***Neue Texte von Borotba***

**A Call for Solidarity**

May 8 is celebrated all over the world as a day of victory over Nazism that caused millions of losses and much suffering to many people of the world. However, now we see that neo-Nazism raises its head again. Far-right groups and parties are striving to power in many countries. Their members unleash real terror against the dissenters, migrants, the ‘others’, leftwing and anti-fascist activists.

We have to stop the rise fascism again – that’s our duty to stop it till it is not too late.

On May 2, 2014 in Ukrainian city Odessa neo-Nazis and far-right groups unleashed a real massacre. Far-right paramilitaries burned alive and beaten to death 46 local residents in the ‘House of Trade-Unions’. They brutally finished off the wounded, shouting ‘Glory to the nation’ and ‘Ukraine is above all’. The neo-Nazis were brought together by authorities so that to eliminate the opponents – anti-fascists, members of leftwing organizations and dissenters among ordinary citizens.

It happened in ‘Trade-Union house’ on May 2 – the day when Adolf Hitler's storm troopers occupied all trade union headquarters across Germany in 1933, and union leaders were arrested and put in prison or concentration camps.

New Ukrainian authorities that violently seized power in February include many representatives of far-right and pro-fascist parties – in fact it’s the most far-right government in post-WWII Europe. Current authorities openly justify Nazis and Nazi-collaborators movement responsible for genocide in WWII. And it’s not surprising that new government immediately released all neo-Nazis that were earlier convicted for racist murders. The government of far-rights and oligarchs willingly uses death squads of openly neo-Nazi groups like Right Sector so that to suppress the people’s indignation.

And the recent tragedy in Odessa – when our comrade anti-fascist Andrey Brazhevsky was brutally killed by fascists - is only one episode in the campaign of neo-Nazi terror. Being whitewashed in media and endorsed by some governments – far-right squads feel their total impunity in Ukraine.

That’s why **we call all the anti-fascist forces to condemn the neo-Nazis and to honor the victims of Nazi-terror in Ukraine on May 8 before Ukrainian embassies**.

The neo-Nazis should be stopped in Ukraine and everywhere.

Down with all kinds of nationalism and fascism!

Long live international solidarity!

**Nazism – never again!**

BOROTBA.org

**Solidarity to the people of Ukraine from Athens, Greece**

On Friday, May 2nd, supporters of the fascist government in Kiev backed by the neo-Nazi’s of the “Right Sector” burned the building of the syndicates in Odessa, where antigovernment protesters, in their majority left-wing fighters, were located, in their attempt to defend their city against the fascists marching in. Those who tried to escape the flames were beaten to death by the neo-Nazi’s; the latter went on to complete their work by a pogrom in the streets, conducting targeted attacks against specific homes. Final countdown: 46 antifascist protesters killed and dozens of people injured.

We, the Antifascist Coordination for Athens-Piraeus, would like to send our deepest condolences to our comrades from Borotba Union that count one dead and many people injured by the armed neo-Nazi battalion squads.

As an action of solidarity, we will hold a demonstration in front of the Ukrainian embassy in Athens. It is our belief that labourers’ and the democratic rights of the Ukrainian people can only be protected by a unified internationalist front against the fascist government, the oligarchs and all kinds of “protecting patrons” (US-EU-Russia).

At such hard times, our mind and heart is next to our Ukrainian comrades that fight against the neo-Nazi’s, oligarchy and imperialism for a society free of nationalist hatred and social degradation.

Solidarity is our weapon

Antifascist Coordination for Athens-Piraeus

**Ukraine: Junta launches repressions against Borotba activists Statement of the union ‘Borotba’ (Struggle)**

 The Kiev junta has launched repressions against our comrades throughout Ukraine. In Kiev, there was a search of the flat of Borotba activist Andrew Manchuk. In Kharkov, the Borotba office was seized. In Odessa, local Borotba leader and mayoral candidate Alexey Albu, a survivor of the May 2 massacre, is under threat of arrest. Now none of our comrades can feel safe. Many of them have left their cities or have gone underground.

The central headquarters of ‘Borotba’ calls on all activists and sympathizers to go underground if it is possible and not to appear at your residence, change your phone numbers and take other precautions.

All regional offices of Borotba must discuss methods of secret work.

The junta is getting more cruel but it’s not because of strength, but - out of weakness. The time of victory is not far.

**For e-mail communication, use** [**front@borotba.org**](mailto:front@borotba.org)

**09.05.2014**

**San Francisco Labor Council Resolution on Ukraine and Russia**

Whereas, the United States and other Western countries have intervened in the internal affairs of Ukraine, and behind the uprising are millions of dollars of our tax money used in the covert campaign to destabilize and topple the democratically elected former regime; and  
Whereas, this money comes from the federal budget where it competes directly with funds for human needs programs that directly benefit education and other services and public sector employees as well as students and their families; and  
Whereas, the Western Powers have historically attempted encirclement and the weakening of Russia by incorporating Eastern European countries into NATO; and  
Whereas, intervention by Western powers and threats of war are contrary to the interests of the Ukrainian, Russian, and American people and undermine peace and stability in the region; and  
Whereas, the new Ukrainian government, backed by the United States and European powers, has a fascist-minded element that threatens much of the population, and recalls racist, anti-Semitic and xenophobic views that   
go against our fundamental values, and  
Whereas, fascist movements historically have sought to destroy the organized labor movement; and  
Whereas, the region is now a tinder box easily ignited; and  
Whereas, war in Europe will have horrific consequences to the world economy, to the human race and the planet; and  
Whereas, a peace oriented, productive economy serves not only the needs of all faculty and students, union members and all workers, but also all strata of society except war-profiteers and the super-rich,  
Therefore be it Resolved the San Francisco Labor Council urges the U.S. government to use diplomacy with Russia and Ukraine to work out a peaceful resolution of the brewing conflict, one that respects the sovereignty, democratic right to self-determination, and security of all the peoples of Eastern Europe, and  
Be it Further Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council urge the U.S. government to stop all military aid to the new Ukraine government, and  
Be it Finally Resolved that the San Francisco Labor Council will send copies of this resolution to Bay Area Congressional Representatives, Senators Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, John McCain and Mitch McConnell, Secretary of State John Kerry, President Barack Obama, and the AFL-CIO.

**Submitted by Allan Fisher, AFT 2121, and adopted unanimously by the San Francisco Labor Council on May 12,**   
**2014.**  
**Respectfully,**   
**Tim Paulson, President**

**Categorical imperative for anti-fascists**

I was an eyewitness to the events in Odessa May 2, when the neo-Nazis killed my friend and fellow member of Union Borotba (Struggle), Andrew Brazhevsky. Wounded that day, Alexei Albu was repeatedly questioned by the SBU [State Security Police] -- he could have been arrested along with me and our other friends. In Kiev, the apartment of my friend, the journalist Andrei Manchuk, was searched. On the same day the Borotba office in Kharkov was seized by “men in black” who, under the pretext of searching, destroyed property -- including tearing up red banners with our symbols. Many of our comrades were forced to flee or hide. In fact, Borotba is now in an underground situation, where brutality is driving all those who dissent from Kiev’s “model.”  
  
But all of this pales before that a full-scale terrorist war unleashed against the people by the Kiev junta -- shootings of civilians and shelling of cities in the South-East of the country. Ukraine did not know anything like this since the forties of the twentieth century -- until it was reinstated by the "democratic" regime of usurpers who turned Ukrainian nationalism and neoliberalism into the state religion, threatening the Inquisition against all potential heretics.  
  
And now I feel much sympathy for those people who are up in arms to protect civilians from the neo-Nazi terror, from the private armies and mercenaries of the oligarchy and international military companies. So what if twenty years of this life under the Ukrainian authorities has taught some of them undeserved love for Putin? Let them be. The Kiev junta is the absolute evil and main threat to all democratically minded citizens of our country. Its fascist methods and oligarchic nature -- expressed in the union of far-right militants, billionaires and neoliberal officials – is obvious to all who are willing to speak honestly and drop their illusions about the Maidan, of which we have repeatedly warned Ukrainians.  
  
Among those who fought for Republican Spain were not only ideologically pure communists. It is known that among the Republican combatants you came across even former Petlyura troops. It’s enough to read "For Whom the Bell Tolls" by Hemingway to understand that to defend the Republic, people arose with different, often dubious pasts. And yet they went down in history as anti-fascist heroes. Volunteers from other countries far away from Spain fought as part of the International Brigades -- including many representatives from Western Ukraine. And General Franco’s fascist propaganda called them "Stalinist tourists," "saboteurs" and "terrorists" too.  
  
There is no doubt that 99% of militia soldiers in the South-East are local citizens of Ukraine. Probably more than half of them are ethnic Ukrainians. But now, as we fight for democratic freedom and against the revival of fascism, it does not matter who they are or where they are from. It does not matter because what we are seeing is not an internal Ukrainian matter. This is a civil war in the former Soviet space, in all of our artificially divided country. And in this war liberal Moscow holds one front against Tyanabok and Yatzenuak, while the communists hold another – with the resistance of the South-East.  
  
The categorical imperative for any anti-fascist today is the following thesis: all that is now part of the struggle against fascism and social racism in Ukraine is good; all that counteracts its destruction, even under the most specious pretexts, is evil and aiding the enemy. It is not so much a theoretical conclusion as a practical one, based on our own experiences and those of our comrades, each in very difficult environments, fighting against the most aggressive right-wing regime in postwar European history.

**Victor Shapinov**

13.05.2014

**Socialist Chance for South-East Ukraine. By Victor Shapinov, Union Borotba (Struggle**

Vyacheslav Ponomarev, the People’s Mayor of Slavyansk, said that the city's industry will be nationalized.  
  
“So that no one has any illusions, I want to say that the entire industry in the city will be nationalized. We cannot leave the industrial potential of the city in the hands of unscrupulous businessmen,” said the People’s Mayor.   
  
The largely spontaneous anti-capitalist orientation of the AntiMaidan activists who have created the Donetsk and Lugansk people's republics is not surprising. The largest owner-oligarchs were customers, sponsors and the main "beneficiaries" of the EuroMaidan. Capitalist oligarchs such as Igor Kolomoysky, Dmytro Firtash, Sergei Taruta and, to a lesser extent, Rinat Akhmetov, funded the EuroMaidan and promoted it in their media. When the EuroMaidan won, those who previously governed the country indirectly through the administration of Yanukovych got direct control, including appointments as the governors of key areas.  
  
Moreover, as it turns out, the oligarchy’s aid not only led to the victory of the ultra-nationalists and EuroMaidan, but they tried to influence the resistance movement to the new government -- the so-called AntiMaidan.  
  
As Pavel Gubarev, People’s Governor of the Donetsk region, stated recently, Rinat Akhmetov paid a number of AntiMaidan activists so that they "sat quietly" and "merged" protest. "All the activities of Akhmetov were aimed to drain people's anger, and it all turned out well in Dnepropetrovsk. Oligarch Kolomoysky did it because there is a bit of pro-Ukrainian sentiment stronger than in the Donbass,"said Gubarev in an interview with "Rossiyskaya Gazeta.”  
  
The oligarchy has sponsored the development of various neo-Nazi groups and their union under the brand "Right Sector." Oligarchs indirectly finance them and the acknowledged leader of the Right Sector, Dmitry Jaros, told the media: "We do not mind if they (the oligarchs) fund our army." Billionaire Igor Kolomoysky has shown special zeal, publicly meeting with Jaros and "headhunting" the militias of the South-East, offering $10,000 for a captured "saboteur."  
  
Thus, the very logic of the struggle is pushing the activists of the South-East into the camp of anti-capitalism. Participating in the AntiMaidan movement in Kharkov and Odessa, I have seen how the popular masses have awakened to slogans indicting the oligarchy.  
  
Sergei Kirichuk, one of the leaders of the Kharkov AntiMaidan and coordinator of the socialist movement Borotba, also emphasizes the social agenda of the South-East movement: "People here in the South-East raised demands for their socio-economic rights. There is a very serious anti-oligarchic, anti-capitalist component to these protests,” says Kirichuk, who now finds himself in exile.  
  
Characterizing the funding of the AntiMaidan, Kirichuk says: "The movement in the South-East, in its technical equipment and financial support, cannot be compared with the Maidan. Victoria Nuland said that the U.S. has spent $5 billion to ‘promote democracy’ in Ukraine. And in the East of Ukraine the protest movement shows no strong financial support. At least in the cities where we were active -- in Kharkov and Odessa -- I have seen no funding from the Russians or the Putin administration. And on the political landscape, we have not seen any people who have helped and financed this movement."  
  
I can confirm these words of Sergei: in Kharkov, we produced leaflets with our own money, with a total circulation of about 100,000 copies. We gathered small private donations. Ten thousand posters were pasted up to boycott the elections scheduled by the Kiev junta. At the monument to Lenin, there was a box for donations to assist the Defenders of Kharkov and the wounded. The AntiMaidan organizers used the small basement office of Borotba. That's all for the "financing" of AntiMaidan. I do not exclude that some crooks collected large amounts using the movement’s name, but activists have not seen any of it.  
  
Gubarev paints the same picture of the Donetsk AntiMaidan: "In the militia there are different people. Miners and former officials, advertisers, my companions ... But what they have in common is that they are honest about money. They mortgaged their property, and they took the money and invested it in the movement when we had financial difficulties. They spent their own money.”  
  
This is also a contrast: On one side, ultra-nationalist militants with great financing and gear, and on the other, workers, students, and unemployed activists. When our comrades of Borotba seized Right Sector documents in the Kharkov Regional State Administration, among them were bank cards and checks. They testified that the boy from the village, a student at the Institute of Physical Education, has an amount of $10,000.  
  
I emphasize again that there were no anti-oligarchic or even social slogans among the EuroMaidan. A few leftists who wanted to "be with the people" and foolishly went among the EuroMaidan were beaten and expelled in disgrace by the ultras dominate there. These neo-Nazis, once hooked on oligarchic funding, immediately forgot about their demagogic "anti-capitalism.”  
  
This union of oligarchs and Nazis comes as if descended directly from the pages of history books, as does the union of anti-fascist and anti-capitalist slogans by opponents of the Kiev junta.  
  
"Fascism is the open terrorist dictatorship of the most reactionary, most chauvinistic, most imperialist elements of finance capital ... Fascism is not a supra-class power and not the power of the petty bourgeoisie and lumpenproletariat over financial capital. Fascism is the power of financial capital. It is an organization of terrorist reprisals against the working class and the revolutionary section of the peasantry and the intelligentsia. Fascism in foreign policy is chauvinism in its crudest form, cultivating xenophobic hatred against other nations,” according to the classic definition of fascism formulated by Georgi Dimitrov. And what is happening in Ukraine today fully fits this definition.   
  
The owner of Privat Kolomoysky is a living symbol of financial capital. The terrorist violence of Kolomoysky’s private armies, hastily hammered together from far-right militants, was seen by all in the media.  
  
It is no accident that the proponents of the Maidan demolished monuments to Lenin while its opponents protect them. In this sense there is a deep class divide. And if you are looking for the seeds of socialism somewhere in Ukraine – it is in the movements in the South-East.  
  
Of course, the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republic will not be socialist. It is likely that part of the large and medium-sized businesses will retain their positions. To try to grab them and Russian corporations would be labelled “bad.” But at the “bottom,” the creation of the people's republics, the experience of the anti-fascist, anti-imperialist and anti-oligarchic mass struggle, has undoubtedly moved not only South-East Ukraine, but also the entire post-Soviet space, to the left.  
  
To those who did not see the progressive and even revolutionary content of events in the South-East, Lenin addressed these words:  
  
“To imagine that social revolution is conceivable without revolts by small nations in the colonies and in Europe, without revolutionary outbursts by a section of the petty bourgeoisie with all its prejudices, without a movement of the politically non-conscious proletarian and semi-proletarian masses … to imagine all this is to repudiate social revolution. So one army lines up in one place and says, ‘We are for socialism,’ and another, somewhere else says, ‘We are for imperialism,’ and that will be a social revolution! … Whoever expects a ‘pure’ social revolution will never live to see it. Such a person pays lip-service to revolution without understanding what revolution is.  
  
“The Russian Revolution of 1905 was a bourgeois-democratic revolution. It consisted of a series of battles in which all the discontented classes, groups and elements of the population participated. Among these there were masses imbued with the crudest prejudices, with the vaguest and most fantastic aims of struggle; there were small groups which accepted Japanese money, there were speculators and adventurers, etc. …  
  
“The socialist revolution in Europe cannot be anything other than an outburst of mass struggle on the part of all and sundry oppressed and discontented elements. Inevitably, sections of the petty bourgeoisie and of the backward workers will participate in it—without such participation, mass struggle is impossible, without it no revolution is possible—and just as inevitably will they bring into the movement their prejudices, their reactionary fantasies, their weaknesses and errors.”  
(From “The Discussion of Self-Determination Summed Up, July 1916)

**Translation - Greg Butterfield**

**Kiev Separatism**

On May 11, in Mariupol, where the burned out buildings were still smoldering, another storm began. It was a massive “storm” of polling stations where the voting on the status of Donetsk region - which turns into Donetsk People's Republic right before our eyes - was taking place. It was an open voting. The whole world could see the long queues of people. They were standing patiently in the May rain waiting for an opportunity to cast their vote at the referendum that for the first time in many years took place in the territory which is still the territory of Ukraine. Everybody will agree that there were really few observers who seriously doubted the result of Mariupol citizens’ will expression, while it was determined beforehand by the dreadful events that this town faced on May 9.

During the last years Mariupol citizens were not particularly active in elections - whether they were the routine presidential “races” or the seasonal fights of fat cats for the right to wear the seat out of their pants under the dome of the Verkhovna Rada. People went to the polls reluctantly, showing low attendance and undisguised disbelief that by dropping a ballot in the ballot box an ordinary citizen of a working town at the Sea of Azov could improve their life in any way. Yes, they voted for Yanukovich in here - voluntary compulsory, by inertia and according to the companies managements’ orders. Still, they never showed any enthusiasm about it, despite all the efforts of the political consultants employed by “regionals”, expensive commercials during primetime on top rated TV channels, and billboards placed everywhere. People here didn’t trust “their son of a bitch” from Mezhgorye just the same as they didn’t trust his “foreign” predecessors.

And now everything has changed. Two people - acting Interior Minister businessman Arsen Avakov and billionaire Ihor Kolomoyskyi who received the right to reign in Dnepropetrovsk region - managed to do something that couldn’t be reached by the most double-dyed and skillful spin doctors at the past election campaigns. They literally drove tens and hundreds of thousands of Mariupol residents, as well as millions of their countrymen from other cities of Luhansk region and Donbass, to the referendum. Using military force against civilians, they made them vote for the independent status of Donetsk and Lugansk people's republics.

The recipe of such a high attendance is simple - the Kiev regime has provided it by bringing armored vehicles and armed far-right contractors from the private army of the “pro-Ukrainian” governor and oligarch to Mariupol centre. Shooting in the center of the town that hasn’t known fights since 1944, burned out buildings, killed and wounded citizens who joined a peaceful demonstration to commemorate the war victims and became victims themselves - all this immediately helped to determine the choice of the residents of the town and the South-East region.

Just yesterday many of these people wanted to be a part of Ukraine - and they still want it. However, they can not and do not want to obey the orders of unelected usurper politicians from the far Kiev who sent tanks against their people unleashing a bloody civil war. The referendum result is obvious; and it’s not notorious "Putin's agents” to blame - the Kremlin is just skillfully taking advantage of aggressive militaristic policies of the junta. This result was predetermined by the dreadful nightmare of Odessa, where the right soccer fans burned alive the local malcontents; by the senseless and totally failed military operation against Slaviansk and Kramatorsk, where people are dying every day; by murders in the center of Mariupol and bandit raids on peaceful Krasnoarmeisk, where Kolomoyskyi’s gunmen shot two locals dead trying to prevent them from casting their votes during the referendum.

Avakov, Kolomoyskyi, Turchynov, Yatsenyuk - these are the last names of the people, the separatists from the offices in Bankova street, who have successfully agitated Donbass residents actually forcing them to opt for the new republics. If they continue the criminal war against their fellow citizens, no force will keep these republics within the boundaries of the country split by the nationalist government.

**Kharkov: Activists picket roundtable meeting between the junta and self-appointed representatives of the protest movement of the Southeast**

Despite the unbearable heat, a picket was held May 17 at the "Kharkiv Palace" hotel against the junta’s so-called roundtable meeting with representatives of the protest movement of the Southeast.

Activists boycotted the round table. It attracted only crooks and traitors who have no relation to the protest movement against the junta.

We declare that none of them have any power or authority to negotiate with the junta, including Vitaly Zavgorodni, who announced himself as a representative of the AntiMaidan.

Denis Levin, coordinator of the Union Borotba, said: "No representatives of Borotba, nor representatives of the movement of the Southeast, nor other protest leaders are present at the roundtable. The bloody junta came to power fraudulently, just as it is now fabricates negotiations with the protesters.”

**Appeal of Alexei Albu, candidate for mayor of Odessa, Odessa Regional Council deputy, and coordinator of Union Borotba (Struggle)**

From a statement given at a press conference in Simferopol on May 19, 2014:

After the coup brought the junta of oligarchs and neo-Nazis to power, spontaneous popular resistance began in Odessa, the center of which was peaceful demonstrations on the Kulikovo Field.

The protest movement was exclusively peaceful and within the law. We were not separatists, and fought for a change of government in Ukraine from an over-centralized unitary system to a federal one. We wanted the regions to have more authority for the organization of national life, and more rights, including the right to formalize the language spoken by the vast majority of the Odessa region – the Russian language. We wanted a regional government that would not engage in social genocide of its own citizens under the dictation of international financial institutions. We wanted to make our streets peaceful and tranquil by outlawing neo-Nazi gangs, like the Right Sector.

With these slogans, I entered the campaign for mayor of Odessa as the candidate of the Kulikovo Field. I decided to participate in this election campaign not for personal glory, but to promote the ideas that my colleagues and I share -- ideas of friendship of peoples, internationalism, anti-fascism, and to combat the monstrous inequality established by oligarchic capitalism in the 20 years of so-called independence.

I emphasize again that our protest was exclusively peaceful.

On May 2, the junta responded to our peaceful protest by sending fascists armed with bats, bullets and Molotov cocktails. Dozens of Odessa residents were killed.

The massacre was followed by arrests. I and my friends had to leave Odessa, as we were threatened with arrest or violence. Those who remained went underground.

I had a meeting with my comrades in the struggle and decided there was no longer any point in participating in these blood-soaked elections. The junta unceremoniously eliminates all democratic rights, complementing the repressive actions of the police with the street terror of neo-Nazis. In these circumstances, we cannot conduct an election campaign or legal political work.

Moreover, the so-called elections to be held on May 25 will be neither free nor democratic. It is impossible to hold free elections at the gunpoint of Right Sector fascists.

On May 1 my friend, Odessa Regional Council Deputy Vyacheslav Markin, agreed to become my campaign manager. On May 2, he was killed. Neo-fascist patrols attack our agitators and beat them. The SBU (State Security Police) is putting pressure on people close to me.

To participate in such elections is to play along with the junta, providing a semblance of democracy, which in fact has long been destroyed.

In these circumstances, I decided to withdraw from the mayoral election. I urge all my supporters and all honest people, all those who will not tolerate the revival of fascism in our land, to boycott these "elections of blood."

The election is only an episode in our common struggle. And this episode is not the main one.

We are facing a number of problems: the consolidation and coordination of disparate pockets of resistance, disrupting the elections, and undermining the economic basis of the junta by conducting a Ukrainian political strike, which we will begin to prepare soon.

The junta will be broken, we will win!

**Paramilitary ‘men in black’ attempted to capture Kharkov activists**

Today, after the regular rally by anti-fascists on Freedom Plaza, “men in black" from paramilitary units loyal to the Kiev junta tried to detain activists from Union Borotba (Struggle), including Denis Levin, one of the leaders of the popular movement.

Levin was handcuffed during the assault. But activists and bystanders repulsed the fascists and helped free the Borotbists. Thanks to the support of the people, Levin and his comrades managed to escape from the punishers.

20.05.14.

**Creation of Committee for the Liberation of Odessa announced in Crimea**

**Simferopol, May 22 -** The Committee for the Liberation of Odessa brings together activists from the Odessa protest movement forced to remain outside the city and region.

The announcement was made at a press conference at the Kryminform News Agency by Odessa Regional Council Deputy Alexei Albu, Odessa City Council Deputy Alexander Vasilyev and the head of "Odessa Yound," Dmitriy Odinov.

Those at the press conference said that after the Odessa region achieves self-determination, the committee will continue to fight for the liberation of other Ukrainian regions from the dictatorship of oligarchs and neo-fascists.

Today we find ourselves in an environment where public and legal resistance has become impossible. The new authorities and armed groups that emerged after the coup use illegal, repressive actions. Leaders and activists of the popular movement of Kulikova Field are under threat of arrest or abduction by neo-fascist paramilitary detachments.

Due to the de facto ban on opposition political activities in the territories controlled by the Kiev authorities, we, members of the Odessa resistance, are forced to form a center of resistance in exile. At the core of the center are leaders from Kulikova Field who were forced to leave Odessa.

Our goal is to unite all residents of Odessa who are willing to fight against the new authorities. Our struggle is for genuine democracy, where the residents of Odessa and the Odessa area determine for themselves the status of our region, how to organize its inner life, and who will lead the public authorities. Therefore, we must create the conditions for democratic self-determination in the form of a referendum of Odessites on the status of the Odessa region.

After the Odessa region has achieved self-determination, we will continue to fight for the liberation of other regions of Ukraine from the dictatorship of the oligarchs and neo-fascists.

Tasks that we will implement on the way to achieving the objectives of the movement: 1. Support for political prisoners caught in the thrall of the illegal “authorities,” the wounded, injured and families of those killed. 2. Punishment of those responsible for the tragic events of May 2. 3. Coordination of those who had to leave the Odessa region under threat of arrest or violence. 4. With the country plunged into civil war, we should be able to control the situation in Odessa, to protect our city from illegal armed groups and gangs.

The civil conflict has actually escalated into armed confrontation, in which representatives of foreign states are already involved on the side of the Kiev authorities. In these circumstances, we must prepare to defend civilians and take the necessary steps in this direction.

Our center includes people of different political views. We are united by hatred of the Kiev government of oligarchs and neo-fascists, and a clear conviction that the only legitimate source of power is the people. So long as we have not achieved self-determination and the establishment of people's power in the Odessa region, we put aside all political differences and mutual criticism that could stop us from working toward our common goal.

We have a common enemy -- the junta of oligarchs and neo-fascists. We have a common goal -- liberation of the hero-city of Odessa and Odessa region. Odessa will be free!

**Odessa Regional Council Deputy Alexei Albu**

**Odessa City Council Deputy Alexander Vasilyev**

**Odessa Regional Council Deputy Vadim Savenko**

**Head of “Odessa Yound” Dmitriy Odinov**

**Junta's persecution of Communist Party of Ukraine: No time for gloating**

The fact that Peter Simonenko until recently refused to withdraw from the presidential elections in Ukraine caused untold confusion among many “grassroots" activists and sympathizers of the Communist Party of Ukraine (KPU). Indeed, from the very first days of the February putsch in Kiev, the KPU became the object of public and brutal persecution by the ultra-right, whose pogroms were openly patronized by the new regime.  
  
Neo-Nazis invaded and occupied the offices of the Communist Party in Kiev -- and the Central Committee building became the headquarters of one of the most notorious Nazi groups in the country, which openly carried out the raid. "Warriors of light and goodness," sneered the journalists over Communist symbols, picturesquely broken asphalt busts of Lenin, burned books and torn red flags captured in the office. Party banners of the KPU were solemnly brought to the streets where militants ripped them up in front of passers-by. Personal data of Communist Party activists captured in the Central Committee building fell into the hands of the Nazis, who posted it on social networks, calling for the massacre of these people -- among whom were pregnant women and mothers of infants.   
  
The same fate befell the party offices of the Communist Party in Rivne, Lutsk and other cities of Western Ukraine, where a few members of the Komsomol were attacked but miraculously managed to stay alive. An attempt to hold a propaganda picket of party supporters on Gogol Street in Kiev resulted in immediate attack on its members, who were beaten by Right Sector militants who came from Maidan. When, under pressure from the European Parliament, the Nazis were gently asked to leave the Communist Party Central Committee offices, they just burned down the building -- as they had previously burnt the country house of a family member of Peter Simonenko.  
  
Deputies of the parliamentary faction of Communists in the Verkhovna Rada were long accustomed to the well-fed, measured and calm, compromising life. On the way to the parliament building they were met by whistling and offensive shouting, accosted with stones and bottles. Something similar happened in the parliament, where KPU deputies on the sidelines and then MPs were attacked by “Svoboda” and "Fatherland" and “European” journalists. They were often deprived of speech and the rightist regime leaders talked openly about the prohibition and elimination of the Communist Party faction – as a question for the near future. And indeed, controlled by "Svoboda," the Attorney General's office and SBU godfather Yarosha soon began to prepare a legislative ban on the Communist Party, openly calling for an arranged trial of the "criminal carriers of communist ideology."  
  
Amazingly, despite this atmosphere of brutal persecution, Peter Simonenko still stubbornly refused to withdraw from the election -- though many party activists, not without reason, demanded to know why their leader was thus helping to legitimize the May 25 "election of blood." And when the rump Parliament pushed deputies of the Communist Party from the session hall, depriving them of the right to participate in the closed session of the Verkhovna Rada, several MPs rebelled, demanding that their colleagues no longer participate in the undemocratic farce that is today cynically called "Ukrainian parliamentarism." But Simonenko withdrew from the elections only after he was nearly lynched after a live broadcast in Kiev.  
  
With all this, the position of the leaders of the Communist Party has aroused discontent in the South-East of the country -- where the electoral base of the party was traditionally concentrated. They asked why the party was insufficiently active in protests against the regime in Kiev, criticized it for toothless, cowardly opportunism, and never tired of asking why the party leadership was under the parliamentary dome -- and not in the struggle with the people who voted for them two years ago? And criticism from within increased. Many activists were interested to know who should be held responsible for what happened to the party and the country, and why the Communist Party – once the most popular mass party in Ukraine – declined steeply under the present leaders to its present humiliating position. Why do they continue to remain unchallenged at the helm?   
  
To these fair criticisms from ordinary Communist Party activists, you can add more, recalling how the leaders of the party completely abandoned the declared ideology in its name, and completely lost touch with the working class, whose interests they were supposed to express. Honest, ideological activists were asking themselves awkward questions about people acquiring property, capital and government posts. And why the party exchanged the confidence of the masses for this mess of pottage.  
  
However, in the situation in which the country now finds itself, with the rightist regime persecuting the Ukrainian left, it is not the time for petty schadenfreude towards the cornered Communist Party. The trial of the Communist Party, organized by the Nazis and neoliberals, is guaranteed to be a trial of the entire leftist ideology that they want to ban and finally expel from Ukrainian politics. Red flags with the hammer and sickle will be ripped and burned, regardless of whether they are displayed as symbols of the Communist Party or other left groups. Offices of other leftist groups are also subjected to pogroms; we, too, are searched, and our activists are beaten in the streets, along with members of the Communist Party. Vandalism of monuments of left figures -- the destroyed statues of Lenin and Marx, monuments to the fallen soldiers of the revolution and the fighters against fascism, or defiled burial sites of workers killed in the battles of the “Arsenal” plant -- are not the property of Simonenko, but a common heritage and common pain of the entire left.   
  
It would be short-sighted not to understand that the repression of the Communist Party will echo in turn against all left-wing activists - including those who have consistently criticized Simonenko and the completely non-communist policy of his party. Destruction of the Communist Party today will drive all leftist movements underground, already on the verge. This will set a precedent for the fierce persecution of all who share anti-fascist and socialist views. And you will not be able to justify yourself to the court and the rioters by saying that you always consistently criticized the policy of the Communist Party.  
  
Obviously, the country has slid into a bloody dictatorship under a regime of rightist politicians who for the first time in a hundred years has unleashed a civil war against its own people. And now we need broad solidarity with those who face the repression of rights -- including honest activists of the Communist Party.  
  
Don’t let 2014 become for all of us the new 1933.  
  
**Sergei Kirichuk**

**Statement of Union Borotba (Struggle) on Ukraine’s “elections of blood"**

The so-called elections, held by the Kiev junta on May 25, cannot be considered fair or legitimate. Elections held in the midst of civil war in the East of the country and neo-Nazi terror in the South and Center were not free.

The very course of the election campaign was unprecedented in every conceivable violation of democratic norms. Presidential candidates were beaten and not allowed to campaign. Several candidates withdrew in protest against the farce.

In Odessa and other regions, there were documented cases of polling stations being "guarded" by ultra-nationalist units brought from Kiev and western Ukraine. This cannot be called anything but explicit pressure on the voters.

In Crimea and the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republic, the so-called elections were not held. In Odessa and Kharkov regions, polling stations were almost empty. Many of those who came to vote spoiled their ballots, writing slogans against the Kiev junta. Nevertheless, the so-called Central Election Commission claimed a turnout of 60%!

Thousands of people in different cities of the country came out to protest against the "elections of blood." Nevertheless, the results announced by the junta will be recognized by the obedient Central Electoral Commission and Western observers.

The hypocrisy of the so-called champions of fair elections should be noted. They criticize flawed elections in the Russian Federation and other countries, but now turn a blind eye to the blatant falsification and flagrant violations of the "elections" of May 25.This once again shows that the criterion of "honesty" for official liberal public opinion is not real compliance with election procedures, but the loyalty of the regime that holds elections to Western imperialism.

As expected, the winner of the presidential "election" was billionaire Poroshenko. Poroshenko, along with other billionaires like Igor Kolomoisky and Sergei Taruta, became the personification of the direct transfer of state power to the big capitalists. Poroshenko is a prime example of the ruling class of "independent" Ukraine -- the parasitic bourgeois oligarchy that has looted the country for the last 20 years.

Poroshenko’s political path is revealing. In the late ‘90s he was a loyal member of then-President Kuchma’s SDPU(o) party. Then he was one of the founders of the Party of Regions. Then -- a friend and ally of President Viktor Yushchenko. A leading lobbyist for so-called "European integration," Poroshenko then became one of the leaders and sponsors of Euromaidan.

There is no doubt that Poroshenko will continue the course of Turchinov and Yatsenyuk in the interests of a narrow layer of the oligarchy. Poroshenko will continue the junta’s dirty war against its own people in the Donbass. Poroshenko will continue to implement the anti-people measures imposed by the IMF and lead the country to economic disaster.

The direct transfer of power to the oligarchy and the strengthening of neo-fascist tendencies are direct consequences of Euromaidan, which Union Borotba warned of last autumn. Only very politically naive people could expect a different result from a movement led by neoliberals and ultra-nationalists, and sponsored by the biggest capitalists.

The results showed a devastating defeat for the radical nationalists -- and Tyagnybok [leader of Svoboda] and Yarosh [leader of Right Sector], who together polled only 2%. Terror against the people, against the Left and democratic forces, and deployment of nationalist combat units, have not promoted the growth of popularity of the fascist forces. Nevertheless, despite their low public support, the extreme right will remain an important element of the political system of the Kiev dictatorship. Their role is the violent suppression of opponents of the oligarchic regime. This role is typical of fascist-type movements.

We do not recognize the outcome of these pseudo-elections ignored by the majority. We will continue the campaign of civil disobedience against the junta of oligarchs and nationalists.

**Committee for the Liberation of Odessa does not recognize the results of "extraordinary presidential elections in Ukraine" on May 25**

We believe that holding elections during the civil war in the Donbass, and while gangs of neo-Nazis terrorize the streets of our cities, not only does not conform to democracy, but is simply blasphemous. The ballot was missing presidential candidates who could represent the interests of the inhabitants of the southeast of the country. The contenders represented only one political direction, the Euromaidan – supporters of those processes that occurred in the country after the coup. Under these circumstances, the Committee for the Liberation of Odessa calls on Odessa citizens to ignore the vote.

Elections in the Odessa region became a kind of referendum on confidence in the Ukrainian state and symbols of its power. Turnout in the region has never been so low, and no other region of Ukraine showed such a low result in this election. Even according to official figures, turnout did not reach 50%, and the Poroshenko did not receive even 50% of the votes of those who did come out. Most Odessites refused to participate. We, citizens of Odessa, do not see the future of the Ukrainian state in its present form.

In the elections for mayor of Odessa, there was not a single representative of the resistance movement. Citizens were forced to choose between two candidates both representing pro-Kiev oligarchic clans. Many of our supporters did take part in this vote because they could not afford to sit in the offices of officials from the team of E. Gurvits -- people who directly involved in the massacre of Odessa inhabitants on May 2. But even here, the turnout was close to those figures attributed by the CEC to areas of the Lugansk region occupied by the junta.

E. Gurvits is, in fact, the only Euromaidan protégé in Odessa, and despite the extremely low turnout and direct support from Poroshenko, suffered a crushing defeat. However, the winner, Gennady Truhaniv, also cannot be supported by the resistance movement, as he is still loyal to the Kiev junta.

We are convinced that free elections can only be held in our city and our region after its citizens are able to exercise self-determination, when we can choose a mayor and governor with real powers for the full performance of their duties. For now, each Odessite should remain at their station and continue whatever resistance is feasible. Today we have to save power and gain experience.

**Odessa will be free! Victory will be ours!**

***Reference:*** The Committee for the Liberation of Odessa was established by leaders of the resistance movement of Kulikova Field, forced to leave the city under threat of repression and violence. The Committee aims to coordinate the movement of resistance to the Kiev junta in Odessa and the Odessa region, provide assistance to political prisoners and families of those killed and injured, and conduct training for liberation from the oligarchs and neo-fascists.

**27.05.2014**

**Donbass is today’s Vietnam. By Victor Shapіnov**

Today the romantic image of the rebels of 1968 inspires youth. Young, beautiful, sexy members of the revolutionary events of those times are put before us as heroes of the movie "The Dreamers" by Bernardo Bertolucci, which is shown by every progressive youth film club. But those who admire the youth of the sixties, apparently, have thought little about what the young red rebels of 1968 would fight against today.

There is no doubt that the trigger for the uprising of ‘68 was the global anti-war movement. The monstrous war in Vietnam, where the strongest and most modern army developed by the Western countries unleashed its power on peasant guerrillas of Third World countries, was the catalyst for the student unrest of the time.

Footage of the burning of My Lai, photographs of murdered women and children and farms burned by napalm, did not leave the younger generation of Western youth indifferent. "Not in my name," said the students in France, Germany, Britain and the U.S. At mass rallies against the war, draftees burned draft cards, and officers and soldiers returning from Vietnam created a stir with a "Veterans Against War" protest at the White House and by publicly their renouncing military decorations.

Could it be that today's youth don’t share their sincerity and solidarity -- if the videos of neo-Nazis burning the House of Trade Unions in Odessa, photos of civilians shot in Mariupol, and images of Donetsk burning do not cause many of us to have the same reaction as the pictures from Vietnam for the distant 60s generation?

Really, old people are always grumbling that "youth are not the same”, right?

The war is not thousands of miles away, not in some faraway country. The next war is here. Those being killed are like you -- Ukrainians, Russians, Armenians, Jews, Tatars. Perhaps your distant relatives, friends or just familiar people. Although in order to empathize with the death of a person, one does not need to know him or her personally.

Where are the mass student rallies against the war? Which draftees are burning their draft cards?  Where is the blockade of the aviation unit in Mirgorod, which launches warplanes for air strikes on residential areas in the city of Donetsk? Where is the stigma against pilots killing random innocent people and getting paid 9000 hryvnia per flight? Even the anti-war protests of Volyn women, who blocked the road yesterday, demanding the return and feeding of the soldiers -- their husbands, brothers and sons -- only began after the death of military personnel in an ambush. Not because some of them protested against the war in Donbass, which killed other people's sons and husbands.

Where are the urban guerrillas in Lviv and Kiev who, like Ulrike Meinhof and Andreas Baader of the Red Army Faction, apply surgical strikes in the rear base of imperialism?

Of course, you can find a thousand excuses for why it's not necessary to keep fighting for Donbass.

You will be called traitors and foreign agents. But the U.S. establishment also condemned American students for marching with the flag of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam.

**Borotba welcomes Donetsk miners that came to rally against the ATO**

Union Borotba (Struggle) welcomes the Donetsk miners that came to rally against the so-called "anti-terrorist operation".

The miners have always been a fighting and active detachment of the working class. Today, when the junta of oligarchs and neo-fascists has launched a war against its own people, the resistance of the working class is the most important means of anti-fascist and anti-war struggle.

The miners’ action is an example for the workers of the South-East and the Ukrainian labor movement.

The whole country is looking at you miners, as people who every day risk your lives for the general welfare of the people. The oligarchs have unleashed carnage, and you, as powerful advanced workers, showed your opposition to this infamous case.

Welcome to the fighters for peace. Glory to the organized working class

**Germany looks at Ukraine By Sergei Kirichuk, Union Borotba (Struggle**

Despite considerable attention to the situation in Ukraine by Europe's political establishment, the German public’s interest in the Ukrainian political crisis was formerly quite low. The turning point in the conflict for the Germans was the massacre in Odessa, where according to official data 46 people were killed. The expanding conflict in eastern Ukraine and the lack of clear prospects for its settlement frighten German society, which grows increasingly dissatisfied with the position of the government, openly accusing it of supporting ultra-nationalists in Kiev.  
  
If a month ago the German media reported on the Civil War as a conflict between a "democratic government" and a small group of terrorists, now trust in this version decreases with each passing day. German society and German politicians want to understand what is really going on in Ukraine, and what role the political establishment of the European Union played in organizing the massacre. On the eve of the elections to the European Parliament, a series of protests were held in Germany against the political course of the country's foreign minister. The head of its Foreign Ministry was booed by protesting youth, who compared his rhetoric with that of the Nazi era.  
  
Nima Muvasat, a Bundestag deputy of Iranian origin, addressed the Parliament with a number of criticisms against the attitude of the German authorities. In particular, he expressed outrage that the German government and the Federal Chancellor exerted no pressure on Ukraine to clarify the true causes and circumstances of deaths of all the people on the Maidan and in Odessa, but simply repeated automatically the versions offered by the Ukrainian coup regime. German MPs, not without reason, understand that the Kiev government has something to hide -- and this in itself raises questions about the legality and legitimacy of the regime.  
  
German society has followed with interest the latest news from the East of Ukraine. Many media reported on the People's Congress in Donetsk, and the fact that the region is experiencing a wave of military violence -- and that the right wing that seized power is responsible.  
  
Andrej Hunko, Bundestag deputy from the Left Party (Die LINKE), was extremely disturbed by the increasing wave of political terror in Ukraine. In particular, he made a political statement about the attempted kidnapping of Borotba activists on May 21 in Kharkov, considering it another link in an attempt to pressure the opposition of the left.  
  
"Dennis Levin and Svetlana Licht, who organized a rally against the war, were openly attacked by unidentified, armed men in uniform," the parliamentarian said in a statement. "I condemn this terror against the left and forces acting for peace. After the burning of people in the House of Trade Unions in Odessa, after the closing of Borotba offices, after the attacks on opposition candidates and plans to ban opposition parties, such as, for example, the Communist Party of Ukraine, this is a further step to intimidate the left and the democratic opposition in Ukraine.  
  
"I express my solidarity with the left and democratic forces, who are victims of political terror in Ukraine, and I urge the European public to not be blind to such things,” said Andrej Hunko, according to whom Western leftists cannot and will not remain indifferent to these events.  
  
It is expected that the right-wing political terror against the opposition in Ukraine – and in particular, the persecution of Borotba -- will be discussed at the next meeting of the party leadership of the European United Left in Brussels, under pressure from a number of leftist organizations from different countries of the European Union. This means that the European public may soon learn more about the real state of affairs in "post-Maidan” Ukraine

**Ukraine's Month of Terror. By Alexei Albu﻿**

On June 2, exactly one month after the tragedy in Odessa, the whole world watched footage of people being killed in the center of Lugansk by attacking Ukrainian military aircraft. To repeat the killing of people on this day required a special brand of cynicism. It stressed that the month between these two dates was a month of war and terror, which also included killings in Mariupol, Donetsk, Slavyansk, Krasny Limon, Kramatorsk and other cities that were peaceful yesterday .

Despite the massacres in southeast Ukraine, despite the fact that each month the military conflict grows, reaching a new pitch, there is no talk about the need for its end. In the public sphere, one cannot hear any statements by politicians from the top echelon of the Kiev authorities for a cease fire. Active hostilities were fully resumed the day after the presidential election. It seems that Poroshenko demanded the security forces conduct a "cleansing" of the rebellious territories before his inauguration -- although this is more like an impossible task and attempted political suicide for the newly “crowned" president in the midst of a war.

This policy of the Kiev regime only pushes residents of the South-East to defend their rights through armed resistance. After all, the junta’s policies prohibit the people from conducting legal opposition activity.

But this fight could last for years or decades. Apparently, the current Ukrainian leadership has not analyzed the experience of the rebel movements in Latin America, the struggle of the Irish Republicans or the Workers’ Party of Kurdistan. It seems that Kiev expects swift victory, and seriously believes that it can be approximated by the shooting of civilians in Donbass.

Unleashing a war against its own people, even trying to use the escalation of the conflict for short-term political purposes, the regime does not know how to get out of it so as not to lose power.

The failure of the so-called "ATO" [Anti-Terrorist Operation] cannot be hidden from the public anymore. Everyone can see that the regime is not strong enough to suppress the insurgent masses. All resources that the Ukrainian nationalist clique could muster are already involved, and they throw recruits into battle -- against the wishes of their families, distraught with fear. Poroshenko had the opportunity to act as peacemaker – one that, however, few would initially believe in -- but he has squandered it on a continuation of the war.

Meanwhile, the expansion of the war in the east may eventually spread to all of Ukraine and accelerate the approaching collapse of the economy. Aware of this risk, and pretending to be legitimately elected, the powers in Kiev must take into account the interests of all citizens of Ukraine and make efforts for the immediate cessation of military operations in the South-East region. Then they must participate in a national dialogue in order to prepare a new constitution on the basis of a federal system that safeguards the democratic rights of every part of the country.

To de-escalate the conflict, we must first insist on an immediate ceasefire and mutual withdrawal of troops from the front line, make an exchange of prisoners, raise the question of the introduction of no-fly zone over the Donbass, and create humanitarian corridors in the South-East to transport the wounded. Preparations for a full ceasefire must be taken within international standards, with a resolution obliging the parties to the conflict to sit at the negotiating table and respect for the Geneva Convention on the Laws and Customs of War, prohibiting bombing and shelling of civilians, cultural, religious and medical facilities.

Will the Ukrainian government do this? The question remains open. Fascism, the threat of which is constantly repeated by Union Borotba and the non-parliamentary left, is the de facto ideology of the Kiev regime. At the same time, representatives of the ultra-right paramilitary groups have stated publicly that the negotiation process cannot achieve anything, demanding imposition of martial law and "targeted sweeps" of cities in the South-East. Firing from aircraft, attacking the city and suburbs of Slavyansk, the Ukrainian authorities de facto comply with these requirements of the right. That leads to more and more victims.

Does Kiev understand that the responsibility for these deaths lies with them? The perpetrators of the air attack on Lugansk, the right-wing politicians who triggered the destruction that burned Odessites in the House of Trade Unions, will answer for them.

**Kalashnikov is ruling. By Sergei Kirichuk﻿**

Democratic politics in Ukraine no longer exists. Everything is decided automatically. The dictates of the politicians who took power rest precisely on the force of arms. Maidan initially positioned itself as a movement for democracy and received new impetus from protests against police violence after demonstrators were dispersed by the Kiev "Berkut." However, the form it spawned is completely opposite the expectations of the democratically-inclined part of its participants.

Of course, Maidan never put forward a clear anti-oligarchic program -- but the removal of the richest people in the country from governance and the democratization of public life were implied by their slogans. But now the oligarchs -- appointed governors of the eastern regions -- give bloodthirsty speeches and wear blue and yellow ribbons to the applause of professional patriots. The media is rigidly formatted and censored, and there is no longer any question of real freedom of speech.

Ukrainians are killing each other in the Donbass. Thousands of Ukrainian citizens have moved to Russia’s Rostov region or to other Ukrainian regions, fleeing the so-called "anti-terrorist operation." Meanwhile, the Nazis from the Right Sector made the bravura statement of creating a private army for the president. The Right Sector’s representative said on a live radio show: "We have held talks with the president and now he has his own army." On what legal basis these "negotiations" were held is anyone's guess. "From tomorrow we will start to help the president in the process of dissolution of Parliament -- it will be dissolved," adds the representative of the SS.

It is quite obvious that we are talking about building a new mechanism of rigid autocracy or dictatorship, in which parliamentary power and administrative power will be tied to a single person, based on his Collegium of billionaire partners. Of course, the Kiev junta cannot immediately abandon the formal attributes of democracy. But now it sees nothing wrong with prohibiting certain parties or just throwing out parliamentary deputies who do not agree with this new totalitarian understanding of democratic freedoms.

However, we can see the formation of the people's alternative to the regime. Not only the eastern regions rise to fight -- people in western Ukraine come into the streets and conduct protest rallies against the forced mobilization of their relatives. Residents of Lutsk and Rivne publish demands to stop the war. Of course, the "objective" media will not pay much attention to the rallies of soldiers' mothers – you will not find an oligarch’s son in their ranks -- but the poor Ukrainian families whose loved ones are forcibly kept in the army continue to protest and speak out. It is believed that the natives of Galicia and Volyn should mindlessly go into battle, sacrificing their lives "for the sake of a unified Ukraine." But these people do not want either to kill or be killed by their counterparts from the Donbass. At the front, there is little support for the bloodthirsty posts of Facebook authors demanding expansion of the military operation. Those who have to go to the slaughter try to escape from the army.

The paradigm of confrontation between East and West of the country, which was cultivated for many years in all forms in Kiev, has resulted in a real civil war. Leftists for years talked about the dangers of this political tactic, splitting the lower classes and helping the oligarchs to retain their dominance. But the ruling class brought this policy to its logical conclusion.

The only hope for the people of Ukraine today is that the war of the "West" and "East" becomes a united front of Ukrainians -- from the Carpathians to Lugansk -- against a handful of cynical thieves robbing our country and all its citizens, regardless of the language they speak.

Kirichuk is the national coordinator of Union Borotba (Struggle)

**Dnepropetrovsk rally against the ATO (Anti-Terrorist Operation)**

On June 6, Dnepropetrovsk held a rally against the so-called “anti-terrorist” operations against the Ukrainian people.

Participants in the rally held banners saying “We want peace,” “Stop the war,” “Stop fratricidal war,” “No war against Dnepropetrovsk!”

The rally was attended by various community organizations, including Union Borotba (Struggle).

The rally participants demanded an immediate stop to the civil war and the return of the military to their places of permanent deployment.

Protesters addressed their demands to the commander of the armed forces of Ukraine.

**Crisis in Ukraine: Borotba predicted it all. By Victor Shapinov**

*Not everyone can see today what tomorrow will bring. Only a few people can do it.*

    -  *Vitali Klitschko, mayor of Kiev*

 "A politician must be able to predict what will happen tomorrow, next week, next month and next year. And then explain why it did not happen,” Winston Churchill supposedly said. Borotba does not have to explain why what we predicted did not happen.  All of it, unfortunately, has happened in Ukraine. And if the small details and events differ from our estimates, the overall outline was predicted by us with the greatest possible precision.

 So in 2012, when the first fraction of the far-right party Svoboda entered parliament supported by a number of oligarchic groups, including some close to President Yanukovych, Borotba was the first and the only political force which then predicted that, with the development of socio-economic crisis, the oligarchy would put ultra-right ideology and organization at its service. Even then we published the report, “[Ukrainian oligarchy is preparing a ‘creeping’ fascist coup](http://www.borotba.org/files/gazeta/borotba03.pdf).”

 The coup turned out not to be "creeping" but "leaping," with cries of "whoever does not jump is with Moscow," but oligarchic customers and radical nationalists as a fighting force we predicted accurately. It should be noted that while our report was ignored, many lightly dismissed the prospects of a nationalist turn in Ukrainian politics.

 The only mistake the report made was the idea that the main political force of the rightist coup would be Svoboda. We had not considered the fact that when neoliberal politicians actually embraced the nationalist agenda, it would give rise to a powerful competitor to the Svoboda neo-Nazis among the right-wing radical camp, known as the Right Sector.

 But the fact of militant groups such as Right Sector was predicted by us: "Under the guise of security agencies, the oligarchic groups will use their money to form nationalist militias which in the future will form the engine of a fascist coup. These units will carry out attacks against the left and anti-nationalist forces and use their weapons to implement terror against individual politicians and social activists. "

 Already in 2012, we accurately predicted that the nationalist “revolution” would lead the country to a split and decay: "Since the power of ethnocratic Ukrainian nationalists would inevitably lead to the growth of separatist movements in the South-East of the country, as well as in Transcarpathia, the establishment of a dictatorship of the fascist type will be supported by the international players who are interested in the decay and destruction of Ukrainian statehood." Then such a prediction seemed a fantasy to many. Today, few can doubt its accuracy.

 Also, because persecution and open terror against political opponents is a hallmark of fascist dictatorships, we wrote in the report: "Left-wing political organizations and social organizations opposing nationalism, chauvinism and xenophobia will be banned. Criminal cases will be opened against their leaders. Parallel to prosecution under the law, attacks will be carried out by the radical nationalists on activists of the left and progressive movements, ethnic and linguistic minorities.”  Today, although the outright ban on opposition activity does not exist, we see prosecution and [military pressure](http://www.borotba.org/v_kirovgrade_i_xarkove_napali_na_aktivistov_borotbyi.html)  on opposition forces, and government authorities are repressing political parties accused of "separatism."

 It would not be amiss to note that Borotba became the first political force, in December 2012 in Kiev, [to hold a mass rally against the participation of the ideological heirs of Nazism in the parliament](http://www.borotba.org/aktivistyi-borotbyi-pod-radoj-rastoptali-tyagnyiboka.html)  under the slogan "Down with the oligarchs and nationalists." Then many of today's armchair fighters against nationalism had no thought of joining street protests against the nationalist turn in policy.

 The next important self-fulfilling forecast of Borotba was the outcome of the EuroMaidan movement. While many, including on the left, still admired Maidan as a mass democratic movement, we had already [warned](http://www.borotba.org/geopoliticheskie-igry.html) that the only result of its victory would be the coming to power of the ultra-nationalist forces, which would wield power in the interests of the oligarchy. The process went even more dramatically than we expected -- EuroMaidan [gave direct authority](http://www.borotba.org/kievskaya_xunta_otkryito_peredaet_vlast_oligarxam.html)  over key regions to the billionaires Kolomoiskiy and Taruta, and oligarch Poroshenko was elected President.

 We also clearly saw that the forces running EuroMaidan would lead the country to split and civil war. Therefore, at the end of 2013 in Kiev, Odessa, Dnepropetrovsk and Kharkov, Borotba activists [held rallies against civil war](http://www.borotba.org/skajemo-ni-grmadyanskiy-viyni.html) . Then many thought the prospect of civil war impossible, and thought us alarmists, intimidating people with a non-existent threat. But, unfortunately, this forecast of Borotba was justified, and today the bombs of the Kiev junta’s army fall on Lugansk, Donetsk, and Slavyansk.

 Events in Ukraine have confirmed the relevance of Marxist analysis. Unfortunately, this analysis was almost always pessimistic. But it was our duty to warn people of the impending danger, and we are not to blame that the worst has come to pass, because we tried to do everything in our power to stop the oligarchs and the Nazis.