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Apr 26, 2024 · 20 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1783781879352607128](#)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce an Italian propagandist, Vittorio Nicola Rangeloni. He's best-known for producing pro-Kremlin propaganda from Donbas for the Italian-speaking audience, and for breaking the Geneva conventions by interviewing prisoners of war.

1/19



Rango grew up in Lecco, Italy. His mother was Russian, and because of this young Vittorio was told about the virtues and wonders of Russkiy Mir and the superiority of the communist system.

2/19

Rangeloni was quite romantic about the DNR. He'd grown up in Italy, with a Russian mother who taught him that the Soviet Union was a great place. He'd been indoctrinated with communism from an early age, and jumped at the chance to move to the DNR once it declared independence. He said he was there to spread the truth of their situation, even if he did constantly deny that the Russians were directly involved.

In his early 20s, Rango was yet to discover his role in this world. He enjoyed traveling, and decided to take his humble savings of 3000 EUR to relocate to his dream destination in the newly formed and completely made-up Donetsk People's Republic.

3/19

Janus Putkonen is a big man. He's 42 and stands at about 6'3", with broad shoulders and slicked back hair. He had a small entourage of DNR affiliates with him: Maria, his assistant/translator/girlfriend, a guy with an anvil head who didn't speak and **Vittorio Rangeloni, a 24-year-old Italian communist who had spent his life savings of €3,000 to move to the DNR.** There is a small stream of European communists moving to Donetsk. Putkonen was one of the first. He's from Finland and doesn't speak Russian or Ukrainian, nor has he tried to learn. He made his way to the DNR shortly after the war started. "I wanted to see what was happening for myself," he said. "I saw that this place was giving power back to the people, so I stayed."

While there, he met Janus Putkonen, a Finnish master vatnik/propagandist in charge of now-closed Doni News and the largest Finnish pro-Kremlin fake news blog MV-Lehti. Janus took the young Italian under his wing, showing him the ropes of the daily "journalism" he was doing.

4/19



It's worth noting, that Putkonen's connection to the Kremlin was confirmed through the leaked e-mail dump Egorova Leaks, which showed that Janus received around 1200 monthly for his low-quality propaganda. More on Janus Putkonen here:

5/19



https://www.youtube.com/embed/uBMT_zLxJRI

Vittorio, aged 24, aspired a similar path and got into reporting himself. Vito would later state the militia had enough soldiers, probably due to the generous funding coming from the Kremlin, but that there weren't enough "journalists" to cover the Kremlin's lies.

6/19

"I realized that the militia wasn't experiencing a shortage in fighters. At the same time, there was a huge information hole in the coverage of what's really going on here," Rangeloni said, as cited by the Italian newspaper.

Both Putkonen and Rangeloni were featured in VICE's 2017 documentary about rave parties in DPR, in which they could freely spread false narratives about the culprits of the war (or the civil war, as they referred to it). Both of course claimed that Ukraine was the aggressor.

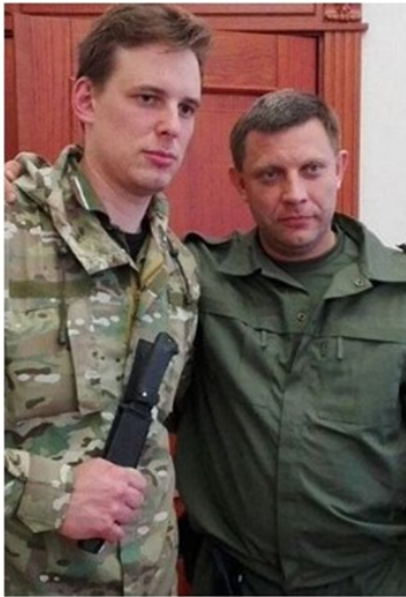
7/19



During his trip, Rango also met the DPR "Prime Minister" and terrorist Alexander Zakharchenko. Zakharchenko was notorious for his human right abuses, stating in an interview that he "won't feel sorry for the civilians or anyone else". In 2018, a bomb in a café took his life.

8/19

"Vittorio Nicola Rangeloni, born in Lecco, connected to Lega Nord, introduces himself as an "LPR" reporter and close friend of Cavalleri. He has been photographed many times with weapons, including a combat knife presented to him by leader of "DPR" Zakharchenko.



Pro-Russian rebel leader Alexander Zakharchenko killed in cafe explosion

By Ray Sanchez and Nathan Hodge, CNN
© 2 minute read · Updated 3:24 PM EDT, Fri August 31, 2018



Alexander Zakharchenko, left, in January 2015. Aleksander Gayuk/AFP/Getty images

Since 2014, quite a few Italians had joined the war in Ukraine, where the split was about 50/50 on the Ukrainian and Russian side. Rango was the go-to-guy for those who wanted to join the Kremlin's side. Many of the volunteers were part of the Italian far-right movement.

August 16, 2018 18:42
GMT

By [Tony Wesolowsky](#) and
[Yaroslav Krechko](#)

Italy Moves To Crack Down On Its Fighters In Ukraine's Donbas

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A screen grab from a video that purportedly shows Vladimir Verbitsky (aka "Parma") involved with separatists in eastern Ukraine. He has since been arrested by the Italian police.

For eight years he remained at the side of the separatists of the DNR, living in a Donetsk in continuous war with Kyiv, weaving sincere friendships with local people and with separatist militiamen, including Italians, such as the famous "Spartacus", a soldier from Brescia devoted to this same cause, a real idol of the followers of Vittorio Rangeloni's telegram channel.

Rangeloni set up his own "news agency" called LNR Today-Italia, that covered news from the puppet states of Donetsk and Luhansk. It was organized information warfare targeted for the Italian-speaking audience. Soon after this, Ukrainian and Italian intelligence services...

A separatist information agency, LNR Today-Italia, has begun work in the so-called Luhansk People's Republic (LPR).

The agency was created by the Italian journalist, Vittorio Nicola Rangeloni, the Ukrainian activist group, Stop Terror, reports.

"The newly created agency is aimed at reporting on events taking place in the 'LPR/DPR', and waging an information war against the government and armed forces of Ukraine," LNR Today-Italia agency stated.

In addition to articles, the information resource is publishing interviews with Rangeloni's compatriots, who became members of the separatist armed forces and are directly involved in war operations against Ukraine.

"I realized that the militia wasn't experiencing a shortage in fighters. At the same time, there was a huge information hole in the coverage of what's really going on here," - Rangeloni previously said in his interview with the Italian newspaper Il Giornale.

[OLD] Italian DPR volunteer "Spartaco" interviewed by Russian-Italian collaborator Vittorio Rangeloni about his reasons for joining the DPR (2015, translated)

Soldiers, Militia & Volunteers



..started to take interest in the young Italian. In 2021, he was awarded with "One of the most important honours" of the Donbas. This strategy of awarding made-up medals is commonly used by the Kremlin and even the Defense Minister Shoigu has made up hundreds of medals.



Osint Defender Italy 🇮🇹 +
@osintdefenderIT



wanted throughout the [#Ukrainian](#) territory and under observation by the Italian secret services are the [#Russian](#) Propagandists of Italian nationality Giorgio Bianchi and Vittorio Rangeloni.



11:50 AM · May 21, 2023 · 18.4K Views



Between Donetsk and Lugansk there is still a militant photojournalist, who left in 2014 to join the pro-Russian militias and narrate the epic of fighters loyal to Russia. His name is Vittorio Nicola Rangeloni, and on February 27 he wrote on his VKontact profile, the Russian Facebook that has become a destination for neo-fascists banned from the American social network: "From the icy winter to the very hot spring." The post is accompanied by a photo of him with a helmet, to his right an armored vehicle of the Russian army with the white Z (symbol of the invasion) drawn on the side.

Rangeloni in September 2021 was awarded one of the "most important honors of the Republic" of Donbass, he wrote on his VK page. He is close to the Italian neo-fascists, he certainly had sympathies for the European Social Movement of which Giuliano Castellino, the Roman leader of Forza Nuova, was a member for a period, accused, along with Fiore, for the assault on the CGIL. Fiore himself is fond of the cause, with the Alexandrite association he brought a group of Italian entrepreneurs to Crimea after the annexation to Russia to invest and relocate to the Kremlin's lands.

ГРУДЬ В КРЕСТАХ

Владимир ПУТИН поздравил министра обороны с 65-летием и в честь юбилея подписал Указ о его награждении орденом «За заслуги перед Отечеством» I степени с мечом. Подобной награды до сих пор не было ни у кого в стране. Меч по статусу ордена вручается «за отличие в боевых действиях». Таким образом, Сергей Шойгу стал единственным обладателем всех высших наград Российской Федерации.

На парадном мундире нового образца появилась и новая медаль - «Участнику военной операции в Сирии»

Нагрудный знак почетному званию «Заслуженный сотрудник Российской Федерации»

Нагрудный знак выпускника Российской академии государственной службы при Президенте

Нагрудный знак «200 лет Министерству обороны Российской Федерации»

Знак ордена «За заслуги перед Отечеством» II степени

«Золотая Звезда» Героя Российской Федерации

Орден Александра Невского

Орден Почета

Орден «За личное мужество»

Медаль «Защитнику свободной России»

10 Медаль «В память 850-летия Москвы»

11 Медаль «За заслуги в проведении Всероссийской переписи населения»

12 Медаль «В память 300-летия Санкт-Петербурга»

13 Медаль «В память 1000-летия Казани»

14 Медаль «За укрепление боевого содружества»

15 Медаль «200 лет Министерству обороны»

16 Медаль «За возвращение Крыма»

Орден Святого апостола Андрея Первозванного (Сергей Кужуковски - первый кавалер высшего ордена Российской Федерации, награжденный закрытым указом)

17 Звезда ордена «За заслуги перед Отечеством» II степени

18 Звезда ордена «За заслуги перед Отечеством» I степени

СКРОМНОСТЬ УКРАШАЕТ

На парадном мундире министра обороны висели не все регалии - два десятка орденов и медалей остались дома.

Там же лежит наградное именное оружие - пистолет Ярыгина.

- Орден «За заслуги перед Отечеством» III степени
- Две медали «За укрепление боевого содружества»
- Медаль «За заслуги в борьбе с терроризмом»
- Медаль «За заслуги в обеспечении национальной безопасности»
- Медаль «За усердие при выполнении задач инженерного обеспечения»
- Медаль «200 лет МВД России»
- Медаль Службы внешней разведки РФ «За отличие»
- Медаль Прокуратуры РФ «За взаимодействие»
- Крест МЧС РФ «За доблесть»
- Медаль МЧС РФ «За безупречную службу»
- Медаль МЧС РФ «За отличие в ликвидации последствий чрезвычайной ситуации»
- Орден «Бунь-Балдыгы» I степени Республики Тыва

Иностранные награды


- Орден Сербского флага
- Орден «За заслуги в области обеспечения национальной безопасности» (Венесуэла)
- Медаль «Большой крест Армии Никарагуа»
- Орден «Данакер» (Киргизия)
- Медаль «Дань» (Киргизия)
- Благодарный орден заслуги г-го Merito Meritensi Суверенного военного Мальтийского ордена

Церковные награды

- Орден Преподобного Сергия Радонежского I степени (РПЦ)
- Орден Святого Саввы I степени (Сербской православной церкви)

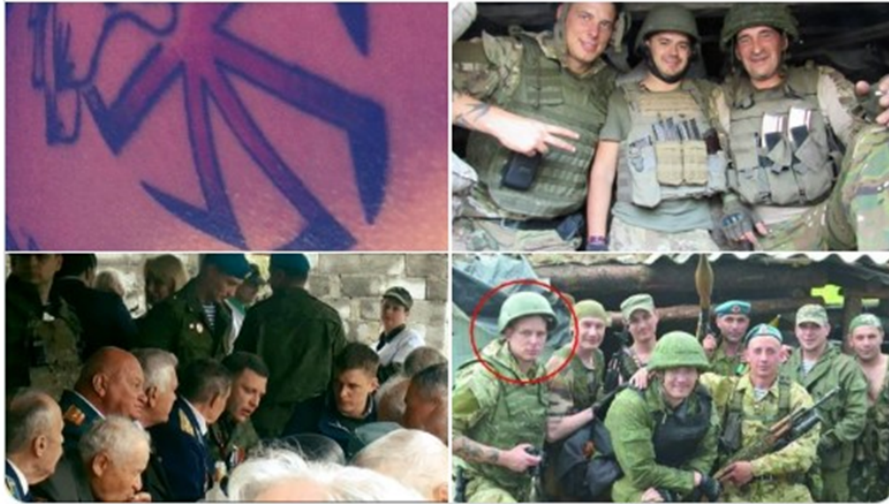
Politically, Rango seems to be all over the place. While he has strong communist sympathies, he's also leaning towards far-right ideologies, thus confirming the famous horseshoe theory. Some have suggested that his Kolovrat tattoo might be connected to Russian Rusich group.

Some photos of Vittorio [#Rangeloni](#) , the Italian-Russian who has been doing propaganda for the Kremlin since [#Donbass](#) since 2015... that doesn't really seem like journalistic clothing to me.
The first tattoo is the Kolovrat, common to many Russian Nazis and symbol of the Nazis of the Rusich Group

Was this translation accurate? Give us feedback so we can improve:  

 **daniele**        @DanieleP60 · Aug 6, 2023

Replying to @Filippo_Rossi @ChroniclesKiev and @adapallai
nella 1a foto un suo tatuaggio



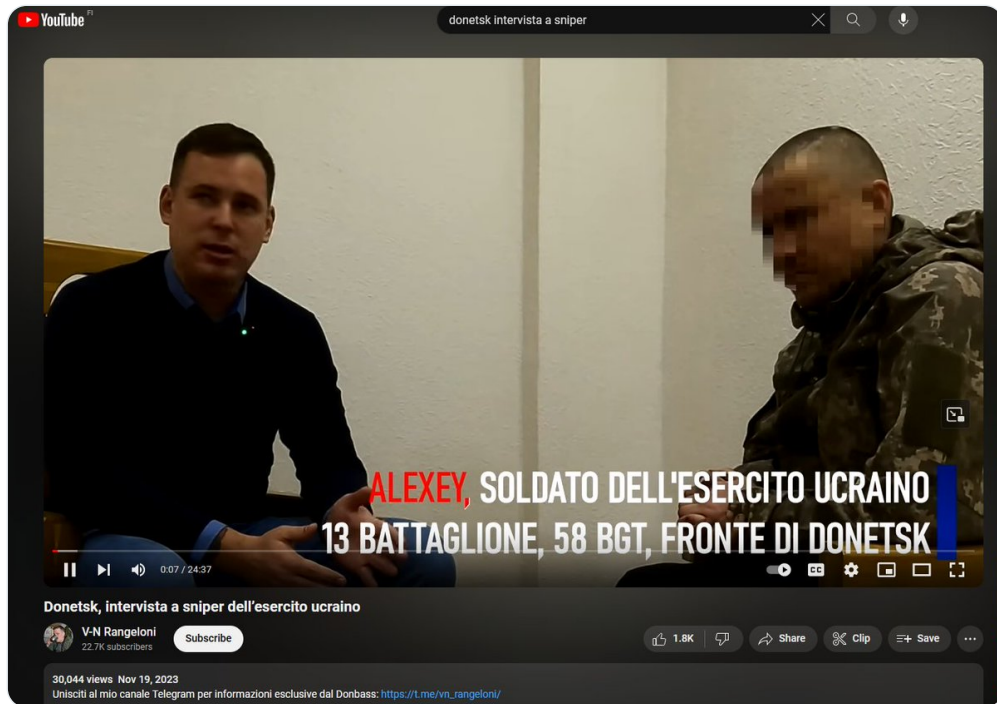
9:04 PM · Aug 6, 2023 · 3,598 Views

Rangeloni, like his fellow UK propagandist Graham Philips, interviewed a prisoner of war against their will, breaking the Geneva convention. I would suggest everyone to report the video on YouTube:

13/19



<https://www.youtube.com/embed/XbfH0edvA9g>



In 2023, Rango was producing propaganda around Mariupol, and accidentally showed bodies lying on the streets of the city. Naturally, this caught the interest of Ukrainian officials, who downloaded the report as potential evidence for Russian war crimes. Oops!

14/19

Who filmed the videos?

One is filmed by Patrick Lancaster, a former US navy intelligence veteran who has been posting videos from Russian-controlled areas in eastern Ukraine on his social accounts since 2014.

Mr Lancaster has frequently appeared as a guest on Russian state TV, as well as US conspiracy website InfoWars.

Another video is filmed by Italian journalist Vittorio Nicola Rangeloni. Mr Rangeloni, who lives in the eastern Donbas region of Ukraine, began posting videos from Mariupol in late March.

The third and fourth videos were uploaded by Russian agency ANNA News and the pro-Kremlin Telegram channel, Signal.

Video footage has emerged from the city of Mariupol in Ukraine showing the bodies of more than 20 civilians lying along a main road.

The graphic videos, posted on social media in recent days, come as the United Nations has confirmed that it is investigating hundreds of allegations of killing of civilians during the invasion of Ukraine.

The southern port city of Mariupol has been the scene of weeks of intense fighting between Russian and Ukrainian forces.

We've been examining these latest videos for clues about what might have happened.

Bodies identified near Ilyich steel works



As a propagandist Rango lacks any creativity, and he's just parroting the Kremlin's classic fake narratives such as the "8 years of genocide in Donbas". He's also calling the conflict a "civil war".

These messages are then packaged and spread for the Italian audiences.

"Ukraine has been bombing for 8 years, where were you", the outburst of reporter Vittorio Rangeloni

"This is the center of Donetsk that is being shelled right now and not by Russia, not by Putin but by the Ukrainian army." This is the outburst of Italian reporter Vittorio Rangeloni, who has been living in the Donbass since 2015. "In these days there are many people who take to the streets of Italy and beyond in the world and call for peace, condemn Russia, demonstrate against the war. All this is fantastic, it's right, war is something wrong, unjust, but equally wrong is the hypocrisy of those who don't give a damn about the fact that..."

From February 24 onwards, on Rangeloni's feed there is no invasion, but a war of liberation, there is no Ukrainian people who feel European, but only enemy soldiers, the soldiers of Kyiv and NATO behind them. Russia almost doesn't even exist, paradoxically it is almost never mentioned, because the war seen through Rangeloni's eyes is a war of separatist militias against Kyiv, and these are the soldiers with whom he talks and shares experiences on the front that protects a city where the news that is taken as true is that of that side.

In Italy, he sympathizes with Lega, a political party that had a strong alliance with Putin's United Russia before the full-scale invasion.

In 2019, Buzzfeed revealed that the Kremlin attempted to funnel millions to Lega to support their political ambitions.

Matteo Salvini [+ Add to myFT](#)

Putin's party signs deal with Italy's far-right Lega Nord

Move marks latest attempt by Kremlin to develop formal links with European populists

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Matteo Salvini, Lega Nord chairman

Max Seddon in Moscow and James Politi in Rome MARCH 6 2017

💬 26 🖨️



RUSSIA

Revealed: The Explosive Secret Recording That Shows How Russia Tried To Funnel Millions To The “European Trump”

A close aide to Italy's deputy prime minister Matteo Salvini held covert talks to pump Russian oil money to his far-right party. BuzzFeed News has the tape.



Alberto Nardelli
BuzzFeed News Europe Editor

Posted on July 10, 2019 at 1:00 pm

Rangeloni runs a Youtube and Telegram Channel, he's active on Vkontakte & has even written a book. Rango's also a quite well-known figure in the Italian far-right circles, and spreading Russian propaganda to these marginalized groups is a common Kremlin strategy.

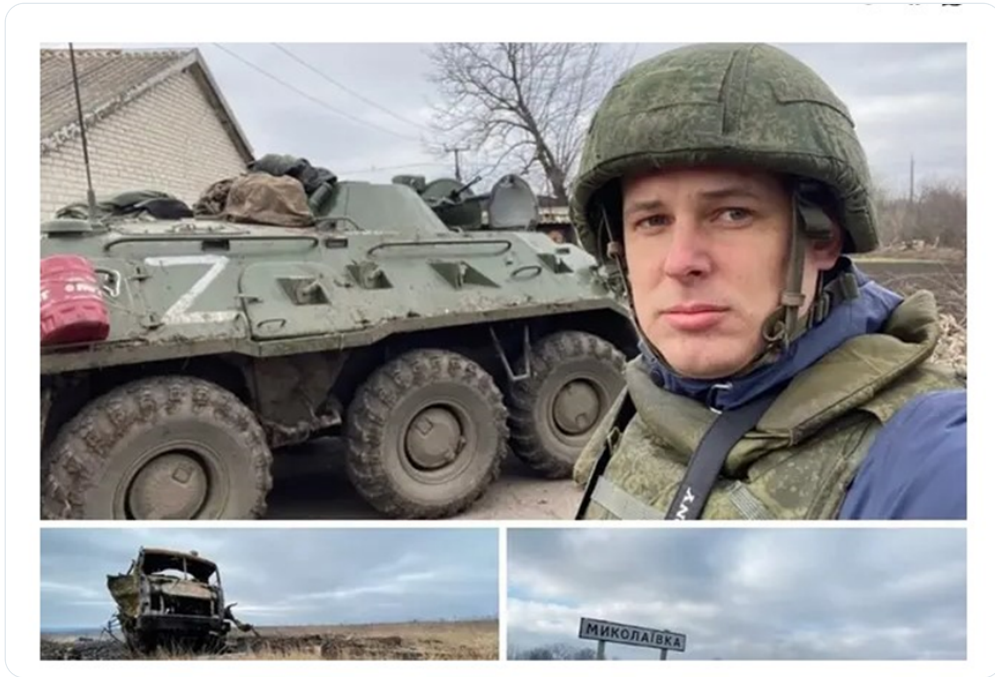
who shares updates about the ongoing war and amplifies the conservative views of La Terza Roma to an audience of more than 5,000 followers. These information overlaps suggest that the Italian far-right milieu, relying on the example of Forza Nuova's supporters online and the Killnet's community, share ideological affinities on the Ukraine war and indirectly influence each other by amplifying pro-Russian propaganda. As such, this strengthens Russia's political and cultural influence over the Italian far right on divisive topics, like the war in Ukraine.

Besides representing a breeding ground for pro-Russian and violent extremist ideologies, these public channels could represent a learning environment for far-right audiences. Taking the example of the FN community, the exposure to the content shared by Killnet may be compelling thanks to the pro-Russian frame, and regardless of the cyber skills needed. Therefore, this case suggests that the pro-Russian hacking collectives could recruit far-right users into delivering cyberattacks to further Russia's interests, and indirectly create a logistical influence favouring Russia. This logistical influence can be established through the cybercrime as a service (CaaS) model, where cybercriminals are hired to attack specific targets or sell cybercriminal tools, infrastructure, and services to the highest bidder,¹⁵⁰ and through cyber military exercises, where users are trained to deliver cyberattacks. While it is difficult to find evidence of CaaS without

"Textbooks present Ukraine and Russia as one great Russian region. Or they show maps with Crimea as part of Russia. There is a lot of misinformation on Ukraine, like claims there was a 'civil war' there," said Castagna.




To conclude, Rango is a pro-Kremlin propagandist serving the typical bullshit propaganda for Italian-speaking audiences. Together with the likes of Janus Putkonen, Graham Phillips and Patrick Lancaster, he produces biased "journalism" for Russia.



Now here's a little action point for anyone who thinks that Rango's awful propaganda shouldn't be funded - you can report his PayPal through this link:

19/19



Pay Vittorio Nicola Rangeloni using PayPal.Me
Go to [paypal.me/vnrangeloni](https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/vnrangeloni) and type in the amount. Since it's PayPal, it's easy and secure. Don't have a PayPal account? No worries.
<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/vnrangeloni>

This soup was brewed in collaboration with @SLAVAUUA2022NAFO.

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SOUP CENTRAL

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