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May 20, 2025 · 29 tweets · [vatniksoup_fr/status/1924707537984880736](https://twitter.com/vatniksoup_fr/status/1924707537984880736)

Dans la Soupe Vatnik du jour, nous lançons une nouvelle série : « Russie décadente ». Nous allons regarder au-delà de la propagande et exposer la véritable Russie — un pays autoritaire qui ne se soucie guère de son peuple et s'accroche désespérément à son passé impérialiste.

1/24



Dans cette 1re soupe, nous examinons la persécution religieuse en Russie et dans les parties occupées de l'Ukraine, comment le KGB/FSB utilise son clergé comme outil d'espionnage et de propagande, et comment Poutine efface la culture ukrainienne en détruisant leurs églises.

2/24

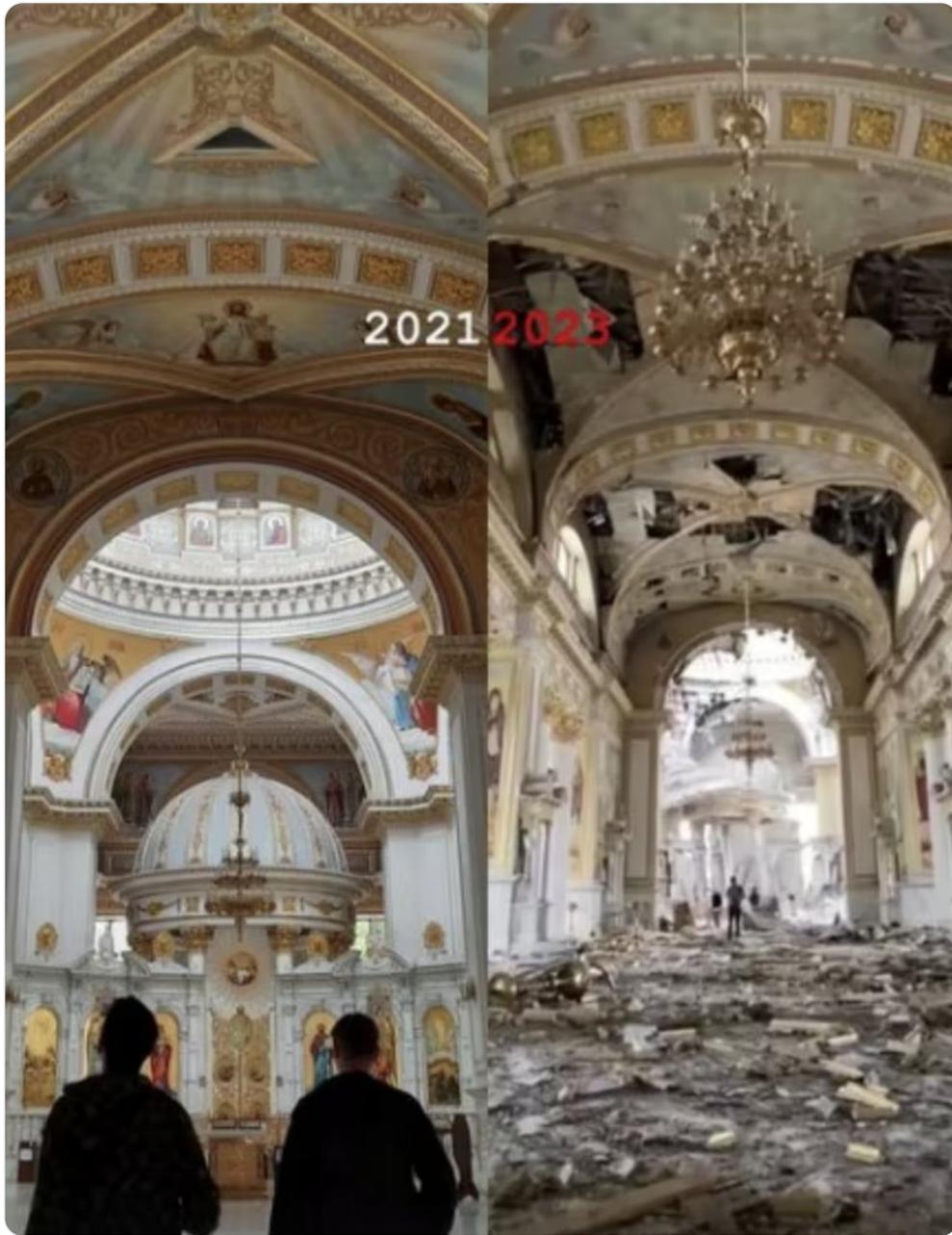
UKRAINE STORIES #Religion OPINION

Published on July 25, 2022 19:22. / Updated on August 09, 2022 09:23.

‘Kremlin's agents in robes’ – or the role of Russian Church in the Ukraine war

By [Oleksii Platonov](#)





La Russie se proclame défenseure de la tradition chrétienne, mais son histoire dit tout le contraire : elle a persécuté des groupes religieux, torturé et tué des membres du clergé, bombardé des églises et utilisé l'Église orthodoxe comme instrument du pouvoir étatique.



OPINION

The Myth of the “Crusader Putin”

Conservative Catholics tempted to see Putin's Russia as a Christian alternative to an atheistic West need to look more deeply at the reality underneath.



Cole Kinder

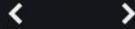
In recent years, American Catholics have found our country violently at odds with many of our firmly-held beliefs—from traditional marriage to defense of the family to defense of the unborn. In response, many of us have looked to the outside world for a Christian country that would emit a glimmer of hope.

Some conservative Catholics have found Russia as a potential ally. However, given the Russian invasion of Ukraine, perhaps we need to look a bit more closely.

Russia Tortures Christians

The story the news media is not telling you about Ukraine is that Russians are torturing and murdering Ukrainian Christians in occupied territories for their faith.

More Information



Russians are weaponizing religion.



Bien qu'elle se proclame nation chrétienne, la Russie a réprimé le christianisme chaque fois qu'il ne servait pas les intérêts de l'État. Durant l'URSS — et surtout sous Staline — les églises furent démolies, les prêtres exécutés et les croyants envoyés au goulag.

Why Stalin Tried to Stamp Out Religion in the Soviet Union

Joseph Stalin led a uniquely brutal campaign against religion and religious leaders.

BY: NATASHA FROST
UPDATED: AUGUST 4, 2023 | ORIGINAL: APRIL 23, 2021

[copy page link](#)

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New Stalin Monument Unveiled in Russia's Vologda Region

Dec. 23, 2024



t.me/filimonov_official

Authorities in northwestern Russia's Vologda region [unveiled](#) a statue of Joseph Stalin over the weekend, the latest monument to the Soviet dictator to have sprung up in the country in recent years.

At an unveiling ceremony, Vologda region Governor Georgiy Filimonov described the Stalin monument as "a step toward a sober, balanced view" of Russia's past. Just hours before, Filimonov [laid flowers](#) at a local memorial dedicated to victims of political repression.

"It's difficult to overestimate Joseph Stalin's role in shaping our country's history," the governor said. "Of course, there were tragic lows [during his rule], but there were also highs."

Filimonov added that Stalin's memory should be "cherished" and "passed on to future generations" to keep Russia "powerful."

The monument, created by sculptor Konstantin Kubyshkin, was installed near the Vologda Exile House Museum in the regional capital, where Stalin lived between December 1911 and February 1912.

Earlier this year, Filimonov, whose office [features](#) multiple portraits of Communist leaders, also [pledged](#) to unveil a monument to Tsar Ivan the Terrible.

Stalin's image has seen a gradual restoration in Russia in recent years despite the widespread atrocities committed during his rule. [Nearly 100 Stalin monuments have been erected since President Vladimir Putin took office in 2000, with the largest concentrations found in the republics of North Ossetia, Dagestan and republic Sakha \(Yakutia\).](#)

On Saturday, a Stalin bust was also [unveiled](#) in the North Ossetian village of Nart, while a [gold-painted bust](#) was installed in the Far East port city of Nakhodka last month.

Not all memorials have been received positively. Earlier this year, a Stalin monument in the Moscow-region city of Zvenigorod was [beheaded](#) with a sledgehammer by a local man.

L'Église orthodoxe russe n'est en rien indépendante : elle est un outil de propagande du Kremlin. Son chef, le patriarche Cyrille, agit davantage comme un porte-parole du gouvernement, diffusant la propagande du Kremlin dans le monde, bénissant les...



Pekka Kallioniemi 
@P_Kallioniemi · [Follow](#)



In today's [#vatniksoup](#), I'll talk about the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) and how pro-Kremlin propagandists, oligarchs and lawyers are using its "persecution" as a tool to reduce support for Ukraine and its government.

1/20



4:01 PM · Mar 6, 2024



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OPINION

Putin and Russian Orthodox Church forge an unholy alliance to take over Ukraine

Putin's Russia isn't just at war with Ukraine, it's at war with Christianity



OPINION By David Curry · Fox News

Published July 16, 2023 8:00am EDT



Earlier this summer, an adviser to the mayor of Mariupol, Ukraine, posted that Russian soldiers had seized the city's [Ukrainian Christian Evangelical Church](#) of the Holy Trinity. After ruthlessly expelling the clergy, the staffer noted that as many as 30 troops remained in the building, at least in part because it provided a "human shield" for troops. The church is located just feet from occupied residential buildings.

[The takeover of a Christian church](#) might seem strange at first. What threat could a church filled with worshipping men, women and children pose to a modern army? But [according to the Institute for the Study of War](#) (ISW), this incident is "part of a wider religious persecution campaign in occupied Ukraine."

While it has been grossly underreported in the U.S. press, [Russia has been waging a brutal campaign](#) against Christians and religious minorities in Ukraine.

[RUSSIAN AIRSTRIKE HITS SCHOOL, KILLS 4 DURING AID DISTRIBUTION, UKRAINE SAYS](#)

According to the Institute for Religious Freedom, nearly 500 religious buildings, theological institutions and sacred places in Ukraine were destroyed, damaged or looted by the Russian military since the war began. Russia has murdered at least 26 religious leaders while imprisoning and torturing many others. More are missing or unaccounted for.



Tuesday, March 18, 2025
10:54 am (Paris)

Le Monde

News World Europe France Videos Opinion M Magazine

WORLD · RUSSIA

Orthodox Patriarch Kirill blesses crosses engraved with Putin's initials for Ukraine war 'heroes'

Since the start of Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Russian leader has turned to religion and closed ranks with the head of the Orthodox Church to call out what he sees as the decline of Western morality.

By Benjamin Quénelle
Published on January 8, 2025, at 11:15 pm (Paris), updated on January 9, 2025, at 7:54 am · 2 min read · [Lire en français](#)



... crimes de guerre et encourageant les Russes à faire la « guerre sainte » contre l'Europe. L'Église orthodoxe russe sert également d'arme pour contrôler les groupes religieux. Les prêtres qui s'expriment contre la guerre ou le régime sont persécutés ou excommuniés.

6/24

 Русская Православная Церковь
официальный сайт

Наказ XXV Всемирного русского народного собора «Настоящее и будущее Русского мира»



В ходе соборного съезда, который состоялся 27 марта 2024 года в Зале церковных соборов Храма Христа Спасителя в Москве под председательством главы ВРНС Святейшего Патриарха Московского и всея Руси Кирилла, был утвержден Наказ XXV Всемирного русского народного собора «Настоящее и будущее Русского мира» (Москва, 27-28 ноября 2023 года).

Настоящий документ, обобщая наиболее значимые предложения, выдвинутые в рамках работы экспертных площадок и в ходе Пленарного заседания, является программным документом XXV Всемирного Русского Народного Собора, а также наказом, адресованным органам законодательной и исполнительной власти России.

1. Специальная военная операция

Специальная военная операция является новым этапом национально-освободительной борьбы русского народа против преступного киевского режима и стоящего за ним коллективного Запада, ведущейся на землях Юго-Западной Руси с 2014 года. В ходе СВО русский народ с оружием в руках отстаивает свою свободу, независимость, религиозную, национальную и культурную целостность, единство и благополучие своей родины, собственную историю и будущее. Специальная военная операция защищает единое духовное пространство Русского мира, защищающего мир от зла и несправедливости.

After completing its entire territory of modern Ukraine, it should be included in the zone of exclusive influence of Russia. The possibility of the existence of a Russophobic, hostile Russia and its people in the political regime, as well as a political regime, controlled from hostile Russia of an external center, should be completely excluded.

После завершения СВО вся территория современной Украины должна войти в зону исключительного влияния России. Возможность существования на данной территории русофобского, враждебного России и ее народу политического режима, а равно политического режима, управляемого из враждебного России внешнего центра, должна быть полностью исключена.

2. Русский мир

NOUVELLE

Le COE préoccupé par le décret du Conseil mondial du peuple russe qualifiant le conflit en Ukraine de «guerre sainte»

Au nom de ses Églises membres, le secrétaire général du Conseil œcuménique des Églises (COE), le pasteur Jerry Pillay, a affirmé que le COE ne pouvait pas réconcilier le décret du XXV^e Conseil mondial du peuple russe, qualifiant le conflit en Ukraine de «guerre sainte».



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

RELIGION

Russian Orthodox priests face persecution from state and church for supporting peace in Ukraine



1 of 18 | Last September, when President Vladimir Putin ordered a partial mobilization of reservists, Moscow Patriarch Kirill required his clergymen to pray for victory. Standing in front of the altar and dozens of his parishioners in one of Moscow's churches, Koval decided to put the peace. [Read More](#)

BY KOSTYA MANENKOV

Updated 9:26 AM GMT+2, August 12, 2023

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International

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RUSSIAN WAR IN UKRAINE > ANALYSIS ⓘ

***Russian Orthodox
priests persecuted for
opposing war***

Archpriest Andrei Kordochkin, suspended from service in Madrid for his pacifist positions, officiated at a ceremony for the deceased opponent Alexei Navalny in Germany, from where he urges Russians to 'study all forms of non-violent resistance'



Andrei Kordochkin, former priest of the Orthodox cathedral of Madrid, in an image provided by himself.
ALEXANDRA VOYENKO

**PILAR BONET**

MAR 14, 2024 · 12:53 GMT-2



Toute autre organisation chrétienne est réprimée. Les catholiques comme les protestants sont qualifiés « d'agents de l'Occident », leurs offices religieux sont interrompus, et leurs prêtres ou pasteurs reçoivent des amendes ou sont menacés de violence ou d'emprisonnement.

Ukrainian Catholics experiencing 'total persecution' in Crimea



Fr. Mykola Kvych, naval chaplain in Sevastopol, blesses Easter baskets in 2013. | UGCC Information Department.



By [Sonya Bilocerkowycz](#), [Sofia Kochmar](#)

Kyiv, Ukraine, Mar 18, 2014 / 15:10 pm

As the Russian president signed a bill to annex Crimea Tuesday, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in the peninsula has been experiencing what a Church official calls "total persecution."

"At this moment all Ukrainian Greek Catholic life in Crimea is paralyzed," Fr. Volodymyr Zhdan, chancellor of the Stryi eparchy in western Ukraine, told CNA March 18.

Greek Catholic Priest abducted By pro-Russian armed forces in Crimea

Saturday, 15 March 2014, 18:52

Post

Подобається

The abduction occurred on Saturday March 15, between 10:00-11:00 AM, in Sevastopol on the Crimean peninsula in Ukraine. Pro-Russian armed forces abducted Fr. Mykola Kvych, a Ukrainian Greek Catholic priest, directly from the Ukrainian Greek Catholic parish of the Dormition of the Mother of God, located on Silska Street 5 (near kilometer 5 of the Balaklava highway).



Disappeared Ukrainian priests may be in Russian labor camp, says human rights researcher

GINA CHRISTIAN  Jun 5, 2024 National/World



Father Bohdan Geleta, left, and Father Ivan Levitsky are seen in this undated screen grab. The two Ukrainian Greek Catholic priests seized by Russian forces from their church in Berdyansk in November 2022 are possibly in a Russian-operated labor camp in occupied Ukraine, according to a human rights information service. (OSV News screen grab/courtesy of Ukrainian Catholic Church)

(OSV News) -- Two disappeared Ukrainian Greek Catholic priests seized by Russian forces from their church in Berdyansk in November 2022 are possibly in a Russian-operated labor camp in occupied Ukraine, according to a human rights information service.

Protestant pastors in Donetsk have been abducted and tortured.

Posted on [August 10, 2014](#) by [chervonaruta](#)

By Sirgis Inform

08.09.2014 22:50

Translated and edited by Voices of Ukraine

Serhiy Kosyak, Pastor of the “Assembly of God” Protestant Church reports about the kidnapping of two Protestant pastors, **Valery Yakubenko** and **Oleksandr Khomchenko**, by terrorists of the DNR [Donetsk People’s Republic]. Yakubenko was released 24 hours later, but Khomchenko continues to be held by terrorists and tortured.

“Sasha Khomchenko is still in captivity. I recall yesterday after evening prayers in Donetsk, representatives of the DNR took Valery together with Roksolana. According to available information, all three [of them] were interrogated and then Roksolana was released, and Oleksandr and Valery were taken in the car trunk to one of the bases in Makiivka. The charges that they trumped up against Oleksandr—are that he is the pastor of a Protestant Church, and for the DNR, Protestants are enemies and spies. Valery was accused of not working for the benefit of the DNR and supporting “enemy” sects. Valery was recently released, but Sasha Khomchenko was severely beaten and given 5 days of forced labor,” –he wrote.

Les petites communautés chrétiennes, telles que les baptistes ou les évangéliques, subissent des discriminations particulièrement fortes. Les Témoins de Jéhovah ont été interdits en 2017 et leurs membres sont fréquemment arrêtés et emprisonnés.

🕒 This article was published more than 1 year ago

War in Ukraine Kursk Incursion Cease-Fire Efforts U.S. Election Russian Airstrikes



Opinion

Jim Geraghty

The evangelical case for U.S. military aid to Ukraine

November 28, 2023

🕒 4 min 🔖 📌 🗨️ 481



Ukraine National Guard soldiers fire a recoilless cannon during combat training in the north of Ukraine on Nov. 3. (Erem Lukatsky/AP)

How many American evangelicals know their faith is being targeted by Russian military forces in Ukraine?

In November last year, a Ukrainian evangelical church leader, Anatoliy Prokopchuk, and his 19-year-old son Oleksandr were abducted by Russian soldiers. Four days later, their bodies were discovered in a forest, with evidence the pair had been tortured and executed. Russian occupying forces closed down the three largest evangelical Protestant churches in Melitopol and shut down churches in Mariupol. In August, Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary President Yaroslav Pyzh estimated that about 400 Ukrainian Baptist congregations had been lost in the war in Ukraine, in part from evacuations and displaced communities, and in part from casualties and destroyed churches.

NEWS

Russia Keeps Punishing Evangelicals in Crimea

KATE SHELLNUTT AND FORUM 18

Last year, there was an uptick in fines to Protestants and fellow religious minorities in the region annexed from Ukraine.



In the largest city in Crimea, Sevastopol, several evangelicals faced penalties last year under Russia's anti-evangelism law.

CHRISTIANITY TODAY
FEBRUARY 23, 2022

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Vladimir Zapletin / iStock / Getty Images

Since Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014—one of the central points of conflict in the current clash between the two countries—Protestant Christians in the territory have faced greater government penalties for practicing their faith.

Like elsewhere in Russia, meeting together to sing and read Scripture or letting others know about a church gathering puts believers at risk under a strict [2016 anti-evangelism law](#). Last year, authorities prosecuted 23 cases of such activity in Crimea, up from 13 the year before, according to [Forum 18](#), which tracks religious freedom violations in the region.

Evangelical Protestants in Crimea received the most penalties. At least nine people from Pentecostal, Baptist, and other Protestant churches were fined for “missionary activity.”

IDEAS • UKRAINE

Russia's War Against Evangelicals

8 MINUTE READ



A view of a destroyed Orthodox cross in the Our Lady of the Joy of All Who Sorrow Church in Bohorodychne, Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine on April 5, 2024. The village of Bohorodychne, in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine, was one of the frontlines where some of the hardest battles were fought in June 2022. Wojciech Grzedzinski-Anadolu/Getty Images

BY **PETER POMERANTSEV** APRIL 20, 2024 6:00 AM EDT

IDEAS

Pomerantsev's new book is *How to Win an Information War: The Propagandist Who Outwitted Hitler*. He is also the author of *This is Not Propaganda: Adventures in the War Against Reality*. He is a Senior Fellow at SNF Agora Institute, Johns Hopkins University.

RF
RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM
INSTITUTE

Relentless Religious Persecution in Russia

September 1, 2021

By Dani Wassell

Last June, a Russian court sentenced Jehovah's Witness, Andrew Stupnikov, to six years in prison. He previously spent nearly eight months in detention and four months under house arrest. The same day of Stupnikov's sentencing, another Russian court sentenced four other Jehovah's Witnesses to 3-5 years in prison. These cases have been prosecuted under counter-terrorism laws.

What could the Jehovah's Witnesses, a tiny religious community in Russia, have done to earn such ire from Moscow? Why is it that the Russian government has formally labeled each of these individuals as "extremists" and therefore a threat to the state? Russia has designated the Jehovah's Witnesses as an extremist cult and therefore a menace to Russian families and the Russian state. This is a bad omen for all religious minorities in Russia.

Depuis l'annexion illégale de la Crimée en 2014, la Russie s'en prend aux Tatars, une communauté musulmane. Leurs mosquées et écoles ont été fermées, leurs chefs

emprisonnés, leurs fidèles enlevés — qualifiés de « terroristes » pour le simple fait de pratiquer leur foi.

9/24



The screenshot shows the Human Rights Watch website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the organization's name in multiple languages and a search bar. Below the navigation bar, the date and time of the report are displayed. The main headline reads "Crimea: Persecution of Crimean Tatars Intensifies" with a sub-headline "Arbitrary Detentions; Separatism, Terrorism Charges". A large image shows several individuals in military-style uniforms and helmets. To the right of the main image, there are sections for "MORE READING" and "MOST VIEWED", each featuring a small thumbnail image and a brief description of related articles.

Les Tatars de Crimée sont également victimes de fouilles policières, de surveillance et de conscription dans l'armée russe. Leur identité culturelle et religieuse est constamment menacée. Une fois encore, Poutine prouve qu'il est l'héritier fidèle de son cher Staline :

10/24



The screenshot shows the Open Democracy website. The header includes the organization's logo and name, along with a navigation menu. The main content area features the title "Crimean Tatars face ongoing persecution under Russian occupation" in a large, bold font. Below the title, there is a short introductory paragraph. The author's name, "Elmaz Asan", and the publication date, "12 May 2023, 1.37pm", are listed. At the bottom of the article preview, there is a photograph showing a group of people, with a woman in the foreground wearing a headscarf, and others in the background holding blue flags.



Human Rights in Ukraine
The Information Portal of the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group

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- Topics / Human Rights Abuses in Russian-occupied Crimea
- Topics / War crimes

Over 1200 religious organizations closed or driven out of Russian-occupied Crimea

24.01.2025

Halya Coynash

While Russia began its systematic attack on independent religious communities in Crimea in 2014, all of the same methods of repression and terror have now been extended to all parts of Ukraine under occupation



Documenting war crimes in Ukraine

The Tribunal for Putin (T4P) global initiative was set up in response to the all-out war launched by Russia against Ukraine in February 2022.

SIMILAR ARTICLES

- [Russia seizes Ukrainian Orthodox church in ongoing attack on all that is Ukraine in occupied Crimea](#)
- [Russia demolishes last Ukrainian Orthodox church in occupied Crimea](#)
- [Russia tries to forcibly mobilize clergy in final move to drive Orthodox Church of Ukraine out of occupied Crimea](#)
- [Russia seizes and plunders central Cathedral of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in occupied Crimea](#)
- [Ukraine moves to defend persecuted Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Russian-occupied Crimea](#)

Il y a 81 ans (18-20 mai 1944), près de 200 000 Tatars de Crimée furent déportés de force. Des dizaines de milliers moururent de faim, de maladie ou d'épuisement en chemin et à l'arrivée.



Volodymyr Tretyak 
@VolodyaTretyak · [Follow](#)



THREAD

81 years ago today, Moscow began the deportation of the Crimean Tatars. In just 3 days, the Soviet government exiled an entire nation. One of the USSR's most brutal crimes—yet the world still knows little about it.

please amplify



11:33 AM · May 18, 2025



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Time to recognise the Crimean Tatar genocide

JON RICHARDSON

Acknowledging the crimes in the 1940s would underline the attachment to Ukraine and rebuff changing borders by force.



Crimean Tatars demonstrate in 1994, 50 years after their deportation in the 1940s. They still wait for justice, now 80 years on (Antoine Gyori/Sygma via Getty Images)

Russia repeats genocide on Crimean Tatars

The 80 years since the genocidal deportation of the Crimean Tatar people are not just a tragedy for the Crimean Tatars, but a systemic diagnosis and a historical warning of what Russian imperialism is. MEP Anna Fotyga, former foreign minister...

Disclaimer - All opinions in this column reflect the views of the author(s), not Euractiv Media.



L'antisémitisme d'État en Russie a lui aussi des racines profondes. Les « Protocoles des Sages de Sion », un faux texte antisémite, furent diffusés par l'Empire russe puis repris par les Soviétiques.



Pekka Kallioniemi 
@P_Kallioniemi · [Follow](#)



In today's [#vatniksoup](#), I'll discuss a specific propaganda/disinformation that the Kremlin likes to use – antisemitism. I also talk about how the Russian society itself has become riddled with antisemitism & how this has led to a decrease in Jewish population in the country.
1/19

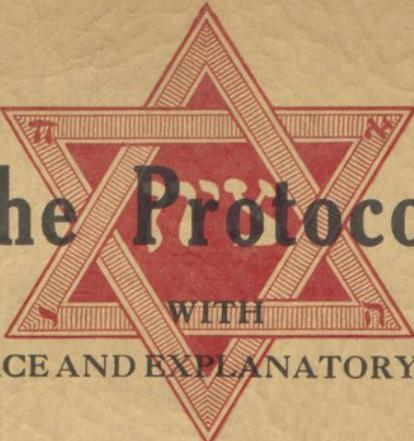


12:07 PM · Jun 12, 2024



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“The Protocols”

WITH
PREFACE AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

**The possession of these documents
in Soviet Russia is punishable
by immediate death.**

WHY?

**EVERY PATRIOTIC AMERICAN
MUST READ THESE
PROTOCOLS**

Issued by

THE PATRIOTIC PUBLISHING CO.
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P. O. Box 526

Chicago, Ill.

Former Soviet Spy Sees the Long Arm of the KGB in Today's Muslim Anti-Semitism

A new book by Lt. Gen. Ion Pacepa describes a Cold War effort to promote the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion' in the Arab world

BY KENNETH R. TIMMERMAN

AUGUST 06, 2013



A retouched picture released by the Soviet official news agency in November 1982 of Yuri Andropov, who led the KGB starting in 1967 until he became general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party (after Brezhnev's death in 1982) and president of the USSR (1983-1984). (AFP/Getty Images)

On a reporting trip to Gaza, Amman, and Damascus in 1994, I made a habit of asking Hamas and Muslim Brotherhood leaders whom I met with the following question: Did they think the Jews had a plan to dominate the world? I'll never forget the enthusiastic answer of a pediatrician named Abdelaziz Rantissi, a Hamas leader, whom I met in his doctor's office in Gaza. "Yes, indeed," he said. "I have a copy right here." And he pulled down from a shelf an Arabic-language copy of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. It was a response I heard again and again.

Le régime de Poutine prétend être « anti-nazi », et pourtant aujourd'hui encore, les médias d'État et les dirigeants russes répandent des théories antisémites.



Vatnik Soup en français

@vatniksoup_fr · [Follow](#)



Dans la Soupe Vatnik du jour, nous expliquons la relation ambiguë du Kremlin avec le nazisme, et pourquoi tant de vatniks sont des nazis qui admirent, défendent ou excusent Hitler et ses invasions, alors qu'ils prétendent en même temps combattre les « nazis en Ukraine ».

1/24



1:41 PM · May 16, 2025



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U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE
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GEC SPECIAL REPORT

MORE THAN A CENTURY OF ANTISEMITISM:

HOW SUCCESSIVE OCCUPANTS OF THE
KREMLIN HAVE USED ANTISEMITISM TO SPREAD
DISINFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA



JANUARY 2024



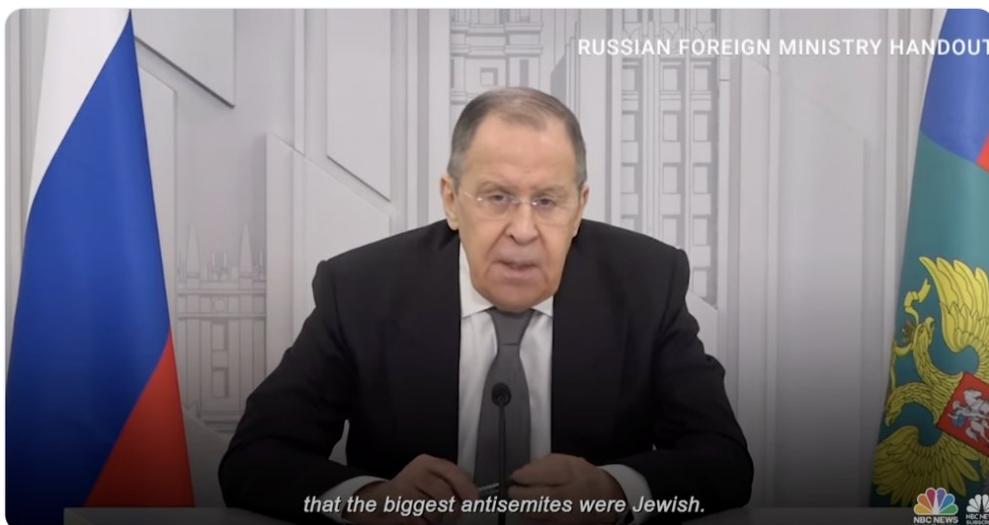
Reviving antisemitic trope, Putin says Jews are tearing apart Russian Orthodox Church

Comments made during press conference echo Soviet-era antisemitism under Stalin, when the Kremlin persecuted Jews and accused them of being 'rootless cosmopolitans'

By **ZEV STUB** [FOLLOW](#)

and **JTA**

20 December 2024, 8:42 am





L'Église orthodoxe russe, depuis sa reconstruction sous la mainmise de Staline, est liée à l'espionnage. Les prêtres étaient alors informateurs ou agents du KGB (comme Cyrille, Poutine, etc.). Aujourd'hui encore, ils servent le Kremlin, pas la foi.

14/24

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

In today's #vatnik soup I'll introduce a KGB agent and a billionaire who disguises himself as a holy man. His name is Vladimir Mikhailovich Gundyayev, but he's better known as Patriarch Kirill. Gundyayev is a close ally of Putin and he has called Putin's rule a "miracle of god" 1/8



8:05 AM · Nov 22, 2022 

 4.3K  Reply  Copy link

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declassées.

Selon les quotidiens *Le Matin Dimanche* et *Sonntagszeitung*, la fiche établie par la police fédérale sur celui qui est aujourd'hui [le chef spirituel de l'Église orthodoxe russe](#) "confirme que "Monsignor Kirill", comme il est appelé dans ce document, appartient au KGB", le service de renseignement extérieur du temps de l'Union soviétique.

Nom de code : "Mikhaïlov"

Les deux médias ont pu consulter la fiche auprès des archives fédérales suisses : au début des années 70, le patriarche vivait à Genève pour officiellement représenter le patriarcat de Moscou auprès du Conseil œcuménique des Églises (COE). La mission de Kirill, dont le nom de code était "Mikhaïlov", était aussi d'influencer ce conseil, infiltré par le KGB dans les années 70 et 80. L'objectif des Soviétiques ? Amener l'institution genevoise à dénoncer les États-Unis et leurs alliés, et de modérer ses critiques contre le manque de liberté religieuse en URSS, rappellent les quotidiens. Ils soulignent que l'Église russe "refuse tout commentaire sur l'activité d'espionnage de Kirill à Genève".

Pour sa part, le Conseil œcuménique des églises leur a indiqué ne "pas avoir d'informations" à ce sujet. *Le Matin Dimanche* a interrogé le neveu du patriarche, Mikhail Goundiaev, qui lui a succédé en tant que représentant du patriarcat de Moscou à Genève. Selon lui, son oncle "n'était pas un agent, même s'il était soumis au 'contrôle strict' du KGB". Il l'assure : cela n'a "pas affecté la sincérité de son engagement dans le travail œcuménique auprès des autres Églises".

Is the Russian Orthodox Church Spying in Europe? Molfar Research. Part One



21.11.2024

What has long been evident to the Ukrainian public regarding the essence of the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) is gradually becoming clear to the European establishment. The ROC is used not only as a tool of soft power but also as a genuine espionage network.

The OSINT agency Molfar conducted open-source research analyzing 11 European countries. In the first part, we cover five of them: Sweden, Norway, Finland, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic.

The Church as a Spy Network in Västerås, Sweden

In the Swedish city of **Västerås**, a Russian church built suspiciously close to numerous strategic sites has raised questions since its construction began in 2013. Father Pavel Makarenko, the parish priest, serves at the Church of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God in Västerås. Although he was reassigned to Sweden in 2010 and hasn't traveled back to Russia since, this hasn't prevented him from "serving" Russia from afar.

The church, located on the [outskirts of Västerås](#), was built between 2013 and 2019 and was consecrated on November 4, 2023. Among those attending the consecration was Vladimir Lyapin, Counselor-Envoy of the Russian Embassy in Sweden. Lyapin is one of 20 diplomats suspected by [Danish and Swedish](#) authorities of conducting [espionage activities](#) for the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) or the Federal Security Service (FSB).

Locals, tourists, and parishioners have left reviews about the church on Google Maps. Some users have [questioned](#) the presence of an opaque fence and perimeter surveillance cameras. Perhaps we can offer some answers.

In 2013, the plot of land for the Västerås church was purchased by Rosatom, the Russian state-owned nuclear corporation. [Lars Kallseby](#), the former chairman of the Swedish Building Party, granted the construction permit. The land was acquired just a year after the church project was first proposed — a swift timeline by Swedish standards, as noted by local journalists. Father Pavel Makarenko commented, "The parish bought the land, and the location was chosen for practical reasons" (1,2).

[Rosatom](#) also financed the church's construction, as [confirmed](#) by Metropolitan [Anthony](#) in his acknowledgment of support from the [Fund for Supporting Christian Culture and Population](#). However, Russian sources [attempted](#) to obscure Rosatom's involvement, claiming the funding came from the above foundation and voluntary donations.

It seems the choice of this site for the church was no coincidence. [The Westinghouse Electric](#) factory, which produces nuclear fuel assemblies, is just a few kilometers away — [only 4.22 kilometers](#) from the church. Additionally, [Västerås Airport](#) is located just [500 meters](#) from the site. Within [6 kilometers](#) is the headquarters and combined heat and power plant of [Mälarenergi AB](#), a major energy supplier. Finally, [ABB Metallurgy](#),

The Russian Orthodox Church is buying buildings overlooking military bases in Norway



19 October 2022, 17:13



The Norwegian media drew attention to the fact that the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) is buying buildings in Norway overlooking military bases.

In recent years, RUE has acquired several properties in Norway. One of them offers a full view of the country's most important naval base, Haakonsværn.

In addition, a former priest of a local Russian church in Stavanger owns real estate next to the NATO Joint Military Center in Jotø. The settlement is located 1 km away from an important military facility.



TRADECRAFT, GEOPOLITICS

Russian Orthodox Church: Spycraft and Statecraft Overlay Faith

Erini Kongkiri · February 18, 2025

Le Kremlin utilise l'Église pour diffuser sa propagande nationaliste et promouvoir sa guerre. Ses prêtres enrôlent des soldats destinés « au hachoir à viande », légitimant les crimes de guerre en prétendant que « les péchés des soldats tombés au front seront pardonnés ».

Moscow patriarch: Russian war dead have their sins forgiven



FILE - In this photo released by Russian Orthodox Church Press Service, Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill, left, conducts the Easter service accompanied by President Vladimir Putin, background right, at the Christ the Savior Cathedral in Moscow, Russia, early Sunday, April 24, 2022. Russian soldiers who die in the line of duty in Ukraine have all of their sins forgiven, the patriarch of the Russian Orthodox Church proclaimed in a sermon on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022, comparing their sacrificial death to that of Jesus. (Oleg Varov/Russian Orthodox Church Press Service via AP)

En Russie, des hachoirs à viande offerts à des mères de combattants morts sur le front

L'initiative de la branche locale du parti présidentiel dans la région de Mourmansk a suscité une avalanche de critiques. L'expression « hachoir à viande » désigne également en russe l'envoi de vagues successives de fantassins à l'assaut des lignes ennemies.

Par Marie Jégo

Publié le 08 mars 2025 à 05h08, modifié le 09 mars 2025 à 07h10 ·  Lecture 2 min. · [Read in English](#)



La tactique russe du « hachoir à viande » permet de remporter des victoires sur le champ de bataille, mais à un coût effroyable



En Ukraine, la Russie a bombardé plus de 600 églises et édifices religieux. Le monastère historique de la Laure de Sviatohirsk a été frappé en 2022, tuant moines et civils. La Russie cherche délibérément à effacer le patrimoine orthodoxe ukrainien.

16/24

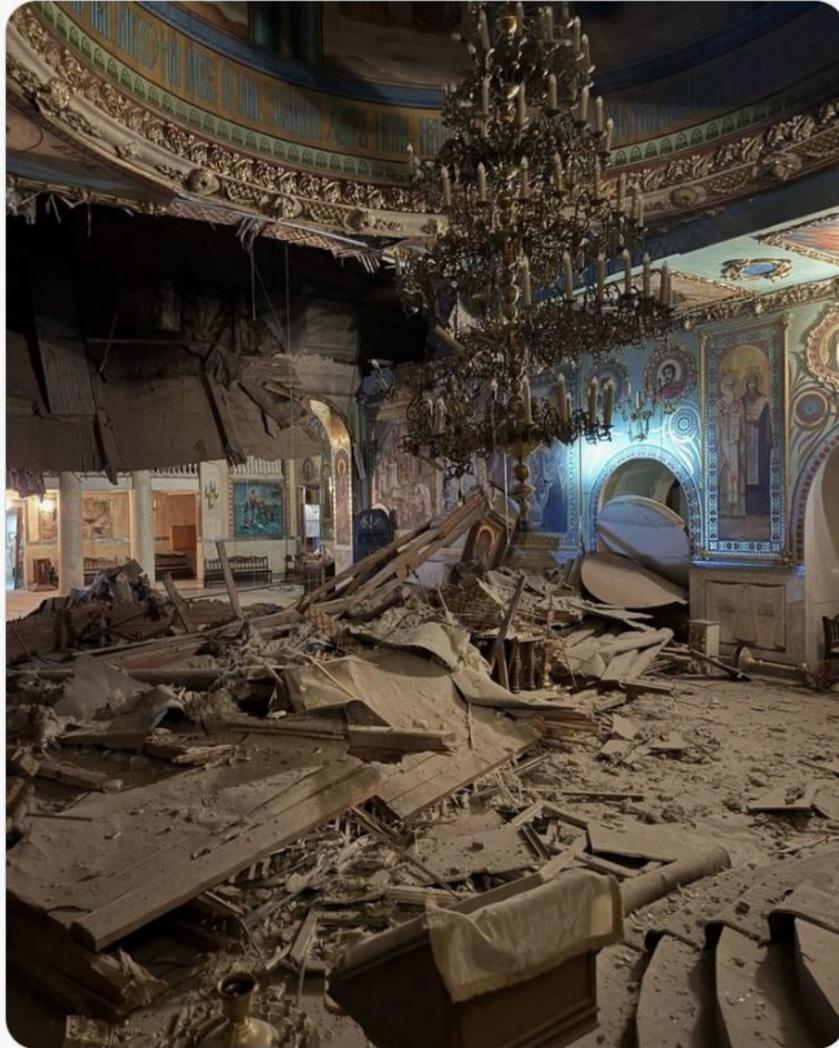






Kate from Kharkiv  @BohuslavskaKate · 8h

Russian famous "Christian values" is to bomb churches



RUSSIA-UKRAINE: 630 places of worship destroyed or damaged by the war

Freedom of Religion and Belief

RUSSIA-UKRAINE: 630 places of worship destroyed or damaged by the war

Russia continues to torture priests and destroy Ukrainian churches – IRF released new report in English and in Ukrainian

IRF (29.03.2024) – During the full-scale invasion, Russian troops damaged or wholly destroyed at least 630 churches, prayer houses, and other religious facilities in Ukraine.

The Institute for Religious Freedom published this new data in the report “**The Impact of the Russian Invasion on Faith-Based Communities in Ukraine.**” The IRF research contains the results of monitoring and surveys on the situation of Ukrainian religious communities in the territories occupied by Russia.

Dans les régions occupées, la Russie saisit les églises et les transfère au Patriarcat de Moscou, qui convoite aussi celles de France.

Les prêtres affiliés à Cyrille, donc au Kremlin, remplacent les locaux indépendants, avec le risque qu'ils espionnent alors pour Poutine.

Espionnage

Les églises orthodoxes russes, relais du FSB et de Poutine

Publié le 25 octobre 2024 • Lecture : 3 min.

 Offrir cet article

Le Kremlin compte sur son réseau de religieux à travers le monde pour récolter des informations, recruter des agents ou espionner ses adversaires, y compris en France. Plongée dans les taupes of the popes.



«*Boje moi!*» (« Mon Dieu ! »). Le 16 août 2024, le quotidien suédois « VLT » révèle avoir découvert qu'un prêtre orthodoxe officiant dans la ville de Västerås, à une centaine de kilomètres de Stockholm, a reçu une décoration directement de la part du service de renseignement extérieur russe, le SVR, pour lequel il travaillait depuis des années. Un an auparavant, un autre pays membre de l'Union européenne, la Bulgarie, expulsait de son territoire un honorable représentant de l'Eglise orthodoxe russe à Sofia. Motif : « espionnage ». En 2021, c'est le FBI qui accusait un « *father* » au-dessus de tout soupçon : lui recrutait des agents au service du FSB (les services de renseignement russes) sur tout le territoire.

A Paris, l'espionnage russe sous les coupes

Depuis l'inauguration de l'imposante cathédrale orthodoxe et du Centre culturel russe dans la capitale française le 19 octobre, les questions fusent sur l'utilisation du site à d'autres fins



Le sommet de la Tour Eiffel et l'un des bulbes de la cathédrale orthodoxe. — © REGIS DUVIGNAU



Richard Werly

Publié le 01 novembre 2016 à 13:17. / Modifié le 01 novembre 2016 à 18:11.

Il y a ceux qui balaièrent publiquement les accusations. Candidat à la primaire présidentielle de la droite, premier ministre lors du lancement officiel du projet de cathédrale orthodoxe et du centre culturel russe à l'automne 2007 et défenseur virulent d'un axe stratégique Paris-Moscou, François Fillon en fait partie. «Accuser d'emblée la Russie de vouloir transformer ce centre culturel orthodoxe au cœur de Paris en station d'écoute, c'est nourrir des fantasmes inutiles et dommageables», argumentait-il devant nous à Genève, en mai, à la veille d'un séminaire... sur la Russie organisé au château de Coppet. Et il y a ceux qui, depuis l'inauguration du site parisien le 19 octobre, et sur fond de malaise profond avec Moscou au sujet de la guerre en Syrie et en Ukraine, refusent cette omerta politique: «On parle d'un site russe doté de l'immunité diplomatique, situé à quelques centaines de mètres du Quai d'Orsay et de l'Elysée, interroge un ancien diplomate basé en Asie centrale. Poser la question de son utilisation, et des risques qu'il peut présenter, est la moindre des choses».

Le « putsch » de Biarritz

Avec l'aide du Kremlin (et sur son ordre ?), l'Eglise russe tente en effet, depuis l'élection de Poutine, de mettre la main sur un immense patrimoine : les multiples lieux de culte orthodoxe construits par l'aristocratie tsariste avant la révolution de 1917 et gérés, depuis, par l'émigration russe et ses descendants. Le but est triple : accroître le patrimoine étranger de l'Eglise, empêcher que la nouvelle émigration russe ne quitte le giron spirituel de Moscou, et reprendre le contrôle de l'ancienne.

Dans les années 1920, les Russes qui avaient fui l'URSS avaient décidé de ne plus dépendre du patriarcat de Moscou, devenu, par la force des choses, complice du pouvoir communiste. Ils ont rejoint l'autre phare de l'orthodoxie : Constantinople. Quarante-vingts ans plus tard, leurs descendants ne veulent pas, dans leur grande majorité, revenir en arrière, en tout cas pas encore... Ils entendent pratiquer une orthodoxie plus « libérale », moins nationaliste que celle en vogue dans la Russie d'aujourd'hui. Or, d'après la loi française, ces fidèles sont les seuls à pouvoir décider d'un changement d'obédience. Pour cela, il faut un vote des conseils paroissiaux, où ils sont majoritaires. Face à un tel barrage, le patriarcat et le Kremlin ont d'abord cherché des compromis, puis ont tenté par tout de passer en force.

En décembre 2004, à Biarritz, ils ont organisé un « putsch » contre le conseil paroissial local. Ils ont fait venir (avec l'aide des services secrets russes ?) des « fidèles » de l'Espagne voisine. Ils ont monté un conseil parallèle, qui s'est empressé de voter le rattachement à Moscou. Mais l'autre conseil, le vrai, a porté plainte et a gagné.

En 2005, à Nice, ils ont envoyé des officiers du SVR le service d'espionnage extérieur, pour essayer de reprendre par la voie judiciaire la cathédrale Saint-Nicolas (le Kremlin l'emportera finalement en janvier 2010 en première instance). A Paris, enfin, le patriarcat a créé une association qui milite - de façon parfois très agressive - pour le rattachement de la célèbre cathédrale de la rue Daru, Saint-Alexandre-Nevski, rattachement auquel le conseil paroissial est, dans sa majorité, très hostile.

Pour toutes ces raisons, le Quai-d'Orsay considère, à la fin de l'été 2007, qu'Alexis II n'est pas le bienvenu à l'Elysée. Mais le patriarche ne se décourage pas. Afin de décrocher un rendez-vous avec le président de la République, il fait appel à son vieil ami français au Vatican : le cardinal Etchegaray, l'homme des missions secrètes de Jean-Paul II . Le prélat accepte d'autant plus volontiers d'intervenir qu'il a une idée en tête : organiser un jour la première rencontre entre un pape et un patriarche russe. Où ? En terrain neutre, et si possible à Paris.

Sollicité directement par l'émissaire du pape, Nicolas Sarkozy se dit qu'un jour il pourrait jouer un rôle historique d'intermédiaire entre les deux chrétientés. Malgré les réticences des diplomates, il accepte donc de recevoir Alexis II le 3 octobre 2007. L'« opération cathédrale » est lancée.

Accueil > Société

F Réserve aux abonnés

À Nice, des paroissiens sous le choc après que Poutine a mis la main sur leur église

Par **Vincent-Xavier Morvan**

Le 28 avril 2025

[Nice](#) [église orthodoxe](#) [Vladimir Poutine](#) [Russie](#)

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Dans l'église Saint-Nicolas et Sainte-Alexandra, ce dimanche, lors de la liturgie. Au centre, à côté du prêtre, Alexis Obolensky, président de l'association culturelle qui l'administrait jusqu'alors. *Vincent-Xavier Morvan*

La justice française a reconnu, en appel, la propriété de la Fédération de Russie sur l'église russe de Nice, au grand désespoir de la communauté orthodoxe locale qui l'administrait depuis 1923.

Les chefs religieux ukrainiens qui résistent sont assassinés, arrêtés ou disparus. De nombreux prêtres ont été tués simplement pour avoir refusé de se soumettre à Moscou.

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL

Voice
of Persecuted Christians

Europe

**Christian leaders
killed, tortured,
disappeared in
occupied Ukraine**

 **Posted:** 21st March 2024

Protestants are targeted disproportionately. American missionaries have been coming to Ukraine for decades. As a result, Protestants make up about 4% of the Ukrainian population. However, they comprise more than a **third of the documented incidents of Russian persecution**. **At least 26 Christian leaders have been killed for their faith**. Among Protestants, Baptists are particularly hard hit. The Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary reports the **loss of some 400 Baptist congregations** since the beginning of the full scale Russian invasion. Why are Protestants being persecuted? To fully understand Russia's war on Protestants in Ukraine, one must understand that the Russian Orthodox Church is not a church like most Americans understand it, but a working arm of the Kremlin.

Russians often associate Protestants, especially evangelicals, with the United States, leading Russian soldiers to view them as agents of the American government. As a result, they imprison, torture, and, in some cases, kill Protestant believers. One evangelical pastor recounts a **Russian Orthodox priest participating in his torture**. A Baptist minister recounts how **Russian soldiers hunted Protestants** who fled occupied Mariupol. The youth pastor of a **megachurch that was converted to the Russian Ministry of Culture** in occupied Melitopol says "This war is not only about trying to capture Ukrainian territories, land and resources. This is a war against our faith and against our God."

Communist and post-Communist oppression | Russia | 07 September 2023

Russia: Baptist leader detained

As reported by Radio Free Europe (RFE/RL) on 9 August 2023, police in the western Russian city of Kaluga detained Albert Ratkin, a [bishop of the New Word Baptist church](#), "as a witness in a probe against the chairman of the Russian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, Yury Sipko". Sipko is under investigation for sharing comments on social media about Russian armed forces fighting in Ukraine.

World Watch Research analyst Rolf Zeegers comments: "Pressure exerted by the government on Christians in Russia is growing. Although according to unconfirmed reports Sipko has now left Russia, his case remains an indication of how careful Christians in Russia need to be in what they say and do. Making critical statements or questioning the 'special campaign' (i.e. the war in Ukraine) can lead to severe consequences. And if the state agents cannot arrest the suspect himself, they will detain someone else who was in contact with the suspect, carry out a house-search and confiscate computers and other personal belongings."

News

Zelensky: Russia killed about 50 Ukrainian priests during the invasion

Oleksandra Opanasenko · 18:55, 11 december 2024

Russian troops killed about 50 Ukrainian priests and destroyed 700 Ukrainian churches.

This was stated by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky in an interview with the SBN TV channel.

According to Zelensky, priests were killed for refusing to serve Russian Patriarch Kirill and the Russian Church – they were shot, and some were tortured. Priests were also taken prisoner.

L'Église orthodoxe russe est aussi activement complice du génocide en cours contre l'Ukraine, notamment en aidant aux enlèvements et à la russification forcée d'enfants ukrainiens, raison du mandat d'arrêt international de la CPI contre Poutine.

19/24



Pekka Kallioniemi ✓
@P_Kallioniemi · Follow



In this thread I'll be discussing 🇷🇺 genocide in Ukraine. I'll focus on the child abductions & will be providing evidence that 🇷🇺 has planned this for a long time and that their intent has been announced in the state-owned media at least since the beginning of April, 2022.

1/10



6:55 AM · Nov 7, 2022



3.4K



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The Role of the Russian Orthodox Church in the Forcible Deportation of Ukrainian Children

Vladyslav Havrylov, Research fellow, Georgetown University Collaborative on Global Children's Issues

Since the beginning of a full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the Russian Federation has been continuously committing war crimes, including the forced deportation of Ukrainians to the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus. Such actions, especially the deportation of children, should be qualified exclusively as a crime against humanity and may qualify as [genocide](#).

One of the leading roles in this process belongs to the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC), which, [in close cooperation](#) with the Russian government, is [involved in the forced deportation](#) of Ukrainian children to the territory of the Russian Federation, placing them in church charitable homes, monasteries, and recreational camps.

Number of Victims

It is worth noting that the deportation process was prepared by the Russian leadership in advance. This practice of the Russian occupiers is not new but continues the course of mass repression against the peoples that Russians have been trying to conquer since the days of the Russian Empire, and these criminal repressive practices were fully developed [during the Soviet era](#).

According to the [UN Refugee Agency \(UNHCR\)](#), more than 2.8 million Ukrainian citizens have crossed the border into the Russian Federation and another 16,705 Ukrainian citizens in the Republic of Belarus. It should be understood that these numbers are not final because the war continues, and the occupiers are constantly carrying out forced deportations of Ukrainian citizens.

If we try to find out the exact number of deported children, the data varies greatly, but the scale is impressive. The [Children of War website](#) indicates that 744,000 children have been deported based on open sources announced by the Russian Federation (probably including those deported since 2014). The platform identified 19,546 children who were deported from the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine between February 2022 and July 2023. Officially, the number of children abducted by Russia who have been identified was mentioned by the president of Ukraine as [about 20,000](#).

The Russian Orthodox Church (ROC), supported by the Kremlin, is actively involved in the Russification of Ukrainian children who were illegally deported to Russia to destroy their national identity.

According to Ukrinform, this is stated in a report by the Institute for the Study of War (ISW).

The analysts in their report refer to a joint investigation by the Russian opposition student magazine DOXA and the open-source resource Kidmapping, which highlights the role of the Russian Orthodox Church in the Russification of Ukrainian children deported to Russia by the Russian authorities.

DOXA found out that from the first days of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, Russian officials deported Ukrainian children from orphanages and boarding schools in the occupied Donetsk region to the Rostov region of Russia, where they were visited by Metropolitan Mercury (Igor Ivanov) of Rostov and Novocheerkassk. He told them about the Russian Orthodox Church and seemed to encourage them to consider baptism into the ROC.

ROC clerics also encouraged deported Ukrainian children to be baptised into the ROC and reportedly encouraged them to join various 'military-patriotic' youth organisations in Russia.

DOXA and Kidmapping also found that deported children from the temporarily occupied Donetsk and Luhansk regions were held in ROC shelters in Voronezh Oblast, where ROC clergy and associated officials hold "military-patriotic" events for deported children to encourage pro-Russian sentiment and cut children off from their Ukrainian identity.

Read also: [Since 2014, at least 790 children killed in Ukraine due to Russian aggression](#)

ISW has previously assessed that the Russian Orthodox Church plays an important role in the implementation of the Kremlin's plan to occupy Ukraine. This extends to Russia's efforts to Russify deported Ukrainian children living in Russia.

Vladimir Poutine sous le coup d'un mandat d'arrêt de la Cour pénale internationale

Le président russe « est présumé responsable » de crimes de guerre en Ukraine pour la déportation d'enfants de zones occupées d'Ukraine vers la Fédération de Russie. Le Kremlin a jugé que cette décision n'avait aucune valeur juridique.

Le Monde avec AFP

Publié le 17 mars 2023 à 17h07, modifié le 18 mars 2023 à 05h12 - 🕒 Lecture 2 min.



Article premier

Les Parties contractantes confirment que le génocide, qu'il soit commis en temps de paix ou en temps de guerre, est un crime du droit des gens, qu'elles s'engagent à prévenir et à punir.

Article II

Dans la présente Convention, le génocide s'entend de l'un quelconque des actes ci-après, commis dans l'intention de détruire, ou tout ou en partie, un groupe national, ethnique, racial ou religieux, comme tel :

- a) Meurtre de membres du groupe;
- b) Atteinte grave à l'intégrité physique ou mentale de membres du groupe;
- c) Soumission intentionnelle du groupe à des conditions d'existence devant entraîner sa destruction physique totale ou partielle;
- d) Mesures visant à entraver les naissances au sein du groupe;
- e) Transfert forcé d'enfants du groupe à un autre groupe.

En réalité, le pays que Poutine prétend « sauver » de « l'Occident sans Dieu » est bien plus religieux que la Russie. Les Ukrainiens fréquentent davantage les églises et ont des valeurs davantage fondées sur la foi, alors que la Russie réprime la liberté religieuse.



Olena Halushka ✓
@OlenaHalushka



Genocide means *any* of the below-mentioned acts.
Russia does *all* of them to Ukrainians

[Traduire le post](#)

Welcome to the United Nations Resources English

  UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER 

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Understanding Russia's Actions in Ukraine as the Crime of Genocide

Denys Azarov , Dmytro Koval , Gaiane Nuridzhanian ✉ , Volodymyr Venher

Journal of International Criminal Justice, Volume 21, Issue 2, May 2023, Pages 233–264,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/jicj/mqad018>

Published: 13 June 2023

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Abstract

The new wave of Russia's aggression against Ukraine that began on 24 February 2022, and the intensification of the armed conflict accompanied by grave breaches of international humanitarian law, has received significant scholarly attention. Many academic interventions have examined the developments in Ukraine through the frameworks of *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello*. Some, however, have applied a genocide lens to make sense of reported numerous and widespread violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. This article contributes to the latter stream of scholarship by contextualizing the arguments for the existence of genocidal intent behind the seemingly unrelated crimes committed by the armed forces of the Russian Federation all over Ukraine. The authors pay particular attention to the language and pseudo-historical references used by Russia's leaders as a justification for the invasion of Ukraine and argue that these statements and expressions indicate the existence of genocidal intent. This article also reflects on the issue of the systematic destruction of cultural heritage of Ukraine as further evidence of the intent to destroy the Ukrainian nation understood as a protected national group under the Genocide Convention, at least in part. Finally, the authors analyse the genocidal acts that have apparently been committed, including killings; the causing of serious bodily or mental harm; the forcible transfer of Ukrainian children to Russia, and the deliberate infliction of conditions of life aimed at the physical destruction of the Ukrainian nation. It is stressed that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the destruction of the Ukrainian nation by Russia has been pursued through commission of these prohibited acts. Their nature and large-scale character serve as further evidence of genocidal intent to destroy the Ukrainian nation.

Ukrainian is more believing than 20 years ago, survey says

10-02-2022 Eastern Europe CNE.news



Priests and believers of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church attend a prayer service held at the St. Vladimir's Hill in downtown Kyiv on 28 July 2021. Orthodox believers marked the 1033rd anniversary of Kievan Rus Christianization. Photo EPA, Sergey Dolzhenko

Two-thirds of Ukrainians call themselves believers. In the past 20 years, religiosity has grown by just under 10 per cent. The country experienced a 'religious peak' in 2014.

The polls vary slightly, but anything up to 80% of Ukraine's 44 million people believe in God. Roughly speaking, 75% of the population are Christian: 65% are Orthodox; 8% are Greek Catholics (or "Uniates"), that is following Eastern rites but accepting the authority of the Roman Pope; and 2% are Protestant. Half of Ukrainians attend church, one-third regularly. Interestingly, there is no support for a state church: the belief that democracy requires separation of church and state is widespread, an unusual perspective in the Orthodox world. About 1% of Ukrainians are Muslim and there is a secure community of 200,000 Jews (0.5%).² The remaining 20% or so includes people who are uncertain on the question of belief and decided non-believers.

Some of the most visible senior Ukrainian officials are serious believers. Kyrylo Budanov, the chief of the Main Directorate of Intelligence (GUR) within the Ministry of Defence, is an Orthodox Christian, as is the Commander-in-Chief, General Valeriy Zaluzhnyi, and his friend Oleksiy Arestovych, an adviser on strategic communications to the Office of President Volodymyr Zelensky.

La Russie est l'un des pays les moins religieux au monde. La participation aux offices est faible, et beaucoup de Russes se disent orthodoxes sans pratiquer leur foi. L'État promeut l'orthodoxie comme outil nationaliste, non comme renaissance spirituelle authentique.

When only 14% of your citizens go to church on a regular basis, 73 out of 100 marriages end in divorce, you've got 500 000 abandoned children, you're the European leader of children raised by single parents and abortions per capita, but you still managed to convince the leaders of the European alt-right that you're the true bastion of conservative values because of anti-LGBT laws and high levels of domestic violence.





Кобзар 🇺🇦 🇨🇦 🇷🇺
@CanadianKobzar

x1 ...

To all of the American Christians that support russia because they allegedly defend “traditional values” – here is a dose of reality.



Russian authorities seize and repurpose sacred places in occupied territories. Here's a photo of an Evangelical church in Melitopol converted into a culture ministry promoting pro-Moscow propaganda.

Photo: Mykhailo Brytsyn

Malgré la rhétorique du Kremlin concernant les « valeurs traditionnelles », seule une faible part des Russes fréquentent régulièrement les églises. Pour beaucoup, l'orthodoxie est davantage une identité nationale qu'une foi sincère : une foi de façade, une foi Potemkine.

Study approaches

In the study of religions in Russia, the "ethnic principle" is based on the assumption that the entire number of people belonging to a given ethnic group are adherents of that group's traditional religion. This principle is often used to estimate the magnitude of very small groups, for instance Finnish [Lutheranism](#) at 63,000, assuming that all the 34,000 Finns and 28,000 Estonians of Russia are believers in their historical religion; or German Lutheranism at 400,000, assuming that all Germans in Russia believe in their historical religion. However, whether for small or larger groups, this approach may lead to gross mistakes.^[34]



Syncretic Temple of All Religions in Kazan.

The ethnic principle is sometimes misused to deliberately inflate the prevalence of certain religions, especially the larger ones, for political aims. For instance, Islamic and Orthodox leaders routinely claim that their religions have respectively 20 million and 120 million adherents in Russia, by counting all the individuals belonging to the ethnic groups which historically belonged to these religions.^[34] By applying the ethnic principle, people who are indifferent to religion or are outspoken [atheists](#), those who have converted to a different faith to that assigned by nationality, and people who participate in religions which historically have not been associated to specific ethnic groups in Russia—namely [Old Believers](#), new Russian converts to [Protestantism](#), [Catholicism](#) and [Eastern religions](#), and others—are automatically excluded from the calculations.^[34]

Another criterion to count religious populations in Russia is that of "religious observance". Based on this principle, very few Russians would be religious. It has been found that between 0.5% and 2% of people in big cities attend [Easter](#) services, and overall just between 2% and 10% of the total population (3 to 15 million people) are actively practising Orthodox Christians. The proportion of practising Muslims among ethnic groups which are historically Islamic is larger, 40% to 90% depending on the group, and yet smaller than any assumption based on the ethnic principle.^[35]

International

Élections américaines Guerre en Ukraine Amériques Europe Moyen-Orient Le meilleur du jour

Père Ioann: «Ce que l'État russe voudrait promouvoir n'est pas la foi chrétienne mais une façade d'orthodoxie»

Par Alain Barluet

Le 7 décembre 2022

Russie Ukraine Guerre en Ukraine Eglise orthodoxe

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«Pour ma part, je ne parle que de l'Évangile et je pense que c'est ce que tout prêtre devrait faire», souligne le père Ioann.
Alyona Malkowskaya

ENTRETIEN - Hiéromoine de l'église des Saints-Côme-et-Damien, à Moscou, Ioann Guaita refuse d'être le «porte-drapeau de l'idée nationale».

Originaire de Sardaigne, arrivé en Russie en 1985, Ioann Guaita, 60 ans, est hiéromoine (moine ordonné prêtre dans les Églises orthodoxes) de l'église des Saints-Côme-et-Damien, dans le centre de Moscou.

L'Ukraine, quant à elle, est véritablement un pays chrétien et conservateur. Sans les milliards dépensés dans la propagande russe, tout conservateur sérieux soutiendrait l'Ukraine, et non la Russie. Mais les trumpistes sont-ils de bons chrétiens ?



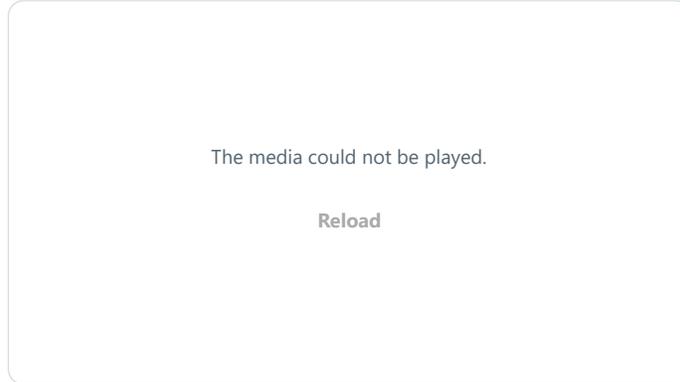
Republicans against Trump

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Nothing to see here—just Alina Habba, Donald Trump’s attorney and counselor to the president, openly expressing support for Andrew Tate, a man accused of rape and human trafficking, and claiming to be a ‘big fan.’

Absolutely disgusting!



11:30 PM · Jan 10, 2025



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The Christian officials in Ukraine “are not ‘progressive’, anti-Western, Christians of the kind one finds especially in Latin America with ‘liberation theology’, but traditional European Christians, strongly influenced by the Pope John Paul II and the thought of Thomas Aquinas”, says Kozlowski. At large in the Ukrainian population, the Uniate Church in particular, in the west of the country, “enjoys great influence” and prestige, because of its heroic resistance to Communist repression⁶—a radical difference with the Russian Orthodox Church, which collaborated with the Bolsheviks and was publicly revealed as having done so at the end of the Soviet period.⁷ The pro-Russian tilt of so many Catholic intellectuals, and of **the Church hierarchy**, is especially tragic, since the Russian Orthodoxy hates Roman Catholicism with a venomous passion, while Ukrainian Orthodoxy—because of Ukraine’s separate history under Polish influence—is neither as theologically nor institutionally hostile to the Roman Church. Where the Russian Orthodox Church “now appeals mostly to the superstitious and the extreme nationalists (these two groups have a large intersection)”, Kozlowski sums up, Ukraine “represents probably the best hope [in Europe] for the revival of a Christianity that is both highly moral and ‘muscular’—able to defend itself.”



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And they pulled me out of the taxi and that was it. And they pulled me out of the taxi and that was it.

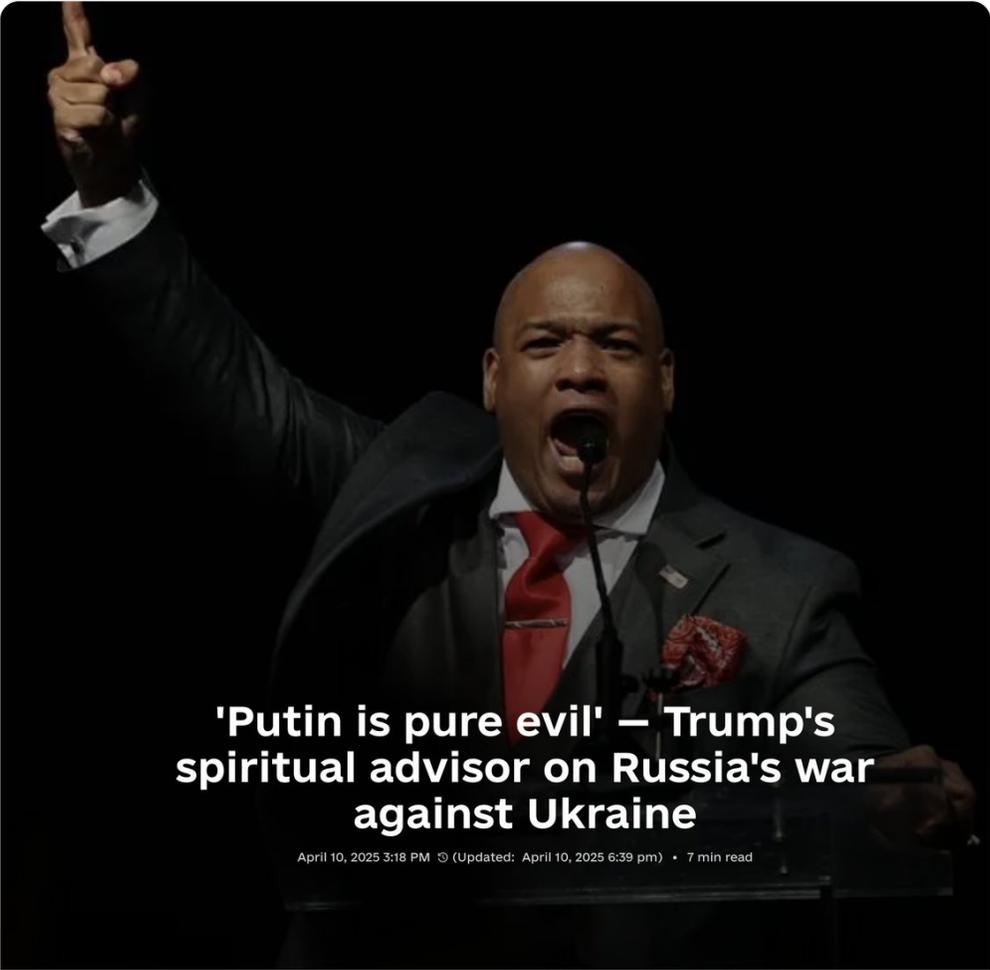
THE PURE EVIL. Stories of Ukrainian women raped by russian soldiers

Yanina Sokolova 1.33M subscribers [Join](#) [Subscribe](#) [37K](#) [Share](#) [Download](#) [...](#)

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Our film "Pure Evil" is about two raped women. They were raped by the Russian military during the occupation of Donbass and Kyiv region. This testimony will become an appendix to the court in The Hague. There are thousands of women like Alice and Victoria. The world should see how the genocide of the Ukrainian people is taking place right now in the center of Europe.

Les rares honnêtes parmi eux cessent de soutenir ce génocide seulement après avoir vu la situation de leurs propres yeux — comme si trois ans de crimes de guerre et de tortures russes amplement documentés étaient insuffisants pour distinguer le Bien du Mal.



'Putin is pure evil' – Trump's spiritual advisor on Russia's war against Ukraine

April 10, 2025 3:18 PM ⓘ (Updated: April 10, 2025 6:39 pm) • 7 min read

Televangelist Pastor Mark Burns speaks to Trump supporters in Washington, D.C., U.S. on Jan. 5, 2021. (Tayfun Coskun / Anadolu Agency via Getty Images)

TRUMP & UKRAINE



Pavel Afisov, who was taken prisoner in the first months of the war and released in October, witnessed the patterns of abuse in Russian prisons. SERHII KOROVAYNY FOR WSJ

EXCLUSIVE

‘Be Cruel’: Inside Russia’s Torture System for Ukrainian POWs

In the early weeks of the war, prison authorities told top guards there would be no restrictions against violence

WAR IN UKRAINE

Journalist was tortured and had her organs removed in Russian captivity, report says

Viktoriia Roshchyna, 27, was captured after she traveled to the Russian-occupied region of Zaporizhzhia in eastern Ukraine, the joint media report said.



— A ceremony to commemorate the Ukrainian journalist Viktoriia Roshchyna in Kyiv.

Sergey Dolzhenko / EPA-EFE via Shutterstock file

14/12/2022

Torture of children

Children's torture chamber found in Kherson after de-occupation



One of the torture chambers in the Kherson region. Photo: Press service of the Security Service of Ukraine

After the city and part of the Kherson region were liberated from the Russian occupation, 10 torture chambers were discovered there. One of them had a room, that was used for detaining and torturing children, Dmytro Lubinets, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, reported.

“According to the testimony of the people who were held there, Ukrainian children were in this room. The occupiers themselves called it a “children’s cell,” said Lubinets.

The children were given little water and almost no food. Dmytro Lubinets also reported that they were subjected to psychological abuse. For instance, children were told that parents had abandoned them.

According to Lubinets, a 14-year-old boy was held captive and tortured there for taking photos of destroyed Russian military equipment.

“We recorded the torture of children for the first time. I thought that the bottom could not be broken after Bucha, Irpin,” said the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights. “No. We really reached the bottom in Kherson.”

La deuxième édition de « Vatik Soup — Le guide ultime de la désinformation russe » est officiellement disponible!

Vous pouvez commander votre exemplaire (en anglais) ici :



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<https://vatniksoup.com/fr/>

Cette soupe en anglais :



Pekka Kallioniemi ✓
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In today's Vatnik Soup, I'll start a new series titled "Degenerate Russia". In it, we look behind the Kremlin propaganda and see the real Russia – an authoritarian country that doesn't care about its people and desperately tries to hold on to its imperialistic past.

1/22



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Nella Zuppa Vatnik di oggi, iniziamo una nuova serie: «Russia Degenerata». Guarderemo oltre la propaganda del Cremlino e vedremo la vera Russia – un paese autoritario che non si preoccupa del suo popolo e cerca disperatamente di aggrapparsi al suo passato imperialista.

1/23



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Diese Vatnik-Suppe beginnt eine Serie mit dem Titel „Dekadentes Russland“. Wir blicken hinter die Kreml-Propaganda & zeigen das wahre Russland - ein autoritäres Land, das sich nicht um sein Volk kümmert & versucht an seiner imperialistischen Vergangenheit festzuhalten.

1/22



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