

“LOOK OUT THE WINDOW”: THE VIEW OF KYIV

Vasyl Zaplatynskyi**

The beginning of the war was a shock to every Ukrainian. Today, many people say that Ukraine was poorly prepared for war. They did not prepare because no Ukrainian in the depths of his soul believed that such a war would happen. On February 23, Ukrainian people worked peacefully, studied, treated, and rested.

People began to flee the war. Someone left on the morning of February 24. I saw cars near my house that were already loaded with household items at 8 am and left Kyiv. There were fewer and fewer people in Kyiv every day. But not all people left the city. There are still many people who could not or did not want to leave Kyiv. There are still many people left to defend Kyiv. Barricades and defensive structures have appeared on the streets. The presence of people armed with machine guns has become commonplace in Kyiv. Curfew has become the norm.

In the early days, there were queues at the shops. These were panic purchases. Grocery store shelves have become empty and stocks in every apartment or house have increased many times over. Days passed and the

* “*Look out the window...*” is a *feuilleton* presenting the reflection of an author experienced during the current Russian-Ukrainian war.

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situation began to improve. Queues in stores disappeared and queues at pharmacies became very small. Bread appeared on store shelves. Delivery of other products began to take place.

Kyiv is a big city, so the situation in different districts is a little different. The big difference is between the areas that the Russian invaders came close to and those where the troops are still relatively far away. However, the siren sounds the same for everyone and distant shots or explosions are heard. Unfortunately, some small towns near Kyiv have been almost completely destroyed.

Life did not stop in Kyiv. Public transport continues to operate, although in an irregular manner. Most homes have heat, electricity, water, gas, and Internet access. Television and radio are available. People are not cut off from the world.

Kyiv residents help territorial defence and the military. They work as volunteers to help those in need.

Ten o'clock in the morning. I look through the window. I see two children on a swing and their mothers sitting on the edge of the playground. And the military with machine guns. They are close. They are defending themselves. And they will protect Ukrainians and Ukraine. Victory will be ours!

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