

Dear Humboldtians,

You belong to a large family of educated people who share the values and freedoms of the civilized world. And at the moment you are reading these lines, Russian military troops are destroying these values and freedoms in our homeland, in democratic Ukraine. At 5 am on the 24th of February, the Russian army started shelling residential areas of our cities from Russia, Belarus, occupied Crimea and the occupied Transnistria region, killing civilians and destroying infrastructure. Our fellow countrymen, women and children in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Chernigiv, Kherson, Mariupol (and many other places too) have been enduring relentless attacks by aviation, tanks, cruise and ballistic missiles, by high mobility artillery rocket systems (HMARS), damaging everything indiscriminately in large areas, destroying habitats, critical infrastructure and killing civilians.

You may have seen the atrocities of this invasion, but we have lived among them for already seven days. We even do not try to remember what day of the week it is; all that matters now is that this is the day no. 8 of the brutal Russian aggression. Here are just two pictures of the latest destruction caused by the shellings of Kharkiv and Kyiv:



Kharkiv Karazin University on Svoboda square (the largest in Ukraine) on Mar 2, 2022



TV Tower and neighbouring residential area in Kyiv on Tue, March 1

All our fellow Humboldtians here are defending this country in any possible way, helping the army and civilians. We are doing everything we can, and we will withstand, but we need your help to save the lives of our children, women and elderly.

Dear Humboldtians, we pledge you to do everything you can do to stop Putin, who is a threat to the whole civilized world:

1. Make an open statement about the strict disapproval of the Russian military aggression and a call for peace.
2. Suspend all official collaboration with Russia. Simply words of support are not, under the current circumstances, an adequate response one would expect of the academic world upholding the values of free civilization! Many (we hope – all) Humboldtians in Russia do not support the war, but they are scared to be seized by the police for any protest action. However, at the same time, many of our soldiers and fellow scientists sacrifice their lives protecting the country. Russian scientists must understand that Putin's military aggression destroys Russia's future.
3. Support the appeal to NATO to [protect our sky](#)
4. Urge your governments to impose strict sanctions on Russia and suspend all export of high-tech products
5. Please support [Ukrainian Army](#) or [Ukrainian Red Cross](#)

6. Many Ukrainians in your countries collect medical supplies and essential things for women with children who fled from the areas of military actions, who remain there, or who became refugees; please help them in any way you can
7. Contact other members of your communities, spread the call for support of Ukraine and help us to stop the war!

And we also have several words for Humboldtians from Russia. It is too late to express your sympathy with us. It is too late to write letters of support or letters begging your mad president to stop the war. You accepted the Russian occupation of Crimea and eastern parts of sovereign Ukraine in 2014, of Georgia in 2008. Every hour you stay in your comfortable houses now costs dozens of lives of our citizens. 16 children have already been killed by the Russian army. They had their dreams that can never be fulfilled now. They might have become scientists, artists, writers or have an ordinary happy life in this country. They can't anymore.

Do you sleep well, fellow Russian Humboldtians? Wake up, as that might be your last chance to act!

On behalf of the Humboldt Club Ukraine  
Oleksandra Antoniuk, the President  
Rostyslav Hryniv, Vice President  
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Grygoriy Torbin, Vice President