Assad, his ally Iran, or China, which wanted to oppose Western influence in the Middle East, particularly that of the United States. In Africa, the Soviet Union of yesteryear had already woven many networks during the Cold War during the countries' independences - Algeria but also other African countries that had chosen the Soviet camp against the former colonial powers (France mainly but also Belgium, Portugal, UK...). We know the influence of the Wagner, an organization of mercenaries replaced by other close to the Kremlin since the mutiny of their leader Prigogine in May 2023, first adulated by the Russian people and then suppressed by Vladimir Putin in August 2023.

Since the war in Ukraine, the Russian population is even more hostage to Vladimir Putin, who continues to weave his web internationally – the new front opened to the Middle East by his allies (especially Iran) is a boon for the Kremlin. After severe setbacks inflicted by the Ukrainian army, supported by Western democracies, the Russian army has regained strength since the summer of 2023. The terrorist attack in Moscow in March 2024 claimed by ISIS could be an opportunity for a general mobilization of the Russian population, the «sponsors» being designated by Russia: Ukraine and behind it the West.

Ukrainian Emancipation

Ukraine has always been mistreated by Russia. We remember the famine in the Soviet Socialist Republic of Ukraine and in the Kuban, in the USSR, in 1932 and 1933, which caused, according to the estimates of historians, between 2.6 and 5 million deaths. It was called Holodomor. The archives have been open for ten years. They have shed light on this mass crime. For French historian Nicolas Werth (9) 'this major catastrophe in European history in the 20th century is finally beginning to be recognized in its rightful measure as the first act of a terrible cycle of violence perpetrated between the early 1930s and the end of the Second World War, by the two great totalitarian regimes of Nazism and Stalinism, against the civilian populations of an immense region in the heart of Europe that historian Timothy Snyder rightly defined as the Bloodlands.'

This famine is not in line with the many famines that regularly struck parts of the Russian Empire. It was not preceded by any weather cataclysm (drought or flooding) that creates the conditions for such a disaster." He quotes American historian James Mace, who talks about man-made famine. The Holodomor was «the direct consequence of a policy of extreme violence (the forced collectivization of the countryside) implemented from the beginning of 1930 by the Stalinist regime. The latter intended to take a heavy toll on the peasantry to achieve the «primitive socialist accumulation» indispensable to the accelerated industrialization of the country, and to impose political control over the countryside, which had remained largely outside the “value system” of the regime. Stalin wished “to break, with the weapon of hunger, the peasant resistance to collectivization and excessive levies on crops, particularly strong in these regions.” He considered that “the peasantry was the backbone of Ukrainian nationalism, considered in this moment of economic and political crisis as the main obstacle to the building of the Stalinist system and the consolidation of the Soviet Union as a “new empire of nations”.

By attacking Ukraine, Russia is part of the long line of mass crimes perpetrated against the Ukrainian population by an aggressor country presenting itself as a saviour. Vladimir Putin first tried, and often succeeded, in corrupting Ukrainian leaders. Then he used pro-Russian partisans to annex Crimea and part of Donbass in 2014, after the Maidan Revolution where Ukrainians demonstrated in Kiev their attachment to the European Union, the only alternative to escape the increasingly pressing Russian grip. The war that began in 2022 is the logical continuation of a manipulation of public opinion and an insidious strategy of pretending to be the assaulted. Vladimir Putin has not only inflicted major losses on his army, men he considers to be «cannon fodder» but on the Ukrainian army which has been hit hard. Terrorist movements and States take international public opinion to witness. Ukraine and the Western World are insidiously attacked by a massive disinformation campaign from Russia intended to make a war of aggression look like a «special operation» defence against the alleged “Western threat”.

From Stockholm to Oslo

The seventies were both troubled and fertile in innovative initiatives. The 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm opened a new era of global cooperation on environmental issues. It created the concept of sustainable development and the United Nations Environment Programme – UNEP (10). For the European Union, it has had a very concrete impact - since 1st January 2023, the European directive 2022/2464, known as «CSRD», is gradually applying to allow companies to become aware of cross-cutting issues and socio-political themes measuring and documenting them in their accounts. (11)

For Pamela Chasek, “Environmental issues have never been free of discord and challenge. These debates shaped the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and subsequently environmental management for the next 50 years.” She demonstrated that “with leadership and listening to everyone’s concerns, cooperation on environmental and sustainable development issues is possible.” In the late 1960s “Sweden was a respected middle power, able to challenge the United States and the Soviet Union and their Cold War status quo.” Thanks to its special status of neutrality «Swedish diplomats tried to change the global agenda towards international development and environmental protection (Grieger, 2012)». Sweden has come out of neutrality-it has joined NATO and the Swedish government is actively preparing its people for a possible war of aggression from Russia, which does not, according to the Swedish leaders, stop at Ukraine.

In 2024, the lack of neutrality exacerbates passions; international organizations are instrumentalized. We are witnessing a massive manipulation, using the most sophisticated means of communication (War 3.0), the most negative emotions. Aggressors present themselves as assaulted, persecutors as persecuted. The real suffering of civilian populations is manipulated by movements claiming a real right of life and death on them. Endless wars have as their sole objective the destruction of a designated «enemy» - the logic of authoritarian regimes and terrorist movements, modern forms of totalitarianism of yesteryear, is implacable. There will be no survivors among their «enemies».

In Oslo, Norway, the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded “the personality or community which has contributed most to the rapprochement of peoples, the suppression or reduction of the standing armies, the assembly and the propagation of progress for peace” (12). Henrik Ibsen the Norwegian writer from Oslo was often opposed to his colleague August Strindberg, the Swedish writer from Stockholm. The two playwrights were able to express the turpitudes of the human soul, universal and eternal. We can have a dream for 2024: that the European Union may play a constructive mediator role in building peace in Ukraine, as in the Middle East, so that the spirit of Oslo can triumph...

- (1) France culture- « Attaque terroriste à Moscou- une onde de choc mondiale », dimanche 24 mars 2024- <https://www.radiofrance.fr/franceculture/podcasts/l-esprit-public/attaque-terroriste-a-moscou-une-onde-de-choc-mondiale-2434515>
- (2) Abécédaire des symptômes psychiatriques, revue médicale suisse, Rémy C. Martin-Du-Pan , 2009 - <https://www.revmed.ch/revue-medecale-suisse/2009/revue-medecale-suisse-201/syndrome-de-stockholm>
- (3) François Xavier Tregan, « Liban : au cœur du Hezbollah », France, 2022, documentary broadcasted on Arte- <https://www.arte.tv/fr/videos/094126-000-A/liban-au-coeur-du- Hezbollah/>
- (4) TV Channel I24- Massacre of October 7: a final assessment of 1290 deaths <https://www.i24news.tv/fr/actu/israel-en-guerre/1702400857-massacre-du-7-octobre-des-chiffres-officiels-font-etat-de-1290-tues> ; France has never been so affected by an attack abroad since the explosion of the DC-10 of UTA over Niger in 1989- Le Monde, 19/12/2023
- (5) The number of Palestinian casualties is estimated at over 30,000 at the end of March 2024
- (6) France Diplomatie « Mer Rouge- attaques mortelles des Houthis contre un navire commercial », 6 mars 2024- <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/dossiers-pays/yemen/evénements/article/mer-rouge-attaque-mortelle-des-houthis-contre-le-navire-commercial-mv-true>
- (7) Benoît Vitkine « En Russie, l'ampleur de la fraude lors de la présidentielle émerge », Le Monde, 22 mars 2024
- (8) Daniel Roher (2023) « Navalny » , Canada, Oscar-winning documentary aired on 17 March on the public television channel France Télévision
- (9) WERTH Nicolas, « Retour sur la grande famine ukrainienne de 1932-1933 », *Vingtième Siècle. Revue d'histoire*, 2014/1 (N° 121), p. 77-93. DOI : 10.3917/ving.121.0077. URL : <https://www.cairn.info/revue-vingtieme-siecle-revue-d-histoire-2014-1-page-77.htm>
- (10) Pamela Chasek, « Stockholm et la naissance de la diplomatie environnementale », septembre 2020- <https://www.iisd.org/fr/articles/stockholm-et-la-naissance-de-la-diplomatie-environnementale>
- (11) *Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive*- It provides for the creation of detailed sustainability reporting standards, known as “ESRS” (European Sustainability Reporting Standards), which help to frame and harmonize company publications. They include «universal» standards, applicable to all companies regardless of their sector of activity but also sector standards, which will be the subject of a second delegated act to be adopted in June 2024.- https://www.amf-france.org/fr/actualites-publications/actualites/la-nouvelle-directive-csr-sur-le-reporting-de-durabilite-des-societes#Principales_dispositions_de_la_CSRD
- (12) According to the wishes of Alfred Nobel , prize created in 1895- https://www.amf-france.org/fr/actualites-publications/actualites/la-nouvelle-directive-csr-sur-le-reporting-de-durabilite-des-societes#Principales_dispositions_de_la_CSRD

Newsletter written on 26 December 2023; updated on 26 March 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>

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](#) 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.: <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/>

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/>