

MTWTU

Activities during martial law



2022
—
Odesa





On February 24, 2022, the blue sky over Ukraine turned black: with its unjustified aggression, the enemy destroyed peace on Ukrainian land. The aggression, which has already brought so much pain and sorrow to millions of Ukrainian families. Many of our citizens are currently facing uncertainty about their future, jobs and accommodation for themselves and their families. The MTWTU takes active measures so every Ukrainian seafarer and docker with their families could look towards their future as confidently as possible.



**Determination of Procedures
for Departure of Seafarers
to Join the Ships Abroad**

At the MTWTU's initiative, ITF General Secretary Stephen Cotton urged the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy to grant the Ukrainian seafarers exempt from departure restrictions. The Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine has already started the development of the relevant legal act.

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of the relevant legal act.**

**Development of Proposals to the Ministry
of Infrastructure of Ukraine**

The MTWTU has forwarded a list of urgent governmental support measures for Ukrainian seafarers to the Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine. The proposals concern the following items:



On determination of procedures and conditions for seafarers crossing the state borders of Ukraine and on coordination of the necessary logistics corridors with the crewing companies of Ukraine;



On recognition as timeless the seafarers' certificates, previously issued by educational and training institutions of Ukraine that confirm the completion of mandatory training by seafarers under the STCW Convention;



On authorization of the diplomatic and consular missions of Ukraine abroad to issue seafarers' identity documents and extend their validity;



On recognition of training centers located in the EU Member States as approved by Ukraine for mandatory training of seafarers;



On urgent resumption of the State Qualification Commissions to register and issue seafarers' qualification documents.



Assistance to Seafarers' Families Crossing the Border

Through these days, the MTWTU and the Welfare Fund arranged 3 buses for seafarers' families leaving for the Ukraine-Moldova border. The service was successfully used by 61 people, including the elderly and infants.

Later, the MTWTU with the support of the ITF Seafarers' Trust and the largest shipping companies, started to organize evacuation

trips from Ukraine to Romania and Poland for the families of all interested Ukrainian seafarers. The offer also includes one-week free-of-charge accommodation in a good hotel. Among those who used the service were also seafarers' families from attacked Kherson, who heroically reached the place of departure in Odesa.



According to the seafarer's mother from Kherson:

“ On the way from Kherson, the Russian military stopped a convoy of cars with women and children who, fleeing, got out of the city and went to us, to Odesa. They lined up cars with people along the road, thereby forming a «human shield» that provided them with the safe movement of military equipment. The column of people was held in fear and horror for several hours. ”

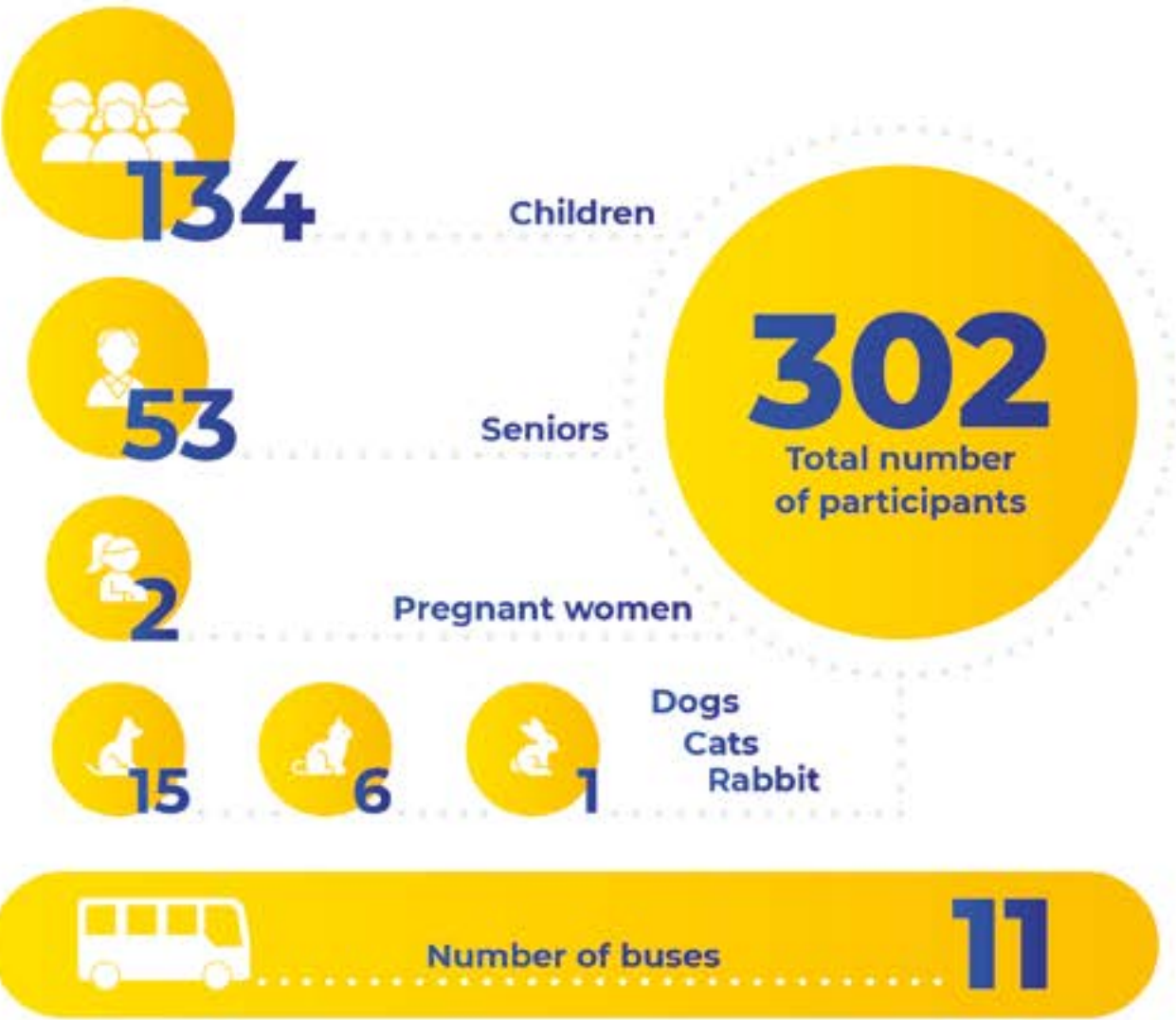


The seafarer's wife told how she got to Odesa with a small child:

“ They ran under fire by Mykolaiv; the locals sheltered them. They had a chance to leave while the Russian military was reloading shelling guns. The family got this prompt from residents who live under shelling. ”

MTWTU-ITF SEAFARERS' TRUST-VGROUP PROJECT IN NUMBERS

As for 12.05.2022
Period — 22.03.2022-12.05.2022



Yulia,
the seafarer's sister:

“ We sincerely thank the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine for their support and the opportunity of evacuation — soon we will be safe. Sadly, we are leaving our home. Now, your care is invaluable to us. ”



Oleg,
a seafarer:

“ Thank you for helping the seafarers' families to leave the country at this difficult time for Ukraine. Our whole family is grateful to you for the opportunity to save our lives and health. ”



Anatoliy,
a seafarer:

“ Thank you for helping people. You have a really powerful team! ”



Taras,
a seafarer:

“ Thank you! It was really difficult to get to Odesa from Kherson: my wife and son were waiting for the end of the attacks as they were at the epicenter. But thank God they are alive and okay, and now they are in a safe place thanks to you. A low bow to you and sincere gratitude! ”



Larysa,
the seafarer's daughter:

“ Last Sunday my parents drove off with you. Today they have already boarded the train to move further. I am grateful to you — my heart was in peace as you took care of them. ”



Also, within the framework of the Project, the seafarers' families who arrived from the actively attacked regions were provided with temporary accommodation and meals in Odesa. About 30 families took advantage of this opportunity.



Iryna,
the seafarer's wife:

“ Thank you for organizing the ride, for giving us such an opportunity. **These days it is a salvation for lots of us.** ”



Tatyana,
the seafarer's wife:

“ **You have no idea** how grateful my husband and I are to you. ”



Larisa,
the seafarer's wife:

“ **Many thanks to the MTWTU** employees for participation during this difficult situation in the country, for warmth, understanding and assistance! You are the best! Peace to all of us! **God bless us!!!** ”



Financial Support for Seafarers Left with No Means of Livelihood

Due to the introduction of martial law, starting from March 1, 2022, seafarers are now unable to leave the territory of Ukraine. By this, hundreds of crew changes were disrupted, depriving seafarers of earning for their families. In addition, the banking system of Ukraine failed to transfer the February salaries of seafarers. Thus, the Welfare Fund and the MTWTU have already processed more than 300 individual appeals for financial support received from seafarers and their families facing a difficult financial situation.

We also attempt to provide targeted assistance where we have such an opportunity. Thus, we organized the delivery of baby food and hygiene products for a seafarer's family in a remote village. Assistance was provided to a seafarer's family whose small child is now in Germany, and to a seafarer's family in Romania. Also, help was delivered to volunteers helping people who live in the worst war-affected areas — financial aid was transferred to a seafarer, volunteering in Kherson — the funds were purposed for baking bread for the population.



**Andrey Toropov,
Third Engineer, Libra:**

“ Thank you very much for your help. **My parents and I are very happy** that in such a challenging time for seafarers you are here to help. ”



**Sergey Lavrov,
Master, V.Ships:**

“ Thank you very much for **your financial support**. I received funds! **It will help us** a lot! ”



**Viktor Ponomarenko,
AB, ASP:**

“ **We received financial assistance**. My family and I are very grateful to you, **God grant us all a peaceful sky as soon as possible!** Once again, thank you very much for your work and support! ”



**Sergey Zadorozhnyuk,
Second Engineer, Ukrainian Maritime Service:**

“ Thank you for providing aid in such a tough time and **helping us and our families** with all your might. It is very important for us to know that we have such a strong back as the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine. **You are the best, keep it up!** ”



**Sergey Kalnitsky,
OS, Holland Pearl Polsteam:**

“ Yesterday I received **help from you**. Thank you so much for **your support** during this difficult time! ”

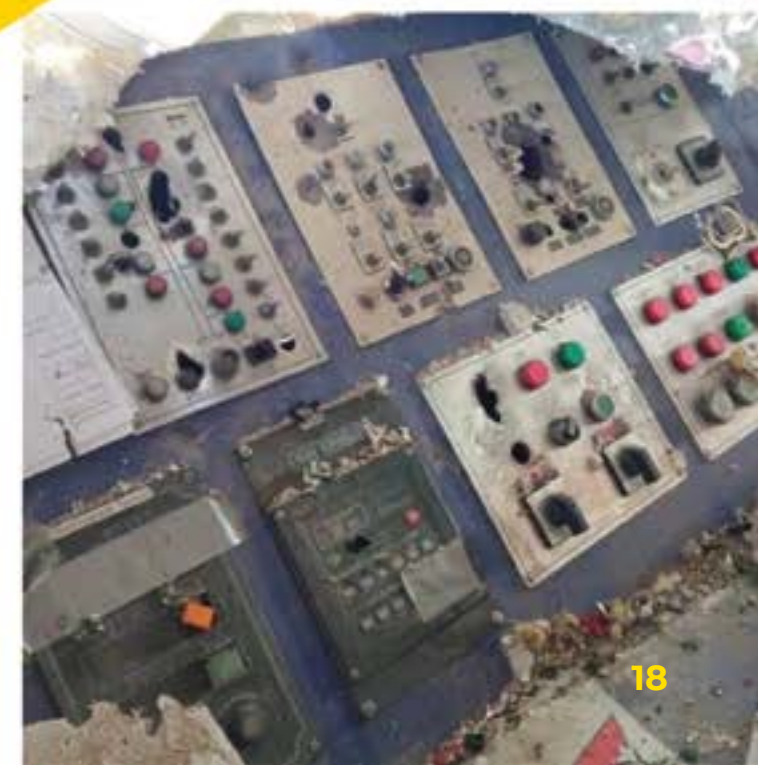


**Dmitry Zuev, AB,
Anglo-Eastern:**

“ Many thanks to the **MTWTU and WF «MORTRANS»** for their help in this difficult period. You helped me, **financially supported me** for treatment and surgery. ”

Support to Foreign Seafarers in Ukrainian Ports

In addition, the ITF Inspector in Ukraine is working with foreign seafarers who have become hostages in ports of Ukraine — several hundred people from 94 ships. Many of the crews have already been repatriated. In other cases, negotiations and active measures are underway towards their repatriation.



Assistance to Civilian Seafarers Taken Prisoner

On May 7, in Odesa, the MTWTU met the seafarers' crew of the BLUE STAR I vessel (IMO 9375159, the flag of Panama) and the AZBURG vessel (IMO 9102899, the flag of the Dominican Republic), which were captured by Russians. According to the captain of BLUE STAR I, all the seafarers

of the three captured ships — BLUE STAR I, AZBURG and SMARTA (IMO 9396567, the flag of Liberia) have been released and now are safe.

The seafarers were repatriated to the territory controlled by Ukraine during the exchange of prisoners.

”

«We were imprisoned, our conditions were not the worst, but we were physically and informationally isolated from the world in Donetsk,» said the Chief Officer of the AZBURG vessel. «There was one answer to all our pleas — wait. We were holding on. Thanks to everyone who helped us get home! We saw what was happening there. To all who anticipate the «Russian peace, I recommend not to wait. It is a horror! It is very scary.»

”

«Every minute we felt your support: gratitude to the Government, to the Trade Union, personally Iryna Vereschuk, Vice Prime Minister — Minister of Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine, Zinaida Boyko, Head of Zaporizhzhia District State Administration, and all those who materially and spiritually supported us. Thanks to you, we are at home,» says the Chief Officer of BLUE STAR I.

In turn, Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine provided seafarers with material and psychological support. One of the seafarers was provided with accommodation and meals at the hotel as part of a joint project with the ITF Seafarers' Trust.





Assistance from the European Transport Workers' Federation

The Union and the Welfare Fund have also received a massive humanitarian assistance from the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) — hundreds of kilograms of goods, hygiene products, clothing and footwear, food, medicine and other essentials, which have been successfully distributed among our dockers in the ports of Odesa, Izmail and Reni.

Since the beginning of the war, we have received many offers of help from seafarers. The number of people striving to help us is so great that we have to settle duty schedules. Our seafarers help us handle and transfer humanitarian aid, carry out the transportation of parcels on their vehicles and even engage their children to help.

We are extremely proud of our Trade Union members!





On the eve of the Easter holiday, seafarers united by the Trade Union with their families visited the MTWTU office. In these challenging days, we wanted to support the seafarers' families who stayed in Odesa, as well as seafarers who joined the volunteering activities so they could return to the usual rhythm of life at least for a moment. We donated food and medicine to the seafarers' families.





MTWTU became a partner of ISWAN in the Project on Assistance to Ukrainian seafarers who suffered from Russian aggression. During this short period, the MTWTU accepted about 350 requests, and we have already got confirmation of receipt of funds. All applications are selected, and many of them are processed by the Union on its own. And the ISWAN grant is sent to those applications that require significant financial support – families affected in Mariupol, Kharkiv, Kyiv, and regions, as well as those under occupation in Kherson.

MTWTU was and remains the only maritime trade union in Ukraine that the whole world trusts.

Scan to read



bit.ly/SIRFUkraineCrisis



Valery,
cook:

“ **My father and brother lived in Mariupol.** When the war began, I was on a voyage and told my relatives to leave the city. They didn't want to leave our house, because that's all we had. Along with their neighbors, they hid in our basement for more than three weeks. When a rocket hit a neighboring house, my relatives decided to leave. On April 1, they were able to leave in their car to a neighboring city, but they did not have enough fuel for more. On April 3, a rocket hit our house. **Now we don't have a home. The only thing that makes me happy is that my relatives managed to leave.** ”



Helping those who suffered from the war

Even though the war had an impact on the whole of Ukraine, the Odesa region, where the MTWTU office is located and a large number of seafarers live, remained more or less safe. Until Saturday, 23rd of April.

All residents of the sea capital of Ukraine will remember the eve of this Easter holiday for a lifetime. On April 23, when all the families were getting ready for Easter, Odesa suffered a rocket attack. The missile fell on one of the

most densely populated areas of the city and one of the rockets hit a high-rise residential building. As a result of this attack, 8 people were killed, including a three-month-old baby, and more than a dozen people were injured.

One of the wounded was a young seafarer Alexey. He survived because he managed to jump out the window, however, he received many fractures, as well as quite serious burns. Alexey graduated from the Odesa Maritime College of the Technical Fleet in 2021. From his graduation, he memorized the speech of the MTWTU Chairman.

Alexey's mother, who was also present at her son's graduation, turned to the MTWTU for help.

The family of a Trade Union member lived in the same residential building. Fortunately, at the time of the strike, the seafarer was on a voyage, and his wife and children were forced to seek refuge abroad at the beginning of the war. Their apartment was not badly damaged, however, due to the missile attack, the residential building is not suitable for life. About a thousand families may be left homeless if the building is not repaired soon. The Trade Union provided assistance to the seafarer's family for the reconstruction and repair of the house, so that soon, when peace comes to our land, they would have a place to return.

Also, our Trade Union, together with the WF «MORTANS», provided assistance to the families of port workers from Mariupol and teachers of the Azov Maritime Institute (Mariupol).





Support for families of seafarers and dockers of Ukraine in Germany

The Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine and the German trade union ver.di have launched a new charity project to support the families of Ukrainian seafarers and dockers in Germany. From the first days of the war in Ukraine, MTWTU and ver.di have been doing everything possible to support Ukrainian maritime workers and their families in both Ukraine and Germany.

The family of any Ukrainian seafarer and

any Ukrainian docker who was forced to leave their homeland after February 24, 2022, due to the war in Ukraine, who is now in Germany, can become a participant in the new project.

In the first stage of the project, each family can receive a set of hygiene products. The next step of the project involves the distribution of household items and school supplies for the everyday living of Ukrainian maritime families in Germany.





The world needs to know the truth about what is happening in Ukraine

Information is one of the weapons that can be used with good intentions and the opposite.

Today, along with the military invasion of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, there is also an information war.

We firmly believe in our victory on both fronts, which is why, during the invasion, the Union used every opportunity to tell the truth about what is happening in Ukraine to the international media, fraternal Unions, shipowners and managers, and everyone who was interested:

Call to Partners and International Support

- MTWTU addressed partners around the world to support our country: to address the governments so they call on the aggressor to stop attacks on Ukraine and sit down at the negotiating table.





We have received substantial support from the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF). The organizations called on the community to immediately end the hostilities, return the conflict to a diplomatic level and respect international human rights and humanitarian law due to military escalation against Ukraine.

The letter was sent to our colleagues from Trade Unions of the European Union with a call to support Ukraine's entrance to the EU by sending relevant letters to their governments.

The MTWTU appealed to the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the International Maritime Employers' Council (IMEC) to provide Ukrainian seafarers on ships around the world with additional means of communication to contact their families: telephone cards, Internet, satellite communications.

A letter was sent to the International Transport Workers' Federation and its cruise department with a request to apply to cruise lines, particularly those which include calls to Russian ports, to avoid entering Russian ports.

At the initiative of the International Labour Organization, weekly online meetings were established together with the International Maritime Organization to discuss the current crisis created by Russia's military aggression against Ukraine.

The meetings were attended by leaders and top experts of almost all key associations of international merchant shipping, including ICS, InterTanker, BIMCO, Intermanager, Norwegian Shipowners Association, ECSA, ITF, ETF, ISWAN, Stella Maris, Apostleship of the Sea, Mission to Seafarers.

An online meeting between the Secretary-General of the European Transport Workers' Federation and the MTWTU Chairman Oleg Grygoriuk was arranged. A meeting was scheduled with the unions of European countries bordering Ukraine to discuss what resources and assistance could be allocated from their side.

Support was received from the united trade union of service workers ver.di, which has about 1.9 million members in Germany.

”

«Russia's aggressive war against your country cannot be justified by anything. This is a flagrant violation of international law, territorial integrity, and the right to self-determination of the people of Ukraine. It is an encroachment on freedom and democracy in Ukraine and Europe, and an expression of imperial ambitions. We deeply condemn this war of aggression and support the Ukrainian people conducting their right to self-defense.»



- Oleg Grygoriuk, the MTWTU Chairman, took the floor at a conference of the section of the German trade union ver.di in Hamburg for transport workers, including port workers. In the speech, he talked about a critical situation that affected big ports of Ukraine — Mariupol, Berdyansk, Kherson, Mykolaiv.

- On behalf of Ukrainian port workers, Oleg Grygoriuk thanked the European Transport Workers' Federation for the humanitarian aid provided to the Union members, as well as for the incredible support from ver.di and HHLA (the Subsidiary Company Container

Terminal Odesa is one of the largest logistics holdings of HHLA, Hamburg).

- An online meeting was held with the IMEC Recruitment and Training Committee. MTWTU informed about the current situation in our country due to a full-scale military invasion, as well as the situation with maritime schools and cadets.

- During the Singapore Maritime Week Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Singapore, Brunei Darussalam — Kateryna Zelenko thanked the representatives of the international maritime and shipping industry — ITF Seafarers' Trust,

- the International Maritime Employers' Council (IMEC), the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).

- The meeting also noted the work of the Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine on comprehensive and round-the-clock support of seafarers and their families during the war.

- The online meeting was held with our brothers and sisters from Teamsters (USA), where we talked about the crisis in our country.

- We had an online meeting with representatives of the fraternal Danish trade union 3F.

- Marine Transport Workers' Trade Union of Ukraine took part in a meeting of the maritime section of the SEKO fraternal union (Sweden). The leaders of this union were among the first to support the MTWTU. In his speech, Oleg Grygoriuk, on behalf of all Trade Union members, thanked the participants of the session. He also focused on the situation in Ukrainian ports.



- Regular online meetings with representatives of leading shipping companies have been launched.
- Oleg Grygoriuk, the MTWTU Chairman, delivered a speech to the Congress of the Norwegian Seafarers' Union (NSU). He told about the challenges faced by our Trade Union today and expressed gratitude to colleagues from Norway for their solidary support.
- Oleg Grygoriuk addressed the participants of the VII Congress of the Seafarers' Union of Croatia, which took place in Dubrovnik from April 27 to 29, 2022.
- The participants of the Congress signed a Resolution condemning the aggression, the imposed war, and the disrespect for international and humanitarian law that is currently witnessed in Ukraine.





Interviews with national TV and radio companies



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ТЕМА ДНЯ

Interviews with International Editions



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Tienduizenden Oekraïners vast op zee tijdens oorlog



'We'll treat Russian seafarers fairly,' say shipping leaders

Following a series of black swan events in recent years, the Ukraine situation has spurred the shift of shipping companies' crewing strategy

05 Apr 2022 NEWS

TheStar

Russian vessel won't be allowed to dock, says Transport Ministry



By JUSTIN ZACK

Tuesday 01 Mar 2022 7:55 PM MYT

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia will abide by international sanctions and not allow a Russian vessel to dock, says the Transport Ministry.

"We are aware of a Russian-flagged crude oil tanker en route to Kuantan, the Ministry of Transport said in a statement."



KRIGET I UKRAINA



Tomas Abrahamsson, Senior Advisor S&P (FF, Foto: D&S Göteborg)

Kriget i Ukraina påverkar sjöfolket. Ukrainska sjömän har svårt att ta sig till och från fartygen, och för ryska

THE STRAITS TIMES

WORLD

Ukraine asks UN court to end Russia invasion

By AFP
March 2, 2022 @ 7:11pm





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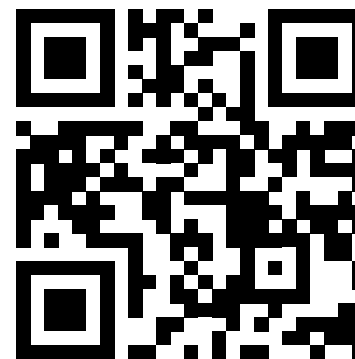
**Growth of
users in social
networks**



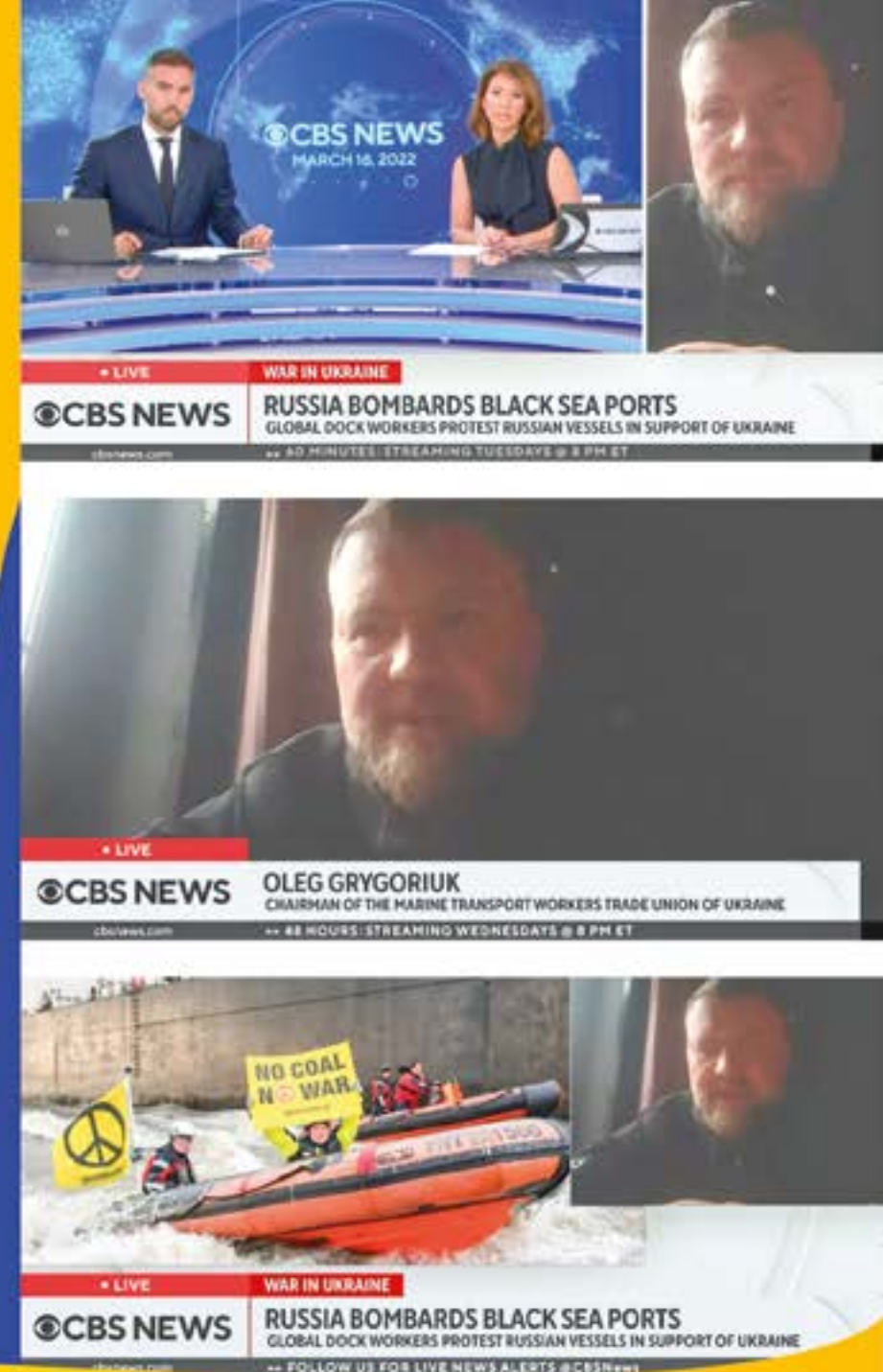
Online meetings held

>100

Scan to listen CBS



Oleg Grygoriuk, MTWTU Chairman, spoke live on CBS News about the current situation in Ukraine and the problems faced by Ukrainian transport workers due to military aggression. During the broadcast were also discussed the consequences of the lockout in Ukrainian ports. Live viewed by over 4 million people



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