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793-2022

Communication

Request of Tracy Goodman to address Council regarding Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City relationship

Placed on File
A brief description of Communication: Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Relationship

Agenda Items

793 Communications in [September 28, 2022 Council Agenda](#)

Placed on File

Requested Agenda Type
Communications

Date and Time Information

Requested Council Date
September 28, 2022

Address to City Council
regarding the
Portland-Khabarovsk
sister city relationship
2022-09-28

contact

This presentation is a collaboration
of Portland citizens.

For more information, please
contact:

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The City of Portland
is associated with a
governing body of a
terrorist state which is
committing genocide.

problem

[moral problem] Portland has not taken a stand to signal to the world that it condemns Russia's illegal full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

[civic duty problem] Portland voluntarily allows itself to be used in deadly Russian propaganda.

Suspend the sister
city relationship with
Khabarovsk.
Now.

solution

[moral solution] Portland city officials act out of a sense of moral integrity.

[civic duty solution] Portland city officials answer their call to civic duty.

The City of Portland joins
the anti-war coalition
to help weaken Russia,
to bring an end
to the war faster.

results

[moral result] Portland signals to the world: "We condemn Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine."

[civic duty result] Portland is no longer being exploited and no longer helping craft deadly Russian propaganda.

Reasons given for maintaining the sister city relationship:

The programs promote long term peace around the world.

1

The sister city relationship provides a channel of communication to isolated Russians.

2

These are people-to-people and community-to community endeavors.

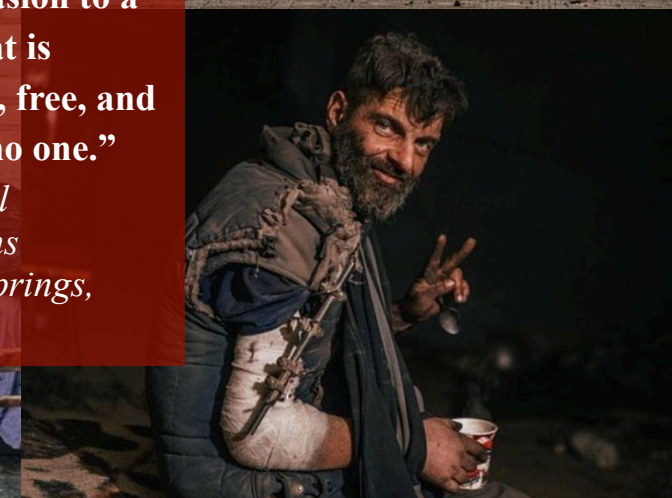
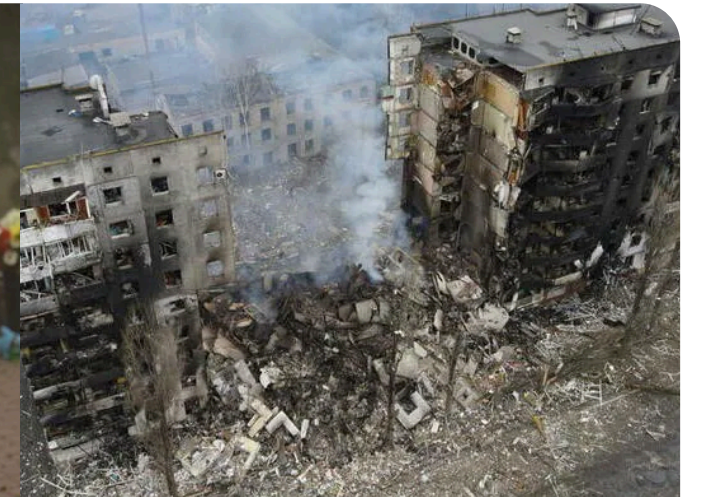
3

Evidence to the contrary:

[in fact] Russian brigades from our sister cities are committing acts of terrorism, barbaric and brutal torture, and genocide.

[in fact] The Russian Federation controls communication in Russia; the sister city relationship is exploited by Russia and used in deadly Russian propaganda at the cost of Ukrainian lives.

[in fact] Russian city government officials are involved with these endeavors, these are not solely people-to-people.



“To curtail our sister city in Russia, it demonstrates our resolve toward the people of Ukraine right now. It also tells the people of Russia that you have a problem. Cities, states, and our nation are standing up against a dictator-type of invasion to a country that is democratic, free, and bothering no one.”
*City Council
Randy Helms
Colorado Springs,
Colorado*

Russians from these areas are committing genocide.

1

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine is an illegal, premeditated, unprovoked, brutal act of terrorism, genocide, and aggression against a sovereign country - committing **mass civilian killings, maiming, raping of boys and girls, torturing, human trafficking forcibly deporting Ukrainians to "filtration" camps. Bombing, burning, and leveling of cities. Deliberately shelling a nuclear power plant, schools, maternity wards, hospitals, homes, apartment buildings, and other civilian infrastructure.**

**“This is not a war—
this is a slaughter.”**

*City Commissioner Hagen Brody,
Sarasota, Florida*

- Russian troops tied the hands of civilians behind their backs, tortured and committed heinous acts of sexual violence, before murdering them in Bucha, Ukraine.

- Portland's sister city of Russia is Khabarovsk -- home to one of the Russian troops that carried out the Bucha massacre.

These inhumane practices of genocide are ongoing, in real-time...yet the City of Portland has yet to sever its sister city ties with Khabarovsk.



The sister city relationship provides a channel of communication to isolated Russians...

The Russian Federation controls communication in Russia.

2

The Russian Federation had been planning what they call a “special military operation” for years prior the full-scale invasion.

The sister city relationship as the “last channel of communication” to isolated Russians is not *positively* influential.

Why the term “special operation” matters

- The term “special operation” is the crux and ammunition of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- The Russian Federation calls the invasion a "special military operation" to denazify Ukraine
- It is the term that is used to lie to and rally Russians to carry out acts of terrorism and genocide.

The relationship is being exploited and helping to craft deadly propaganda.

It is *through* the sister city relationship that hands the Russian Federation more ammunition to kill innocent Ukrainians.

- The Portland-Khabarovsk Sister Cities held a "friendship bridge" event March 2, 2002, nearly 1 week after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.
- This event was aired on a Russian state-controlled TV channel in Khabarovsk.
- This event was also printed a local Khabarovsk newspaper and pushed out on YouTube and Russian social media.
- In covering the event, a Khabarovsk newspaper quotes Portland officials as saying “that the suspension or termination of the relationship with our Russian partner city should not be the cities' response to the special operation in Ukraine.”



“...despite the two cities’ 30-year relationship, the invasion could not go unchecked. We face perhaps the greatest challenge between our two countries in more than a half century precipitated by the unprovoked attack on Ukraine. This is an act of unprecedented aggression that we, as two longtime friends, cannot ignore or disregard.”
Mayor Frank Cownie
Des Moines, Iowa

These are people-to-people endeavors...

Russian city government officials are involved with these endeavors, these are not solely people-to-people.

3

SCI, Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City Association and the Mayor **claim** the relationship is **“person-to-person”** relationship; there is alarming evidence to the contrary.

Andrey Khmara **curated and attended** a Portland-Khabarovsk event. Khmara is a chief specialist of the International Relations Department, Khabarovsk City Administration, **a Khabarovsk city government official**.

“The original purpose of it being people-to-people isn’t happening.”

*Councilor Emily Semple
Eugene, Oregon*

- The same Khabarovsk city government official, Andrey Khmara, that visited Portland in June 2014 (after Russia invaded and annexed Crimea and started genocide of Crimean Tatars), curated and attended the March 2022 “friendship bridge” between Portland children and Khabarovsk children.

- Khmara was then quoted in a Khabarovsk newspaper stating Portland ignored President Zelenskyy’s call to cut sister city ties and referenced the March “friendship bridge” as evidence of Portland’s support suggesting Russia is not isolated.



Feeling empathy
for Ukrainians
is not enough.

"If we're going to be a part
of a global community, we
have got to stand up at
times like this and make
our intentions and our
feelings known."

*~Mayor Eric Johnson,
Dallas, Texas*

It is vital that Portland suspend its sister city relationship with Khabarovsk, more than simply to "register disapproval",

as Sister City International president, Leroy Allala states. Understand, these are not "people-to-people and community-to-community" endeavors as stated, but rather include government city officials. And the "last channel of communication" is not proving to be a positive influence as also stated.

Sister cities were created to "promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation" with other communities around the globe.

Right now, Russians are committing acts of terrorism, barbaric and brutal torture, and genocide.

Legitimate person-to-person relationships are not in question, nor discouraged.

The official sister city relationship, the exchanges of delegations, and official communications between our cities are.

We cannot
un-know
what we know...

How does the city reconcile maintaining the
sister city relationship with Khabarovsk *knowing*
the consequences that come at a cost of
Ukraines lives, language, and culture?

Suspend the
Portland sister city
relationship with
Khabarovsk
until:

“It is the duty of every
government to remain vigilant
of unlawful acts against public
order, democratic principles,
and innocent civilians.”

*Governor Larry Hogan,
Baltimore, Maryland*

The Russian military presence is out of Ukraine and the hostilities against Ukraine have ended and resolved peacefully. AND...

Sovereignty and Territory

Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity is fully restored within its 1991 borders.

Human Trafficking, Kidnapping, and “Filtration” Camps

The more than 2 million deported Ukrainians are free to return to their homeland. The children who have been kidnapped and relocated to Russia are returned home.

War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity, and Genocide

The Russian Federation’s political leaders and military personnel have been held accountable for their war of aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide through Nuremberg-style trials by an international court of law.

Destruction of Assets

The Russian Federation has paid reparations for the destruction it caused in Ukraine, and all assets are rebuilt and fully restored. Infrastructure, homes and residential buildings, schools, hospitals, police departments, businesses, cultural and religious buildings, shopping centers, grain depots, railway stations, airports, water pump stations, centralized heating utilities, oil refineries and fuel depots.

Moreover,
other atrocities
committed by the
Russian
Federation
include:



War of Aggression, War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity, and Genocide

Gang-rapes, assaults at gunpoint, and rapes committed in front of children
Widespread, systematic actions against the Ukrainian people committed by Russian forces under the direction of political leadership of the Russian Federation, which include forced deportations to Russia and the purposeful killing of Ukrainian civilians in population massacres, mass atrocities, as constituting a genocide against the people of Ukraine.



Human Trafficking and "Filtration" Camps

1.6 million Ukrainian citizens, including 260,000 children, have been deported from their homes to Russia.
Russian are abducting children from orphanages and putting them up for adoption inside Russia.
Russians are confiscating Ukrainian passports, and coercing Ukrainian citizens into signing agreements to stay in Russia, hindering their ability to freely return home.
Russian authorities have transported tens of thousands of people to detention facilities inside Russian-controlled Donetsk, where many are executed, consistent with evidence of Russian atrocities committed in Bucha, Mariupol, and other locations in Ukraine.



State Sponsor of Terrorism

A bipartisan pair of senators has called on the Biden administration to designate Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism in response to its invasion of Ukraine.



Threat to United States Territorial Integrity and Nuclear War

Chairman of the Russian State Duma, Vyacheslav Volodin, warned that Russia could demand Alaska back if the US continues to seize Russian resources abroad.
A group of Russian officials who appeared on state television held an intense discussion on how best to show the U.S. the full extent of the threat Russia poses to its national security.



Using the Sister City Relationship to Help Craft Russian Propaganda

The Portland-Khabarovsk Sister Cities held a "friendship bridge" event March 2, 2002, nearly 1 week after the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Which was aired on a Russian state-controlled TV channel in Khabarovsk. In referring to the event and the relationship, a Khabarovsk newspaper stated Portland officials referring to the full-scale invasion as a "special operation in Ukraine."



Fascism

In 2018 Khabarovsk voters elected Sergei Furgal as territorial governor. Sergei Furgal was a member of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR) – a far right party that has often been described as fascist. Rather than celebrating the LDPR candidate in the 2018 election in Khabarovsk, the City of Portland ought to have examined the LDPR party, and what it stands for. Then, ask themselves, is THIS what the City of Portland stands for? I think the answer to this question would have been, NO.

What atrocity is
too severe that
could cause the
City of Portland
to end its sister
city relationship
with Khabarovsk,
Russia?



Dear Fellow Citizen Diplomats,

Witnessing the horrific events of the past week in Ukraine, leaders in our communities – instinctively and understandably – want to say something, to do something, and to act towards a collective disapproval of this assault on humankind; endeavoring to make a positive difference at this critical juncture in our global discourse.

Yet, suspending or ending a sister city relationship with a Russian city partner should not be one such action.

As citizen diplomats, we must be alert to counsel and remind our elected officials as well as our local municipal leaders of the critical role that Sister Cities International and each local sister city relationship offers, especially in times of conflict. We applaud those sister cities programs and citizens around the globe, including in Russia, who have voiced their support of an independent Ukraine and reaffirmed their belief in peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

While suspending or ending a sister city relationship to register disapproval of a foreign government's actions may seem, on the surface, like a positive policy protest action, it has the complete opposite effect – closing a vital and, oftentimes, last channel of communication with vulnerable or isolated populations.

As a result, we reemphasize and underscore that our policy remains to encourage our members and U.S. communities to keep their sister city relationship active, especially now when the political issues and actions of the day threaten to disrupt the positive, constructive relationships that have been made, over many years, at the people-to-people and community-to-community levels. We ask each of you to reaffirm this policy in all your interactions within your communities.

Should you have any questions or need any assistance, please contact our SCI National Headquarters. Thank you for your continued support of Sister Cities International and our mission to "Promote Peace through Mutual Respect, Understanding, and Cooperation – one individual, one community at a time."

Sincerely,

Leroy R. Allala | President and CEO

Sister Cities International | 1012 14th Street NW, Suite 1400
Washington, DC 20005 | (202) 347-8630 | www.sistercities.org



Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner Mingus Mapps, Commissioner Carmen Rubio, and Commissioner Dan Ryan:

I am writing to you, again, in response to your decision to maintain the Portland-Khabarovsk sister city relationship. Outlined below are 3 reasons given for maintaining the relationship, and the unintended consequences of doing so.

WHY MAINTAIN THE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS WITH RUSSIA

- 1 The sister city relationship provides a channel of communication to isolated Russians.
- 2 These are people-to-people and community-to-community endeavors.
- 3 The programs promote long term peace around the world.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF US-RU SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIPS

- 1 Russian controls communication in Russia; the sister city relationship is exploited by Russia and used in deadly Russian propaganda at the cost of Ukrainian lives.
- 2 Russian city government officials are involved with these endeavors, these are not solely people-to-people.
- 3 Russian brigades from these areas are committing acts of terrorism, barbaric and brutal massacres, and genocide.

Context is provided below, using Portland, OR as an example. Attached is a PDF which provides more details with cited resources. I sincerely hope you read through it.

As our elected city officials, you have an obligation to act in the best interest of your constituents, both morally and civically.

- Morally, it is your duty to signal to the world that the citizens of Portland condemn Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.
- Civically, you have a duty to suspend the Portland-Khabarovsk sister city relationship, because by maintaining the relationship you hand over more support to the Russian Federation than perhaps you realize.

It is important to understand the consequences that come at a cost of innocent Ukrainian lives by maintaining the sister city relationship with Russia.

Reason 1 - last channel of communication

"While suspending or ending a sister city relationship to register of a foreign government's actions may seem, on the surface, like a positive protest action, it has the complete opposite effect – closing a vital and, oftentimes, [last channel of communication](#) with vulnerable or isolated populations." [Sister Cities International's President, Leroy Allala in statement late February 2022.](#)

IN FACT -- The Russian Federation had been planning what they call a “special military operation” for years. The relationship as the “last channel of communication” to isolated Russians is not positively influential, as claimed in the SCI statement. The US-RU sister city relationships have only strengthened the appearance of support of this “special operation”.

Using Portland as an example, the Portland-Khabarovsk sister city relationship is precisely being exploited and used in deadly Russian propaganda and [citing Portland officials referring to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine as a special operation](#). Mind you, it is very unlikely any Portland city official refers to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine as a special operation, but this illustrates my point... *this* is the channel of communication taking place.

Why the term “special operation” matters...

- The term “special operation” is the crux and ammunition of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- The Russian Federation calls the invasion a "special military operation" to denazify Ukraine
- It is the term that is used to lie to and rally Russians to carry out acts of terrorism and genocide.
 - As recent as Sep 18, 2022 - [The Russian army, seeking contract soldiers for what it calls the "special military operation" in Ukraine](#), is using mobile recruiting trucks to attract volunteers, offering nearly \$3,000 a month as an incentive.

It is *through* the sister city relationship that hands the Russian Federation more ammunition to kill innocent Ukrainians. One of the brigades that committed the atrocities in the Bucha massacre was from Khabarovsk Krai. Khabarovsk is the sister city of Portland. These inhumane practices of genocide are ongoing, in real-time...yet the city of Portland has yet to suspend its sister city relationship with Khabarovsk.

On suspending ties with their Russian sister city: Berkeley, California, Berkeley City Council – “It’ll also be a valuable communication to these Russian cities and their citizens that Berkeley is unhappy with what’s happening in Ukraine,” Bowker said. “Maybe it’s something for Russian citizens to think about, and something for them to contemplate in their relationship with their own government.”

Reason 2 - people-to-people and community-to-community

“...political issues and actions of the day threaten to disrupt the positive, constructive relationships that have been made, over many years, at [the people-to-people and community-to-community](#) levels.” [Sister Cities International’s President, Leroy Allala in statement late February 2022](#).

Mayor’s decision to maintain the relationship with Khabarovsk - Booby Lee, Mayor’s Chief of Staff, responded, “The reason why the Mayor supports continuing the relationship is due to the mission of the sister city program. As you know the sister city organizations ‘promote peace [through people-to-people](#) relationships’ with various program offerings. The Mayor believes in using the program to promote long term peace around the world.”

IN FACT -- Andrey Khmara curated and attended a [Portland-Khabarovsk March 2, 2022 “Friendship Bridge”](#) event. Khmara is a chief specialist of the International Relations Department, Khabarovsk City

Administration, a Khabarovsk city government official. Also, important to note, he referenced the Portland-Khabarovsk event in a [Khabarovsk newspaper](#) as evidence of Portland's support suggesting Russia is not isolated.

[President Zelensky, 90th annual meeting of the US Conference of Mayors](#) "What do these connections give you? Probably nothing. But they give Russia the opportunity to say that it is not isolated, even after beginning such a war." President Zelenskyy was right.

On suspending ties with their Russian sister city: Eugene, Oregon, Councilor Emily Semple – "The original purpose of it being people-to-people isn't happening."

Reason 3 - program to promote long term peace around the world.

Mayor's decision to maintain the relationship with Khabarovsk - Booby Lee, Mayor's Chief of Staff, responded, "The reason why the Mayor supports continuing the relationship is due to the mission of the sister city program. As you know the sister city organizations 'promote peace through people-to-people relationships' with various program offerings. The Mayor believes in using the program to promote long term peace around the world."

IN FACT -- The "[positive, constructive relationships that have been made, over many years](#)" was a different time. Right now, Russians are committing acts of terrorism, barbaric and brutal massacres, and genocide. [The Russian Federation continues to strike on Ukrainian civilian targets and committing genocide.](#)

It is vital that Portland suspend its sister city relationship with Khabarovsk, more than simply to "[register disapproval](#)", as SCI president states. Understand, these are not "[people-to-people and community-to-community](#)" endeavors as claimed, but rather include the government city officials. And the "[last channel of communication](#)" is not proving to be a positive influence, quite the opposite.

Sister cities were created to "[promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation](#)" with other communities around the globe. Legitimate person-to-person relationships are not in question, nor discouraged. The official sister city relationship - the exchanges of delegations and official communications between our cities are.

On suspending ties with their Russian sister city: Baltimore, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan – "It is the duty of every government to remain vigilant of unlawful acts against public order, democratic principles and innocent civilians."

You cannot *un-know* what you *now* know. I ask that you share more with me to understand your full reasoning behind this decision. How do you reconcile maintaining the sister city relationships with Khabarovsk *knowing* the unintended consequences come at a cost of innocent Ukrainians?

Please advise.
Tracy Goodman

Supplemental Information

- 1 Ukraine Civilian Casualties
- 2 Destruction - Assets Destroyed by Russia
- 3 War of Aggression, War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity, and Genocide
- 4 Human Trafficking and "Filtration" Camps
- 5 Russia as a "state sponsor of terrorism"
- 6 Threat to United States Territorial Integrity and Nuclear War
- 7 Using the Sister City Relationship to Help Craft Russian Propaganda
- 8 More Russian Propaganda
- 9 Fascism

Ukraine Civilian Casualties as of August 29, 2022

[United Nations Human Rights](#)

From 24 February 2022, when the Russian Federation's armed attack against Ukraine started, to 28 August 2022, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded 13,718 civilian casualties in the country: 5,663 killed and 8,055 injured.

This included:

- a total of 5,663 killed (2,195 men, 1,512 women, 149 girls, and 178 boys, as well as 38 children and 1,591 adults whose sex is yet unknown)

- a total of 8,055 injured (1,652 men, 1,222 women, 177 girls, and 239 boys, as well as 207 children and 4,558 adults whose sex is yet unknown)

 - In Donetsk and Luhansk regions: 7,735 casualties (3,358 killed and 4,377 injured)

 - On Government-controlled territory: 6,211 casualties (3,044 killed and 3,167 injured)

 - On territory controlled by Russian armed forces and affiliated armed groups: 1,524 casualties (314 killed and 1,210 injured)

 - In other regions of Ukraine (the city of Kyiv, and Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kirovohrad, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Sumy, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Khmelnytskyi, Poltava, Rivne, Ternopil, Vinnytsia, Volyn, and Zhytomyr regions), which were under Government control when casualties occurred: 5,983 casualties (2,305 killed and 3,678 injured)

Most of the civilian casualties recorded were caused by the use of explosive weapons with wide area effects, including shelling from heavy artillery, multiple launch rocket systems, missiles and air strikes.

OHCHR believes that the actual figures are considerably higher, as the receipt of information from some locations where intense hostilities have been going on has been delayed and many reports are still pending corroboration. This concerns, for example, Mariupol (Donetsk region), Izium (Kharkiv region), Lysychansk, Popasna, and Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk region), where there are allegations of numerous civilian casualties.

Destruction - Assets Destroyed by Russia as of August 22, 2022

[Kyiv School of Economics](#)

Since the beginning of the invasion, occupiers have and continue to bomb, burn, and level cities; target schools, hospitals, crowded shopping centers, crowded railway stations and other railway infrastructure, grain depots, residential buildings, police departments, water pump stations, oil refineries and fuel depots, a railway car repairing plant, centralized heating utilities, recreational and relaxation facilities, and more.

Destroyed or damaged assets include, at least:

- 15.3 thousand apartments,
- 115.9 thousand private houses,
- 388 enterprises,
- 18 civilian airports,
- 798 kindergartens,
- 43.7 thousand agricultural machinery,
- 1991 shops,
- 715 cultural facilities,
- 934 healthcare facilities,
- 119 social services facilities,
- 593 pharmacies,
- 17 administrative service centers have been damaged, destroyed or seized.

War of Aggression, War Crimes, Crimes Against Humanity, and Genocide

[Population Massacres and Violence against Civilians](#)

As Russian forces pulled out of Kyiv oblast in April, **evidence of the mass killings of civilians started surfacing**—in Bucha, Irpin, Borodyanka, Hostomel, and other small cities in Kyiv oblast.

- According to official data from early July, more than 1,300 civilians were killed during the Russian occupation of Kyiv oblast. **The search for those buried in hastily dug graves is ongoing.**
- Similar crimes are taking place in other regions that are under occupation, but **it is impossible to know the exact number of murdered civilians.** Official representatives of Mariupol city reported that thousands had been killed.

[Men And Boys Among Alleged Rape Victims of Russian Soldiers in Ukraine](#)

- **Gang-rapes, assaults at gunpoint, and rapes committed in front of children** are among the grim testimonies they have collected from victims and their families.
- Forensic doctors carrying out postmortem examinations on women buried in mass graves say they have also found evidence some were raped before being killed by Russian forces.

[Resolution Recognizing Russia's Actions in Ukraine as a Genocide by US Senators](#)

Substantial and significant evidence documents **widespread, systematic actions against the Ukrainian people committed by Russian forces** under the direction of political leadership of the Russian Federation.

US Senators Jim Risch (R-Idaho), ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Ben Cardin (D-Md.), chair of the US Helsinki Commission and author of the *Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act*, today led Senators Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), Rob Portman (R-Ohio), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) in introducing a resolution recognizing Russia's actions in Ukraine, **which include forced deportations to Russia and the purposeful killing of Ukrainian civilians in mass atrocities, as constituting a genocide against the people of Ukraine.**

This resolution:

- Condemns Russia for committing acts of genocide against the people of Ukraine;
- Calls on the United States, along with NATO and EU allies, to support the government of Ukraine to prevent further acts of Russian genocide against the Ukrainian people; and
- Supports tribunals and international criminal investigations to hold Russian political leaders and military personnel accountable for a war of aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Human Trafficking and “Filtration” Camps

[US Department of State - Russia’s “Filtration” Operations, Forced Disappearances, and Mass Deportations of Ukrainian Citizens](#)

The United States has placed Russia on a list of countries engaged in human trafficking. US Department of State:

- Estimates from a variety of sources, including the Russian government, indicate that Russian authorities have interrogated, detained, and forcibly deported between 900,000 and 1.6 million Ukrainian citizens, including 260,000 children, from their homes to Russia
- Putin’s “filtration” operations are separating families, **confiscating Ukrainian passports**, and issuing Russian passports in an apparent effort to change the demographic makeup of parts of Ukraine.
- Russian authorities are deliberately separating Ukrainian children from their parents and **abducting others from orphanages before putting them up for adoption inside Russia.**
- Eyewitnesses and survivors of “filtration” operations, detentions, and forced deportations report frequent threats, harassment, and incidents of **torture by Russian security forces.**
- During this process, Russian authorities also reportedly capture and store biometric and personal data, subject civilians to invasive searches and interrogations and **coerce Ukrainian citizens into signing agreements to stay in Russia, hindering their ability to freely return home.**
- Eyewitnesses, survivors, and Ukraine’s General Prosecutor have reported that **Russian authorities have transported tens of thousands of people to detention facilities inside Russian-controlled Donetsk**, where many are reportedly tortured.
 - There are reports that some individuals targeted for “filtration” have been summarily **executed, consistent with evidence of Russian atrocities committed in Bucha, Mariupol, and other locations in Ukraine.**

Blinken said the United States is committed to fighting human trafficking because it destabilizes societies, undermines economies, harms workers, enriches those who exploit the people who are trafficked, undercuts legitimate business, and **most fundamentally, because it is so profoundly wrong.”**

[Life in the Occupied Territories](#)

Residents of the territories controlled by Russia now face the reality of constant fear, violence, and terror.

- The **Russians have shut down** Ukrainian broadcasting, cut off broadband and internet connections to restrict **access to information.**
- **Electricity, water, and food supplies have been cut off or made unobtainable.**
- **Many local authorities** who refused to collaborate with the occupying forces and Russia-backed insurgents have been **kidnapped by Russians.**
- Local residents have organized rallies demanding the kidnapped officials be freed; some of these **protestors have been shot.**
- **Volunteers who try to supply needed goods and medicine** to residents of the occupied territories have been **subjected to the same treatment.**
- Russian troops or insurgents have **forced civilians to join militias and fight against the Ukrainian army.** This has happened not only in the Donbas but in other regions as well.

Russia as a "state sponsor of terrorism"

Senators put bipartisan pressure on Biden to designate Russia a state sponsor of terrorism

A bipartisan pair of senators has called on the Biden administration to [designate Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism](#) in response to its invasion of Ukraine, saying they would push Congress to pass a bill issuing the designation "whether or not" it had [President Joe Biden](#)'s support.

"One of the rare times I agree with @SpeakerPelosi." Posted Senator Lindsay Graham (R-SC), Twitter July 21, 2022.

"I appreciate her strong statement that Putin's Russia should immediately be labeled a "state sponsor of terrorism" and agree that Congress should act on this matter if the Administration fails to do so."

US House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, asked Secretary of State Antony Blinken to declare Russia as a "state sponsor of terrorism", **stating the sponsor of terrorism designation for Russia is "long overdue."**

In May, Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) introduced a resolution urging Blinken to designate Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism. It would also put the Senate on the record for "viewing the actions of the Government of the Russian Federation, at the direction of President Vladimir Putin, as terrorism."

Threat to United States Territorial Integrity and Nuclear War

[Russian Politician Threatens Alaska, says 'We Can Claim It Back'](#)

Chairman of the Russian State Duma, Vyacheslav Volodin, **warned that Russia could demand Alaska back** if the US continues to seize Russian resources abroad. (Russia colonized Alaska in the late 1700s but sold the territory to the US in 1867.)

[Russian State TV Argues Over Using Nuclear War to Threaten U.S.](#)

A group of Russian officials who appeared on state television held an intense discussion on **how best to show the U.S. the full extent of the threat Russia poses to its national security.**

- Since Ukraine was invaded in late February, the U.S. has drawn Russia's ire over aid, including weapons, to Ukraine and packages of unprecedented sanctions against Russia.
- The full context surrounding the state television discussion was not immediately clear, but the clip began with a man, identified as military expert Alexei Leokov, saying that "Russia should get used to becoming an empire."
- "Since we're an empire, we should act like an empire," he said.
 - Andrey Gurulyov, a member of the State Duma, then chimed in to suggest that weapons, presumably Russia's, should "pose a threat, **first and foremost, to the territory of the United States of America, and not only nuclear weapons.**"
 - "They should understand there could be a strike against Miami, Texas or any other state," Gurulyov said. "Then, they'll tuck their tail in. They aren't very brave over there. This is our truth and what we should aspire to and confidently move toward that."

Using the Sister City Relationship to Help Craft Russian Propaganda

[A TV program aired on a Russian state-controlled TV channel in Khabarovsk](#)

The "friendship bridge" program between **Portland-Khabarovsk Sister Cities** was held March 2, 2022 - nearly a week **after Russia started the full-scale invasion of Ukraine** on February 24, 2022.

- Dozens of Ukrainian children had been killed and Bucha had been occupied by Russian troops when **Portland-Khabarovsk Sister City organization decided to hold the "friendship bridge" event and film Portland children for Russian propaganda TV and media outlets.**
- The program included PPS teacher, Zoya Surits, filmed at Franklin High School, together with several PPS children. The program also included a government representative of the City of Khabarovsk, Andrey Khmara, who was with Russian children in Khabarovsk.
- This program was later referenced by the same Khabarovsk government representative as the **evidence that sister city relationship between Portland and Khabarovsk continues even after "the start of the special military operation".**

[The United States Ignored the Call to Cut Ties with Khabarovsk](#)

An article in the Khabarovsk newspaper DVHAB.RU, dated June 5, 2022, states:

- In referring to the event and the sister city relationship, a Khabarovsk newspaper states, "**Portland officials** cited a statement by the Sister Cities International, which says that the suspension or termination of the relationship with our Russian partner city should not be the cities' **response to the special operation in Ukraine.**"

The Portland- Khabarovsk Sister City Association claims it is a "citizen-to-citizen" relationship; there is evidence to the contrary. However, the Portland-Khabarovsk relationship is clearly curated by Khabarovsk city government and used for propaganda purposes.


The same Khabarovsk city government official, Andrey Khmara, that visited Portland in June 2014 (after Russia invaded and annexed Crimea and started genocide of Crimean Tatars), curated the March 2022 "friendship bridge" between Portland children and Khabarovsk children. Again, this was after Russia invaded Ukraine.

Khmara was then quoted in an article in the Khabarovsk newspaper (DVHAB.RU), on June 5, 2022 that Portland ignored President Zelenskyy's call to cut sister city ties and referenced the March "friendship bridge" as confirmation.

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ХАБАРОВСК

Телемост «Хабаровск — Портленд» для школьников

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Хабаровские и американские школьники встретились в детском эколого-биологическом центре. Дистанционно. Провести конференцию со школой имени Франклина в Портленде помог формат видеосвязи. Ребята обсудили экологические проблемы и познакомились с культурой городов-побратимов.

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>

ХАБАРОВСК

США проигнорировали призыв порвать связи с Хабаровском

Партнерские отношения Хабаровска с Портлендом, длившиеся почти 34 года, едва не закончились из-за выступления президента Украины. Владимир Зеленский жестко потребовал порвать отношения с побратимами из России. Но его проигнорировали.

23:40, 5 июня 2022 г.



Волна отказов сотрудничать с российскими городами захлестнула нашу страну. Самым ярким примером стал Псков, который в одночасье лишился 12 из 18 побратимов. Хабаровску же пока удалось сохранить теплые отношения со всеми. Однако это не понравилось Владимиру Зеленскому, который, выступая на конференции мэров США, раскритиковал их за сохранение побратимских отношений. Однако власти Портленда сослались на заявление НКО Sister Cities International, в котором говорится, что приостановка или прекращение побратимских отношений с российским городом-партнером не должна быть ответом городов на спецоперацию на Украине.

”

- После начала специальной военной операции 2 марта состоялась встреча в формате ВКС между МАУ ДО «Детский эколого-биологический центр» и школой имени Франклина Портленда. Во время данного мероприятия российские и американские дети смогли рассказать друг другу о своих странах и городах, поделиться общими экологическими проблемами и путями их решения. Никаких заявлений и официальных писем из муниципалитета Портленда администрация Хабаровска не получала. По процедуре одностороннего разрыва отношений американской стороной информация у нас отсутствует, - рассказал Андрей Хмара, консультант отдела международного протокола управления международных связей.

Справка

Деловое сотрудничество Хабаровска с зарубежными государствами возникло уже на начальном этапе истории города. В конце XX – начале XXI веков началось активное вовлечение в экономику дальневосточной столицы иностранных товаров и инвестиций. Особая роль в этом принадлежит городам-побратимам, с которыми Хабаровск развивает дружественные, деловые и культурные связи.

В апреле 1965 года было подписано Соглашение об установлении побратимских связей между Хабаровском и Ниигатой, с Портлендом – 10 июня 1988 года. Соглашение о побратимских связях между городом Виктория и Хабаровском было подписано 25 мая 1990 года, а 15 июня 1993-го – с Харбином.

24 июня 2002 года было подписано соглашение об установлении побратимских связей Хабаровска и Пучхона. 22 февраля 2011 года аналогичный документ подписали краевая столица и город Санья провинции Хайнань.

Напомним, в конце мая власти Хабаровска подписал договор о сотрудничестве с [белорусским городом Могилёв](#). Там развиты промышленное и химическое производства, выпускаются [высококласная пищевая продукция и лифты](#), которые востребованы далеко за пределами страны.

Александр Неделько, новости Хабаровска на DVHAB.ru

Также читайте нас и комментируйте в [Telegram](#) и [VK](#)

More Russian Propaganda

[Ukrainska Pravda](#)

- **The Russians are using children for propaganda purposes.**
- "The occupying authorities of the city have instructed teachers, workers at children's centers and kindergartens to provide a video recording of the **children singing the anthem of the Russian Federation** and 'young republics' [self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics] for 'Russia Day' on 12 June," Petro Andriushchenko, the adviser to the mayor of Mariupol, June 7, 2022
- Russia has promised hundreds of teachers big money to go to occupied Ukraine and **give students there a "corrected" education** – with Russia's take on Ukraine's history – in the coming school year.

[We Should Say It. Russia Is Fascist.](#)

The war against Ukraine is not only a return to the traditional fascist battleground, but also a return to traditional fascist language and practice.

- Soviet anti-fascism, in other words, was a politics of us and them. That is no answer to fascism. After all, fascist politics begins, as the Nazi thinker Carl Schmitt said, from the definition of an enemy. Because **Soviet anti-fascism just meant defining an enemy**, it offered fascism a backdoor through which to return to Russia.
- **In the Russia of the 21st century, "anti-fascism" simply became the right of a Russian leader to define national enemies.**
- A time traveler from the 1930s would have no difficulty identifying the Putin regime as fascist.
 - the symbol Z
 - the rallies
 - the propaganda
 - the war as a cleansing act of violence
 - the death pits around Ukrainian towns

[The Oregonian - Opinion: Portland should maintain sister-city relationship with Khabarovsk, June 12, 2022](#)

President of the Portland Khabarovsk Sister City Association, Thomas Benke states:

"It's important to note that Khabarovsk has had its own conflicts with the Kremlin. In 2018, 70% of Khabarovsk voters elected Sergei Furgal as territorial governor, selecting him over the candidate from President Putin's United Russia party".

On the face of it, this sounds positive; it is presented as something admirable and as evidence of democracy in Khabarovsk... for those people who are not familiar with Russian political parties and their white supremacist views.

The fact is, Sergei Furgal was a member of LDPR ([Liberal Democratic Party of Russia](#)) – a far right party that has often been described as fascist.

Fascism Continued

It is important to note what LDPR's Founder and Leader, Vladimir Zhirinovsky (until his recent death from covid in April 2022) is famous for:

- As a candidate, Zhirinovsky took part in the 2000 and 2008 presidential elections, promising a "police state", and to institute summary executions.
- A 1995 BBC documentary, *"Tripping with Zhirinovsky"*, showed Zhirinovsky telling the crowd at a campaign rally: "Help us, and you'll never have to vote again! I'm not saying, 'Vote for us and maybe in 20 years' time somebody will do something.' No, these will be the last elections! The last ones!"
- During the 1990s, commentators described Zhirinovsky as being a fascist, having fascist tendencies, or a neo-fascist.
- During a visit to France in 1994, he said "It's all over for you once you're Americanized and Zionized" and threw stones and dirt at Jewish protestors.
- Michael Specter, in a piece for The New York Times, "Here Comes the Clown. No Joke", in the same year, said Zhirinovsky's "party is not liberal, not democratic, and these days not much of a party."
- Zhirinovsky expressed admiration for the 1996 United States presidential election candidate Pat Buchanan, referring positively to Buchanan's comment labelling the United States Congress as "Israeli-occupied territory."
 - Zhirinovsky said that both the United States and the Russian Federation were "under occupation" and that "to survive, we could set aside places on U.S. and Russian territories to deport this small but troublesome tribe.
- Zhirinovsky was known for his boasts pertaining to other countries, having expressed a desire to reunite countries of the ex-Soviet "near abroad" with Russia to within the Russia's borders of 1900 (including Finland and Poland).
- He advocated forcibly retaking Alaska from the United States (which would then become "a great place to put the Ukrainians"), turning Kazakhstan into "Russia's back yard", and provoking wars between the clans and the nations of the former Soviet Union and occupying what will remain of it when the wars are over.
- Zhirinovsky, who encouraged separatism within the Russian minority in the Baltic countries, endorsed the forcible re-occupation of these countries and said nuclear waste should be dumped there.

Fascism Continued

Zhirinovsky often threatened women with rape (and now Russian soldiers feel empowered to rape women in occupied territories)

- In 2007 in reaction to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's criticism of Russian foreign policy during the dispute, Zhirinovsky stated, "Condoleezza Rice needs a company of soldiers [and] needs to be taken to barracks where she would be satisfied."
- At an April 2014 press conference in the Duma, Zhirinovsky made violent verbal threats against Stella Dubovitskaya, a pregnant Rossiya Segodnya journalist, who asked him about possible sanctions against Ukraine in the wake of Russia's Crimean annexation.
- When asked whether Russians should reciprocate in kind after Ukrainians initiated a sex strike against Russian men, Zhirinovsky replied that all Ukrainian women were "nymphomaniacs", and that Dubovitskaya was as well.
 - He then ordered two of his aides to "violently rape" the journalist, who had to be briefly hospitalized for shock. He later apologized, adding that he "spoke a bit rudely when I replied to a young woman."

Nationalist politician Vladimir Zhirinovsky, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia in the State Duma, or parliament, argued that the United States should resort to racial segregation, splitting up into "Black" and "White" states.

- Zhirinovsky is known for being outrageous. But, far from being ridiculed, his obscenely racist suggestion garnered coverage in the Kremlin-controlled state media, as well as support from a fellow parliamentarian.