

## **Daria Kaleniuk Testimony**

I am honored to testify here, thank you for the invitation!

I run an organization in Ukraine called Anticorruption Action Centre. During the last 10 years my team was advocating for crucial anticorruption and rule of law reforms in Ukraine. We were quite successful. On February 22, in his long speech, which in fact was a declaration of war against Ukraine, Vladimir Putin mentioned all these reforms we worked on. National Anticorruption bureau, High Anticorruption Court, High Council of Justice - he mentioned such details that the average Ukrainian is not aware of. It is clear to me that Ukraine's fight with corruption became a direct threat to Putin and his kleptocratic regime.

In 2 days after the speech he began a full scale war against Ukrainians. To punish us for our decision to live in dignity and freedom.

Today is the 42nd day of this war. Here is a picture of a 6 years old boy from Bucha. He is standing near the grave of his mother in the backyard of their house. His mother died of hunger. This story is one of thousands of horrible atrocities putins' army is performing in my country. There is genocide happening now in Ukraine and entire world observes it as a reality show.

But let us think what has empowered Putin to become a new Hitler of our time?

Partially this is the complicity of the West.

Putin has 2 armies: one is visible and obvious, it operates in Ukraine now. More than 100 000 troops, heavy weapon, missiles, tanks, bombs, guns. The goal of this army is to eliminate Ukrainians and destroy the Ukrainian state from the map. And another army is invisible, unobvious. It has operated all across Western liberal democracies for decades. This is the army of lawyers, lobbyists, accountants, financial managers, real estate agents, PR consultants.

### **What do they do?**

They help to park billions of dollars of stolen money from Russian people to the West. They help to disguise their illicit origin by structuring complex financial transactions, by hiding their beneficial owners behind the chain of shell companies and trusts. Using this money they help to purchase loyalty of the West to Putin's oligarchs.

### **How big and powerful this army is?**

The estimated market cost of superyacht Eclipse owned by Russian oligarch Roman Abramovich is about \$1,2 bln. The estimated budget cost of weapon and military equipment sent by the USA to Ukraine this year is about \$2 bln. Just think of that: Ukraine is receiving now from the USA to protect 40 million people from Russian aggression with military support worth 1,5 yachts from one Russian oligarch. And just imagine what if we could have the power to confiscate all these superyachts, as well as luxurious mansions of Russian oligarchs across the world and use these funds to arm the Ukrainian army to the extent we need to fight Russia's military aggression. I believe these could have prevented horrible suffering and death of thousands of innocent people in Ukraine.

Russian oligarchs are Putin's western wallets and they must be treated now as war criminals. They were empowering Putin's regime during the last 2 decades and helped him to finance the war against Ukraine.

However, there are also enablers in the West who made this possible.

Lawyers who silence investigative journalists for exposing corrupt oligarchic networks.

Western former politicians who enter supervisory boards of Russia's state energy companies.

Prestigious international forums like Munich Security Conference who invite Russian oligarchs.

Top world universities which accept donations from Putin's Western wallets.

Real estate agents, who don't dare to check the source of origin of funds invested into the most expensive mansions in the US or UK.

The list could be continued.

This is obvious for me now, that there are two battlefields of Russia's war against liberal democracy. One is in Ukraine and we urgently need help from the USA to arm the Ukrainian army to win this battlefield - we ask for advanced weapons, not American troops on the ground. And another one is in the West, where America is obliged to fight by targeting Russian oligarchs and their enablers. I hope the Congress will pass the Enablers Act, which is a very important and good start of this fight, but we have to understand that this is just the beginning. It will be a long war, both in Ukraine and in the West. We have to fight this war together, because it is a matter of who you are and what you stand for as a human being.

God bless America.

Slava Ukraini.