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CONTACT:

Marcia Jacobs
Ukraine Defense Support
Media Director
907-394-4030

UKRAINE NONPROFITS COMMEMORATE OLENIVKA MASSACRE & DEMAND JUSTICE

Local Parents of One of the Survivors & Current POW Join Rally

SEATTLE, July 22, 2024 – Local nonprofits supporting Ukraine will commemorate the 53 Ukrainian prisoners of war who were massacred in a Russian prison in Olenivka, Donetsk on July 28-29, 2022 on Sunday, July 28 from 6:30 - 9 pm in downtown Seattle. Local parents Valeria and Roman Biletska/Biletskiy, of Bonney Lake, will attend to honor their son Roman¹, who is one of the Mariupol defenders taken prisoner in May 2022 at the Azovstal Steel mill. He is one of the survivors of the Olenivka prison massacre.

Many of Ukraine's Mariupol defenders, including Roman, were held at the Olenivka prison. An explosion and fire late in the evening and early in the morning of July 28 - 29 killed 53 POWs and wounded more than 100 others as they were sleeping. Ukrainian authorities have determined that the massacre is a war crime. A United Nations investigation was stymied by Russia. Families of those killed and those still in captivity do not want their loved ones to be forgotten. They want freedom for all Ukrainian POWs and justice for those killed.

"We must remember our brave defenders who were massacred and all those who died defending Ukraine's right to exist. We demand freedom for all Ukrainian POWs and all the Ukrainian children kidnapped by Russia," said Lina Ngo, lead rally organizer with Ukraine Defense Support. Ngo is a Ukrainian refugee from Kyiv who left Ukraine at the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine with her family. She is a tireless advocate for her homeland.

Ukraine Defense Support was founded in 2022 by Carl Larson and Pam Dalan, both of Seattle, after Larson's return from serving in the International Legion in Ukraine. UDS sends urgently needed supplies, including night vision equipment, drones, Humvees and other vehicles, portable generators, military clothing and medical supplies to Ukraine's frontlines. UDS is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit that has raised nearly \$500,000 to help keep as many of Ukraine's defenders alive as possible. EIN 92-2693929 <https://ukrainedefensesupport.org/>

Volia Fund was founded in 2022 by Anastasia Stepanova, Tetiana Novokhatska, Aly Owens, and Arsen Kostenko, all Americans with Ukrainian heritage, from the technology field who care deeply about people in Ukraine. Volia Fund's mission is to provide a partnership platform fostering deep tech projects in defense, research, manufacturing and education that protect and boost well-being in Ukraine. Volia Fund is a registered 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. <https://www.volia.fund/> EIN: 88-3424647

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1. Learn more about Roman and his family: <https://ukrainedefensesupport.org/uds-stories/>

Rally Info:

Rally for Justice, Sunday July 28, 6:30 - 9 pm

Westlake Park, downtown Seattle