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# **HOW UKRAINIAN SOCIETY IS MOBILIZING AND UNITING IN THE LIGHT OF THE RUSSIA'S UNPROVOKED INVASION OF UKRAINE**

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Undisguised, overtly destructive Russian invasion in Ukraine, grabs the whole world's attention. By all accounts for my native country, with topped death tolls, this war has become the bifurcation point of ultimate and irrevocable momentum of Ukrainian society's consolidation and unification and the end up with the concluding proof of the brand-new Ukrainian political nation's shaping. One of the most formidable and critical attributes of such processes are the Ukrainian citizens' unforeseen spirit of resilience, patriotism and fierce civil disobedience as effective tools of countering the Russian aggressor's policy in the temporarily occupied territories of the Azov Sea region: in Kherson region (cities of Kherson, Beryslav, Oleshky, Hola Prystan, founded by Zaporozhian Cossacks, the villages of Berezhanka and Nyzhni Sirohozy and others) and Zaporizhzhia one (the city of Melitopol).

Amid the manifestation of the Ukrainians' bravery and valour, we can daily witness mass protest rallies with the blue and yellow national flag of Ukraine and passionately performing the Anthem of Ukraine in the cities, where Russian troops have already entered. However, every single time the actions of civil disobedience are shifting to encompass as many different localities as possible to boost and bolster the morale of Ukrainians, who are forced to be under temporary Russia's occupation.

Chanting ‘Kherson is Ukraine!’ (a slogan indicating the name of a particular settlement, characteristic features of civil disobedience regardless of localization), ‘Shame on you!’, ‘Fascists (Ruscists)!’ ‘The Russian soldier is a fascist and an intruder!’, ‘Go home while alive!’, ‘The One, the only, the United Ukraine’, ‘Glory to Ukraine!’ ‘Glory to the Heroes!’, ‘Ukraine is above all!’ The Ukrainians strongly object to being “liberated”, because Ukrainians are absolutely free (from any (lingual, ideological, political or confessional discrimination) in a free democratic country. Importantly, consequential leaders of civil disobedience are recommended to avoid any verbal aggression, bullying or harassment in their messages, posts, slogans and posters. Politically correct and respectful manner of conveying the message is of paramount importance, so that the coverage of the active protests’ uprisings and riots against Russia’s invasion or “liberation” should not be blocked on the Internet or any media outlets.

It should be articulated that the local self-government’s stance has become an especially efficient toolkit of the Ukrainian society’s consolidation in the light of the Russia’s unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, in particular, when Russian occupants were trying to organize a sham ‘referendum’ for a fake ‘people’s republic’ in Kherson. Noteworthy, in compliance with the legislation of Ukraine, under martial law, city councils strip off their powers. Russian invaders tried to take them over to legitimize their occupation, though. Facing such institutional functioning challenges, the deputies of the Kherson Regional Council, meeting via Zoom, in compliance with the required regulations, to confirm their decision-making and stressed that the city of Kherson, was, is and will be an integral part of a single state – Ukraine. So far, 44 deputies, the representatives of all political parties represented in the Kherson Regional Council of the VIII convocation have approved the relevant appeal to the President of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, and claimed that they would never recognize the Russian’s ‘sham referendum’ to create a “people’s republic” in the Kherson region and consider it as improper and illegal. Significantly, the case of councils of Kherson region of all levels was launched to be spread.

Another vivid toolkit of protest against the Russian intruders was employed by the Henichensk City Council; the deputy resigned, demonstrating their sheer unwillingness to collaborate with the enemy. It should be stressed that in the course of the local self-government’s decision-making, the issue of making a special decision in the form of a Decree of the President of Ukraine or the decision of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine on the suspension of the activities of the local self-government in the temporary occupied territories in order to prevent the legitimization of the aggressor’s occupation was raised.

It was the daily demonstration of the Ukrainian society’s civil consolidation and unification of all political powers in the occupied areas as the consequence of the second large-scale wave of the Russia’s unprovoked war in Ukraine that led to a number of responds engaging peaceful acts of civil disobedience: (1) according to the General Staff

of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, taking into account the fierce resistance of the residents of the Kherson region, the occupiers are trying to introduce an administrative and police regime, for which units of the National Guard of Russia were introduced to the territory of the Azov Sea, and they illegally detained more than 400 civilians of Ukraine; (2) According to the 'Financial Times', citing the European intelligence agencies, the Russia's authorities instructed the FSB to prepare punitive operations and repressions to break the Ukrainian civilians' morale and resistance; (3) On March 11, Russian invaders kidnapped the mayor of Melitopol, I. Fedorov, and later the activist O. Gaisumova, who organized actions of disobedience; (4) In Nova Kakhovka, Tavria and Kakhovka, appeals of the so-called 'military commandant' are conveyed, in terms of establishing curfews, banning carrying weapons, holding meetings, rallies, pickets. But such occupants' orders would never undermine the strength of the Ukrainians' resistance.

It is critically essential to characterize the acts of civil disobedience in Ukraine as followed: (1) the rise of articulation and aggregation of politically significant public interests to preserve the statehood, territory integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and respectively, the associated right to an independent foreign policy; (2) nonviolent resistance to Russia's invaders, which is of a horizontal rather than, based on the employment of symbolic political actions methods aimed at achieving political results namely the liberation of Ukraine's territory from the aggressor; (3) subjects of civil disobedience are ready to take the responsibility for their acts and be punished for violating by requirements, which are regarded by the Russian occupiers as illicit, immoral and unjust; (4) the special nature of communication, i.e. the ability to construct communicative actions so that their goals and methods are equally read by subjects of civil disobedience, observers (primarily the international community) and the object of civil disobedience (the Russian aggressor). It should be emphasized, that the focal point of the Ukrainian resistance is its nonviolent nature, the fierce resistance of the Ukrainians on the temporarily captured territories of Ukraine is not a manifestation of their ideals, but rather a specific political practice that involves the interaction of all parties – both those who support and those who object, and those who doubt the goals and means of resistance or civil disobedience, highlights the unity of the Ukrainian nation and their readiness to self-sacrificing fight against the Russia's invaders at all costs.