



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Aug 22, 2023 · 21 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1693971199297024406](#)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce an Austrian journalist, Christian Wehrschütz (@WehrsChu).

He's best-known for supporting and spreading pro-Kremlin narratives on the Russo-Ukrainian War.

1/20



As I've previously written, Austria is a hotspot for pro-Kremlin activities:

This is often factored to strong Russo-Austrian economic ties, but there are other variables at play, too. One of those is the way how @ORF, Austria's biggest media...

 **Pekka Kallioniemi** 
@P_Kallioniemi · [Follow](#) 

In today's #vatnik soup I'm going to talk about Austria. Countries like Serbia and Hungary often pop up in conversations about Russia and Putin apologists, but when it comes to Russian espionage and intelligence activities, Austria, along with Belgium, comes on top.

1/17



10:43 AM · Feb 6, 2023 

 4.2K  Reply  Copy link

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...company, has framed Russia's invasion of Ukraine since the Revolution of Dignity took place in 2014.

For example, recently this state-funded public broadcaster became under scrutiny for showing fake news:

3/20

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Austrian state-funded @ORF published 2 fake videos about allegedly forced conscription in Ukraine: one is actually an SSU agent arresting a FSB agent, and the other one is on a border checkpoint & not at an University.

Prime time news showing BS from pro-Kremlin TikTok account.

 **Sig Chri**   @Fella_IA_X25

1/ BREAKING ⚡: Der @ORF, #Wehrschütz, TikTok Account aus Polen für pro russische Propaganda, Verschwörungstheorien und Anti Europäisches Gedankengut namens Konrad Wichert, zwei manipulierte Videos und zwei russische Narrative. Schauen wir uns an ob der @ORF jetzt Russia Today...



**WARNING:
RUSSIAN
DISINFORMATION
INSIDE**

Actually now a new corruption scandal has been discovered in Ukraine.

7:59 AM · Aug 17, 2023 

 2.9K  Reply  Copy link

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Almost 70% of Austrians follow ORF's radio coverage, and their website boasts with over 120 million monthly visits. ORF's reporting might be one of the reasons why Austria's pro-Russia sentiment is on the rise, and right-wing, pro-Kremlin parties like FPÖ lead the polls.



PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENCE NO. 875 OF 08/01/2023

ORF report 2022: market shares have fallen slightly

Television: 34.6%, radio: 68%, orf.at: 134.6 million visits per month

Vienna (PK) - 6.4 million people in Austria use at least one of the ORF's multimedia offerings every day, according to the ORF annual report 2022 (III-987 dB and III-826-BR/2023 dB), which is transmitted to the National Council became. The market shares in 2022 were 34.6% on television (2021: 35.5%) and 68% on radio (2021: 72%). The ORF.at network records 134.6 million visits per month (2021: 138.87 million).

ORF key topics and major events in 2022

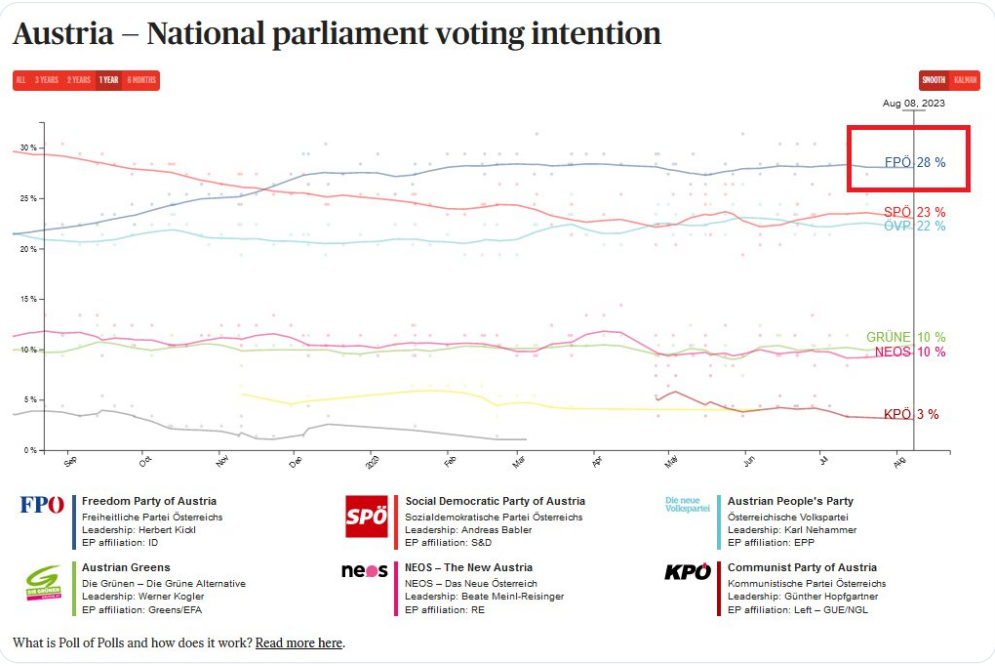
The ORF key topics and initiatives on television, radio and online in 2022 included the Holocaust Memorial Day, "100 years of Lower Austria", major royal events, the health initiative "Consciously Healthy" and the environmental initiative "Mother Earth: Climate and Energy".

According to the report, in the area of information, the focus was on the Ukraine war, the energy crisis and inflation, the elections in France and Italy, the state elections in Tyrol, the election for the Austrian Federal President and the death of Queen Elizabeth II. In the first month after the outbreak of the war alone, the ORF broadcast around 200 special programs on television and radio about the war in Ukraine. The ORF currently has 16 correspondent offices with 25 journalists worldwide.

TV: New special for "MA 2412" best self-produced fiction since 2004

The ORF broadcasting group on television, consisting of ORF 1, ORF 2, ORF 2 Europe, ORF III and ORF Sport+, achieved a daily reach of 3.804 million viewers in 2022. This corresponds to 50.4% of the TV population. In addition, the ORF cooperates with other public broadcasters within the framework of the channels 3sat, ARTE and ARD-alpha.

In 2022, ORF 1 and ORF 2 reached an average of 3.681 million viewers aged 12 and over every day. The program structure of ORF 1 and ORF 2 has been analyzed annually since 2013 based on a scheme developed by the University of Vienna. In 2022, this analysis included a total of 283,153 programs or parts and showed a stable program share of 27% for the information area compared to the previous year, while culture/religion also remained at the previous year's value at 6%. Science/education/life support and sport each accounted for 8% (2021: 9% each), and the family area increased slightly at 8% (2021: 6%). By for the



280 posts



POLITICAL RELATIONS

FPÖ does not disclose the Russia contract of its own accord

The agreement was drawn up in Moscow in 2016 between the FPÖ and the United Russia party. According to Secretary General Hafenecker, the contract has expired

February 10, 2023 at 7:30 am, 280 posts

Vienna/Moscow – The FPÖ does not think about disclosing the so-called “friendship treaty” once concluded with the party of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Everything that concerns the agreement with “United Russia” is already on the table and has been discussed many times, said General Secretary Christian Hafenecker. Confronted with the contract available to the APA, Hafenecker says it has “expired”, which has also been confirmed by the Russian side.

SPÖ federal director Christian Deutsch again asked the FPÖ on Thursday to disclose their party finances and any contracts with the Russian party “United Russia”. Research by “Profil” last week raised the suspicion that the FPÖ had received money for a pro-Russian National Council application. According to research by the SPÖ, the FPÖ has submitted 30 pro-Russian motions since the start of the Ukraine war.

In general, Hafenecker does not want to talk about a contract, but about a declaration of intent. The letter also states that the agreement with the Putin party has no legal effect. And there is no further contract in a safe of the party, emphasizes the blue general secretary.



According to FPÖ boss Herbert Kickl, Russia has confirmed the end of the so-called “friendship agreement”.

Photo: APA/ROLAND SCHLAGER

Wehrschütz started his media career back in the 80s, when he contributed to the Austrian far-right magazine Die Aula. Later he was the editor of "Neue Freie Zeitung," the official publication of FPÖ. Wehrschütz was also member of FPÖ until 2002.

Z 31016

Die Aula

Das freiheitliche Monatsmagazin – unabhängig & unangepaßt

Für Politikumkehr
Helwig Leibinger verlangt von Bürgern offenen Protest

Trojanisches Pferd
Welche Chancen hat die Türkpartei ADO in der BRD?

Hofers Hofmaler
Der Künstler Odin Wiesinger als echter Könnler im Portrait

Das ist de Maizièrè
Die wundersame Karriere des BRD-Innenministers

Maßlosigkeit
Mit Heiko Maas ist ein Erzlinker Justizminister

Fritz Wunderlich
Vor 50 Jahren starb der lyrische Ausnahmetenor

Pariser Vertrag
Wem diente das 1946 geschlossene Gruber-DeGasperi-Abkommen?



Neue Freie Zeitung

Deutsch als Schulsprache auch am Pausenhof!

Nach den langem-wedigen Stunden zur Integration fordert Oberstlehrerin FPÖ-Landtagsabgeordnete Marlene Harbichner über das Privat-Schulische Deutsch die Bilingualität der Elternkinder an: „Deutsch nicht nur im Unterricht, sondern auch im Pausenhof.“ S. 11



FPÖ hat Weichen für die Zukunft gestellt

Der freiheitlichen Parteigremien haben die Lehren aus der Wahlniederlage gezogen S. 2/3



16,2 Prozent: Wählerauftrag für Neustart in der Opposition

Nach Wahlniederlage kommt jetzt Norbert Hofers Reform der Partei – S. 4/5

PARLAMENT

Keine Aufklärung

Keine Antwort auf zwei ÖP-Mitglieder, eine dürftige Mitteilung aus dem Bundeskanzleramt: Die Nichtbeachtung der Anfrage zum 300.000-Euro-Familienlohn von Ex-Konzernt Sebastian Kurz zeigt die Missachtung des Parlaments auf. S. 6

AUßENPOLITIK

Klima-Planwirtschaft

Der deutsche Ökonom Daniel Balle zeigt an der Klimapolitik der deutschen Bundesregierung den neuen Drang zur Planwirtschaft auf – und wie dabei tausende Milliarden Euro verbrennt werden, ohne dass dabei die „Klimasanktion“ beendet wird. S. 8/9

WIEN

Skandal-Vertuschung

Transparenz und Aufklärung zur „Gausa Chamer“ haben SPÖ und ÖVP in Wien verpasst. In der Gemeinderat gab es die besten Ergebnisse. Die grüne Planungsdirektorin Birgit Helber beantwortete mit dem Hinweis auf die „Ambassadenschweigen“ keine Fragen. S. 11

MEDIEN

Deutsche Vorgabe

Mit der Veröffentlichung des „Zu-za-Videos“ haben zwei deutsche Medien die FPÖ aus der Regierung gedrängt – aber welche die öffentlich-rechtliche ZDF dafür Sorge tragen, dass die FPÖ auf jeden Fall mehr in Regierungverantwortung kommt. S. 14

Wehrschütz turns his back on the FPÖ

In 2002 he turned away from the FPÖ. The ORF correspondent justified his resignation from the party by saying that it had not met his expectations. In the summer of 2021 he ran for the post of ORF Director General. However, [Alexander Wrabetz](#) was succeeded by [Roland Weißmann](#).

He worked as a part-time correspondent in Kyiv, and his controversial takes started already in 2014, when he published a book called "Brennpunkt Ukraine". In it, he claimed that "there was, of course, an organization that someone financed" the Revolution of Dignity.

6/20



Brennpunkt Ukraine: Gespräche über ein gespaltenes Land 

Hardcover – 9 Dec. 2014
by Christian Wehrschütz (Autor)
3.8 ★★★★★ 13 ratings [See all formats and editions](#)

Kindle Edition €0.00 [kindle unlimited](#) Hardcover €24.99

This title and over 1 million more are available with Kindle Unlimited €9.99 to buy 6 Used from €6.10 13 New from €24.99

Brennpunkt Ukraine: Revolution auf dem Maidan, Krim-Krise, Ausrufung der Volksrepubliken Donezk und Lugansk, erbitterte Kämpfe, der Abschuss der Passagiermaschine MH17, brüchige Waffenruhe und zähe Verhandlungen ... Die Ukraine ist heute mehr denn je ein gespaltenes Land ein Land, das ORF-Journalist Christian Wehrschütz wie kein anderer kennt. In den Interviews, die dieses Buch versammelt, spricht er mit einflussreichen Politikern, politischen und militärischen Akteuren auf Seite der ukrainischen Freiwilligen und der prussischen Rebellen sowie ganz normalen Menschen. Es entsteht ein vielstimmiges Porträt der aktuellen Krise, das Bruchlinien, Hintergründe und mögliche Zukunftsszenarien hautnah, ungeschminkt und authentisch verdeutlicht. [Zu Read more](#)

Print length	Language	Publisher	Publication date	Dimensions	ISBN-10
 240 pages	 German	 Styria Premium	 9 Dec. 2014	 13.5 x 3.8 x 21.5 cm	 322213474X

[See all 2 images](#)

This same claim, without a shred of evidence, has come from filmmakers like Igor Lopatonok, whose propaganda piece "Ukraine on Fire" provided us a very one-sided image of what happened in Ukraine in 2014:

7/20



Pekka Kallioniemi ✓
@P_Kallioniemi · Follow



In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a propaganda film Ukraine on Fire and its two main creators, Igor Lopatonok (@lopatonok) & Oliver Stone (@TheOliverStone). It's best-known for falsely claiming the 2014 Revolution of Dignity to be a US/far-right-orchestrated coup d'état.
1/22



3:11 PM · May 22, 2023

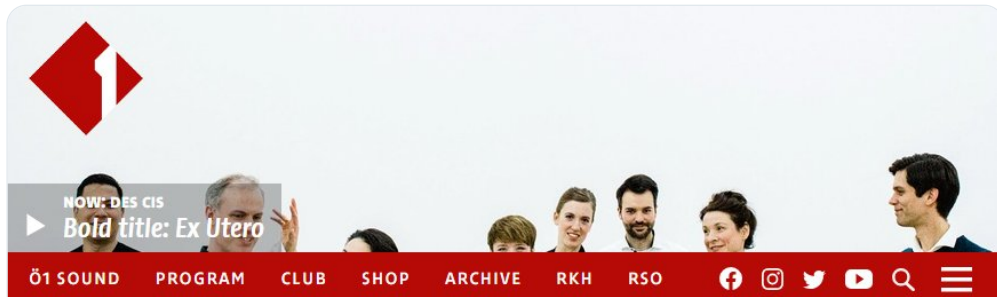


♥ 3.8K 💬 Reply 🔗 Copy link

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On 20 Feb 2014, he blamed the violence in Kyiv to the "extreme opposition", saying that they've sent snipers on the scene. He somehow forgot to mention the Berkut snipers, the paid "Titushky" thugs & the constant meddling of pro-Russian actors in his "balanced" report.

8/20





Extremist opposition storms arms depots

Immediately again live to Kiev to Christian Wehrschütz: Again many dead today in the Ukrainian capital, after only a few hours of ceasefire, opposition leader Klitschko says the situation is out of control. Even if one cannot yet speak of a civil war, the willingness to use violence and also the arming of the opposition is increasing massively, reports ORF reporter Christian Wehrschütz directly from Kiev.

Apr 8, 2017 at 9:58 p.m Split 

Midday Journal, February 20, 2014

 00:00 | 00:00 

Directly from Kyiv,

Opposition members looted arms caches last night. These weapons were brought to Kiev. Police barracks have been stormed. The extremist opposition is heavily armed. This morning the new violence has come from these extremist groups who have sent snipers into the streets of Kiev. The democratic opposition has no control over these groups. At the same time, the Ukrainian leadership has requested special military personnel to be on their way to Kiev, according to ORF special correspondent Christian Wehrschütz in his direct report from Kiev.

Later, in 2022, he doubled-down on his claims, insisting on the "correctness" of his reporting and self-praising his ability to "draw a far more differentiated picture than was offered by the usual Maidan reporting," that he called "a one-sided good/evil scheme"

9/20



Mein Journalistenleben zwischen Darth Vader und Jungfrau Maria Hardcover – 5 Oct. 2022

by Christian Wehrschütz (Autor)

4.7      39 ratings [See all formats and editions](#)

Hardcover


€25.30

10 Used from €6.75
29 New from €25.00

Seit zwei Jahrzehnten ist Christian Wehrschütz als Korrespondent am Balkan und in der Ukraine unterwegs, immer nah am Geschehen und mit dem Herzen bei den Menschen. Hier erzählt er, wie seine Beiträge zustande kommen und wie wichtig sein Team ist, das ihn bei schwierigen oder gefährlichen Unternehmungen unterstützt. Fahrer, Sekretärinnen, Kameraleute und Cutter – ohne sie könnte Christian Wehrschütz nicht auf seinem Niveau berichten. Die außergewöhnlichen Einblicke in die oft verwirrenden Situationen in Kriegsgebieten verdanken wir einer besonderen Leistung des Korrespondenten: Er lernt die Landessprache seiner Länder, aus denen er berichtet – und kommt auf diese Weise zu Informationen, die kaum ein anderer erhält.

Print length	Language	Publisher	Publication date	Dimensions	ISBN-10
 280 pages	 German	 edition keiper	 5 Oct. 2022	 12.6 x 2.5 x 18.5 cm	 3903322652

After Russia illegally annexed Crimea and parts of the Donbas, Wehrschütz called the latter "pro-Russian rebel republics". As we now know from the Surkov and Glazeyev leaks, these sentiments were largely fabricated by the Kremlin propagandists and businessmen.


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The Surkov Leaks: The Inner Workings of Russia’s Hybrid War in Ukraine

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The Glazyev Tapes: Getting to the root of the conflict in Ukraine

The so-called “Surkov Leaks” have reinvigorated the discussion of Moscow’s involvement in the war in Ukraine and the emergence of “people’s republics” in the east of the country.

[Andreas Umland](#)

Commentary · 1 November 2016 · 5 minute read

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Russia watchers have been intrigued by the recent email leak of Vladislav Surkov – Russia’s adviser responsible for policies towards Ukraine and Russia’s satellite states in northern Georgia. The so-called “Surkov Leaks” have reinvigorated the discussion of Moscow’s involvement in the war in Ukraine and the emergence of “people’s republics” in the east of the country. The leaks confirm the Kremlin’s involvement in the armed conflict in the Donbas, and make clear that fueling the conflict in east Ukraine is just one part of Moscow’s broader policy for undermining the Ukrainian state.

But these leaks do not alter our understanding of the conflict. Rather, they confirm — with more empirical proof — what was already known

February 26, 2015 01:43
GMT

Purportedly Leaked Document 'Shows Kremlin Had Advance Plan To Seize Crimea'

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Print

The Russian daily newspaper Novaya Gazeta has published a plan -- allegedly given to the Kremlin two weeks before President Viktor Yanukovich was ousted last year -- calling for Russia to "foment separatism" in eastern Ukraine and seize Crimea.

The February 25 edition of the newspaper showed a copy of the memo, which suggested a series of steps Russia should take to maintain control over the situation in Ukraine.

The newspaper said the memo was prepared sometime between February 4 and 12, 2014, and alleges ultranationalist Russian oligarch Konstantin Malofeev might have been behind it, a charge Malofeev denies.

The memo says Ukrainian oligarchs had lost control of the situation on Kyiv's Maidan Square and that the leaders of demonstrations there were being guided by "Polish and British secret services."

The memo predicted Yanukovich's fall and said Russia should use the EU's own rules on autonomous regions to bind Crimea and eastern Ukraine to Russia.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov suggested the memo is fake.

Based on reporting by Novaya Gazeta and the International New York Times

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Losing Part Of Hand



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Technology Is For

In Feb 2015, he stated in an interview that "It is clear Putin is no longer interested in aggravating the conflict because it involves extremely high costs." Before this interview, he was awarded with Austria's coveted "Journalist of the Year" for his "balanced" journalism.

11/20

Angela Merkel has explicitly praised Putin's role in the Minsk negotiations. Do you see a small rapprochement between Russia and the EU, even if the agreed ceasefire on Saturday afternoon wobbled?

What is clear is that Putin no longer has any interest in escalating the conflict because it is associated with extremely high costs. On the one hand there are the sanctions, but on the other hand there is also the devastating social situation of the people in the pro-Russian regions. Since Ukraine has stopped paying pensions and all social benefits, these regions are dependent on Russia. Because I find it difficult to play autonomy with ruins. One point that has a lot to do with the future is the agreement on an economic area from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This offers the EU a roof to cushion Ukraine's EU rapprochement by allowing Russia included in the economic area.

JOURNALISTS CHOICE

Christian Wehrschütz is Austria's "Journalist of the Year"

"Der Österreichischer Journalist" named correspondent Christian Wehrschütz "Journalist of the Year" and "Die Presse" "Editor of the Year". Christian Wetterrig from the Kleine Zeitung is "Local Journalist of the Year" in Carinthia.



In Dec 2018, the Ukrainian authorities refused to renew his authorization to work in the front line area in Donbas. At the same time, he claimed to be in danger and threatened by Ukraine's "militant, ultra-nationalist groups". He also demanded a diplomatic intervention.

12/20

Then-Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl, the same Kneissl with #vatniksoup fame, intervened publicly on Wehrschütz's behalf. She has since moved to Russia, calling it "her world" and better place for holiday than Seychelles or Maledives. To each their own, I guess.

13/20

- The federal minister
- The Secretary General
- Senior employees
- business classification
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VIENNA, DECEMBER 28, 2018 — SENDING

Karin Kneissl: "Freedom of the media is a fundamental value of European countries"

The refusal to accredit Austrian journalists in a European country is an unprecedented event

Austria is committed to maintaining freedom of the press and protecting journalists worldwide. This will also be a leitmotif during Austria's membership of the United Nations Human Rights Council. "Of course, this commitment also applies to restrictions on press and media freedom in European countries. Of course, this topic was also the subject of my talks in Moscow on April 20 this year. It is an unprecedented event that Austrian journalists are refused accreditation in a European country," said Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl.

"With this unjustified approach, Ukraine shows a regrettable lack of understanding for the importance of media freedom, which is a fundamental value of European states," the Foreign Minister continued.

"Of course, the Austrian Foreign Ministry will continue to work both on site in Ukraine and in international bodies such as the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to maintain press freedom and protect journalists, if one or more Austrian citizens fall victim to state arbitrariness," concludes Karin Kneissl.

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Austria's Putin ally says Russia better for holidays than Seychelles, Maldives

Former Austrian Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl rents house in rural village – and says she's loving it.



"Grandmothers, apples, summer, swim in the river. It's a good life. I don't need the Maldives or the Seychelles. It's better," says Karin Kneissl | Yuri Kadobnov/AFP via Getty Images

BY CLAUDIA CHIAPPA

'This is my world!': Former Austrian FM spends holiday in Russia



By Una Hajdari
Published on 10/08/2023 - 06:30

Eventually, due to Kneissl's and the Austrian government's pressure, Wehrschütz's authorization to work in the Donbas front lines was returned. Russian propaganda machinery couldn't miss this opportunity and quickly produced some articles defaming Ukrainian authorities.



December 26, 2018, 20:17



ORF journalist turns to Austrian government for help over threats in Ukraine

Christian Verschutz said he fears for his life in Ukraine

VIENNA, 26 December. /TASS/. Christian Verschutz, a journalist and reporter for the Austrian television and radio company ORF in Ukraine, said he feared for his life in this country. He called on the Austrian government and the leadership of the ORF to influence the Ukrainian government to stop building obstacles to journalistic work, the Kronen Zeitung writes on Wednesday.

"There are paramilitary, ultra-nationalist groups operating in Ukraine that threaten journalists who critically cover the politics of the Ukrainian leadership and try to maintain objectivity. Two journalists have already been killed, I don't want to be next," Verschutz wrote in a message to ORF CEO and the Austrian federal government. - I persistently ask the leadership of the ORF and representatives of the Republic of Austria to make a presentation to Ukraine and its representation in Austria."

The journalist urged the Austrian authorities to remove the entry about himself on the Ukrainian page on the Internet "Posipaka - Agent of the Kremlin." In addition, he called on Ukraine to stop its nit-picking. "I point out that in Ukraine there is a physical threat not only for me, but also for my employees," Kronen Zeitung cites excerpts from Verschutz's message.

In his coverage of the media situation in Ukraine, the ORF reporter previously pointed out that his film crew was being denied accreditation by the Kyiv authorities. At the same time, there have been too many obstacles to doing journalistic work in Ukraine lately. "The countries of the EU and the US know about it, but they are silent. The silence of the lambs must be stopped," the Austrian journalist urged.



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All news Politics Economy Society IT & Technology Health Culture Sports However Weather History

© December 27, 2018, 21:20

In Ukraine, an Austrian reporter, who was not seen as sympathetic to Russia, was declared an agent of the Kremlin



In March 2019, despite the Austrian government and Kneissl lobbying hard on his behalf, Christian faced a ban on entering Ukraine, which he protested in a Kyiv court. His lawyer, Maryna Parinova, allegedly has connections to Yanukovich's old administration.

15/20



The image is a screenshot of a news article from the Kyiv Post website. At the top left is the KADORR Group logo. To its right are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, and LinkedIn. The Kyiv Post logo is prominently displayed in the top right, with the tagline 'UKRAINE'S GLOBAL VOICE' underneath. A navigation bar below the logo lists categories: Ukraine, World, Economics, Opinion, Video, Culture, Multimedia, More (with a dropdown arrow), and Business Wire. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb trail: '← Back to Home' followed by 'Ukraine' (underlined) and 'Austrian journalist sues Ukraine, claims censorship'. The article title is 'Austrian journalist sues Ukraine, claims censorship', preceded by a red 'EXCLUSIVE' badge. Below the title, it says 'By Vyacheslav Hnatyuk. Published March 28, 2019 at 5:34 pm'. On the left side of the article, there are social media sharing buttons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and a red heart icon. The main content area features a large photograph of a man with glasses and a dark suit, identified as Wehrschütz, speaking against a blue background.

Wehrschütz has also written for Austria's biggest tabloid called "Kronen Zeitung," in which he has warned about "escalation" & criticized the weapons deliveries to Ukraine. @Wehrschu, do you agree that this "diplomacy" should include Russia leaving Ukraine, including Crimea?

16/20

The reporter talks about the situation in Ukraine: "The war has become part of everyday life. In cities like Kiev, the bomb alarm is sometimes no longer taken seriously." He describes how likely it really is that Russian gas supplies to the West will be stopped and gives his assessment of the further course of the war: "The Russians, who were repeatedly declared dead, advancing slowly but surely. What bothers me is that the West is primarily discussing further arms deliveries to Ukraine. The means of diplomacy have receded far too far into the background. There is no end in sight to this war." The 60-year-old journalist also talks about his everyday life during the war: "I've never been afraid because fear is a bad advisor. When things get tricky, you have to stay calm and think: 'How do I get out of there?'" Wehrschütz also tells Ö3 for the first time how the Chancellor's visit saved his life: "Actually, I was supposed to be shooting at a Kramatorsk train station that day, but because of Nehammer's visit to Ukraine, I had to change my plans. And then the train station came under rocket fire just as I would have originally been there and 50 civilians were killed. Fate was kind to me." was hit by a rocket and 50 civilians were killed. Fate was kind to me." was hit by a rocket and 50 civilians were killed. Fate was kind to me."

In regard to Bucha, he questioned "whether all the corpses lying around there have really been victims of Russian war crimes." He continued that "The pictures from Bucha are terrible - but the hypocrisy of the West and its failed policies of the past 30 years are terrible."

17/20

Wehrschütz: Not comparable to Srebrenica

ORF correspondent Christian Wehrschütz is cautious in assessing the atrocities in Bucha and does not yet want to speak of a massacre. "An international investigation would be very appropriate," said Wehrschütz in the Ö1 morning journal. It is questionable "whether really all the people who were lying around there" became victims of Russian war crimes. There was massive fighting in this place for the first few days and the Russians were shot there". Wehrschütz also believes that the atrocities will have consequences. "In fact, nothing can happen, because Russia is a nuclear power and does not recognize international jurisdiction."

Wehrschütz also commented on the atrocities on Facebook: understanding everything does not mean forgiving everything! But anyone who, because of his addiction to conspiracy theories (Russia as an example) and total hysteria (the West as pars pro toto) does not even try to understand the other side, should not forget that we need a solution for Ukraine, let's not go there completely uncontrollable situations (use of tactical nuclear weapons by Russia as an example). The pictures from Bucha are terrible - but the hypocrisy of the West and its failed policies of the past 30 years are terrible."

Christian Wehrschütz' statements caused a stir on Twitter. Numerous users accuse the ORF correspondent of Russia-friendly reporting.

A Russian military unit killed dozens in Bucha, a Times investigation shows.

Share full article



Some weeks later, he he did "not yet want to speak of a massacre", because of they, in his opinion, were used for "influencing public opinion". Later, when the overwhelming evidence of Russian atrocities came to light, he asked that "who is still talking about Bucha today?"

18/20

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War Crimes Watch: A devastating walk through Bucha's horror

Ukrainian Ambassador to Austria, Vasyl Khymynets, was later outraged by Wehrschütz's comments on Izyum mass graves. He said that Russian war crimes could not be verified and added that "we should not forget about the media and information war."

19/20

Home > News > Ukraine > [Ukrainian Ambassador in Austria outraged by Austrian journalist Christian Wehrschütz's report on Izyum](#)

UKRAINIAN AMBASSADOR IN AUSTRIA OUTRAGED BY AUSTRIAN JOURNALIST CHRISTIAN WEHRSCHÜTZ'S REPORT ON IZYUM

19.09.2022, 17:35

Photo: screenshot from OMF's video

Ukrainian Ambassador to Austria Vasyl Khymynets was outraged by the report from Izyum by the correspondent of the Austrian ORF in Ukraine, Christian Wehrschütz. The Ukrainian ambassador wrote about this on his [Twitter](#), [writes](#) Ukrinform.

Irritierend und verstörend: Berichterstattung über #Izyum in #zib2: Weltweit ist man entsetzt über die schweren Verbrechen der [Armee](#), die in #Izyum entdeckt wurden. Nur der [@ORF](#) meldet Zweifel an. Hunderte Zivilpersonen, darunter ganze Familien...

Bodies found in Izyum mass grave had their genitals hacked off, Ukrainian forces reveal, as they uncover Russian torture chamber with 'electric cables'

- Ukraine internal affairs minister spoke of harrowing scenes uncovered in Izyum
- 'We continue to find many bodies with signs of violent death,' he said Monday
- 146 bodies were exhumed from an Izyum mass grave on September 19 alone
- It comes as regional police chief shared images from inside Izyum police station
- The station was converted into a torture chamber by occupying Russians, he claimed

By DAVID AVERRE FOR MAILONLINE

PUBLISHED: 10:34 BST, 20 September 2022 | UPDATED: 15:36 BST, 20 September 2022



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Almost all the bodies exhumed from mass graves in the recently liberated city of Izyum in Ukraine's **Kharkiv** region show clear evidence of torture including violent castrations, investigators have declared.

Ukraine's First Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Yevheny Yenin spoke of the horrendous treatment murdered civilians endured before their deaths in a harrowing admission to news site **Suspilne** yesterday.

'We continue to find bodies with signs of violent death - there are many of them,' Yenin said.

'These include broken ribs and cracked skulls, men with bound hands, broken jaws,

Allegedly, Mr. Wehrschütz has hired a group of high-profile lawyers who are known to sue everyone in Austria he deems even a slight threat to his reputation as an "objective" reporter.

I'm not sure if spreading Kremlin propaganda helps his image as an objective journalist.




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EXCLUSIVE

Austrian journalist sues Ukraine, claims censorship

By Vyacheslav Hnatyuk. Published March 28, 2019 at 5:34 pm



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World > Austrian journalist Christian Wehrschütz uses two misleading video in his report on mobilisation in Ukraine

AUSTRIAN JOURNALIST CHRISTIAN WEHRSCHÜTZ USES TWO MISLEADING VIDEO IN HIS REPORT ON MOBILISATION IN UKRAINE

21.08.2023, 17:01   




Photo: ORF screenshot

The Austrian ORF correspondent in Ukraine, Christian Wehrschütz, issued a report on the mobilisation issues in Ukraine that featured two misleading videos where conscripts appear to be forcibly detained, reports [Ukrinform](#).

Wehrschütz's report on the mobilisation issues in Ukraine related to corruption was [released](#) on August 15 in the news program ZIB1 on the Austrian TV channel ORF 2 (part of the public broadcaster ORF).

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