

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UKRAINIAN AIR RAID SIREN DEMONSTRATION IN OLYMPIA TO MARK 3RD YEAR OF RUSSIA'S FULL-SCALE INVASION

Feb. 19, 2025, Seattle - To mark the beginning of the fourth year of Russia's illegal and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, Ukraine Defense Support will share the sound of the air raid siren Ukrainians hear every day at the Washington State Capitol in Olympia on Monday, February 24 at noon. The short air raid recording will demonstrate what it is like to hear this siren every day and night for the past 1,095 days of Russia's full-scale invasion.

The recording will be played by UDS and Volia Fund volunteers, some of whom are Ukrainian refugees who fled their country as invading troops approached their homes. The goal is to raise awareness that Russia's invasion and war crimes are ongoing. Hundreds of Ukrainian civilians are killed each month as the occupier launches missiles, drones and bombs into civilian buildings. Earlier this month Russia launched more than 760 guided aerial bombs, approximately 660 attack drones and nearly 50 missiles into Ukrainian cities and towns in a single week.

"As a Ukrainian refugee who loves her country and her friends fighting to defend our freedom, I cannot let the third-year anniversary of Russia's invasion pass quietly. I hope our demonstration of the air raid siren raises awareness that Ukraine endures a 9/11-type day every single day," said Lina Ngo, UDS volunteer.

"Ukraine's fight for freedom and democracy is our fight too," said Carl Larson, president and co-founder of UDS, a U.S. Army Iraq War veteran who fought in Ukraine's International Legion in eastern Ukraine in 2022. "If Ukraine falls, Russia will continue its deadly march west, targeting Poland, the Baltics and more."

"We should not allow our support for Ukraine to fade away with simply time passing," said Tetiana Novokhatska, a president and co-founder of Volia Fund. "As in this case any evil regime can subdue freedom and democracy in another country by being able to conduct the war long enough for the world to stop paying attention to it. Ukrainian people are the only force preventing the biggest army in the world from marching through Europe. We should be united in supporting Ukraine if we don't want the world order to collapse".

UDS's air-raid siren demonstration is just one of the ways UDS, Volia, and the Ukrainian community in Washington state will mark the Feb. 24th anniversary. Other ways include:

- Local buildings and landmarks, including the Great Wheel in Seattle, will be lit in Ukrainian blue and yellow.
- UDS volunteers will participate in the "Ask Me About Ukraine" campaign on Saturday, Feb. 22nd at various locations around the greater Seattle area. Small groups will sit outside with posters that say "Ask me about Ukraine" with an open chair for passersby to engage in conversation about Ukraine.
- UDS volunteers will participate in the [War is Not Over](#) march and rally from Pike's Place Market to the Space Needle in Seattle on Sunday, Feb. 23rd from 11 am to 3 pm, led by the Ukraine Association of Washington State. UDS is creating a moving memorial for the children who have been murdered by Russia in the last three years. Look for the collection of children's shoes in the Seattle Center amphitheater.
- UDS, in partnership with Ukrainian Students United at the University of Washington and the Toloka Cultural Center, is hosting the deeply moving exhibition [Unissued Diplomas](#) from Feb. 18 - March 14 at the Allen Library at the UW. It is a global tribute honoring the memory of 40 Ukrainian students whose futures were tragically cut short by the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

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 more than \$1.2 million 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 fields that protect and boost well-being in Ukraine. Volia Fund is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization present on Benevity and many other charitable platforms. <https://www.volia.fund/>

Air Raid Siren Event Details:

When: Monday, Feb. 24 at noon

Where: Washington State Capitol, Olympia

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