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Canadian Journalist Added to Ukrainian Hitlist

By Deborah Armstrong
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Not everyone looks forward to Mondays.

The end of the weekend. That alarm which always comes too early. The coffee which never seems like enough to prepare you for the piles of work awaiting you after your stressful commute.

But for one Canadian journalist, Monday came with a much more unpleasant surprise.

Imagine how Guy Boulianne felt when he woke up last Monday, November 7, to find that he had been added to a hitlist. Yes, you read that correctly. He was added to a kill list.

It's no secret that Ukraine's so-called "Center to Control Disinformation" operates a database which publicizes the private information of thousands of journalists worldwide. The site, called "Mirotvorets" (also spelled "Myrotvorets"), means "Peacemaker" in Ukrainian. In the fascist lexicon, "peace" is "made" by killing anyone not in lockstep with Ukraine's goals of securing a pure ethno-state purged of all *untermenschen* such as the Roma people, LGBTQ and the most hated minorities of all — "Moskals," a Ukrainian slur for Russians.

Why would a Canadian journalist, from Quebec, be targeted by a country more than 7,000 kilometers away from where he lives? Boulianne believes he was selected for "liquidation" because he has written about Faina Savenkova, a 14-year-old girl from Lugansk who has also been added to *Mirotvorets*.

> "You know," Boulianne wrote in an article published in French, "there is something very abnormal when I see a 'thumbs down' at the bottom of an article I published which simply mentions the first children's congress, entitled 'Children for Peace!', the main purpose of which was to draw public attention to the increased supply of high-powered weapons to Ukrainian military personnel, which is why the small inhabitants of Donbass are suffering."

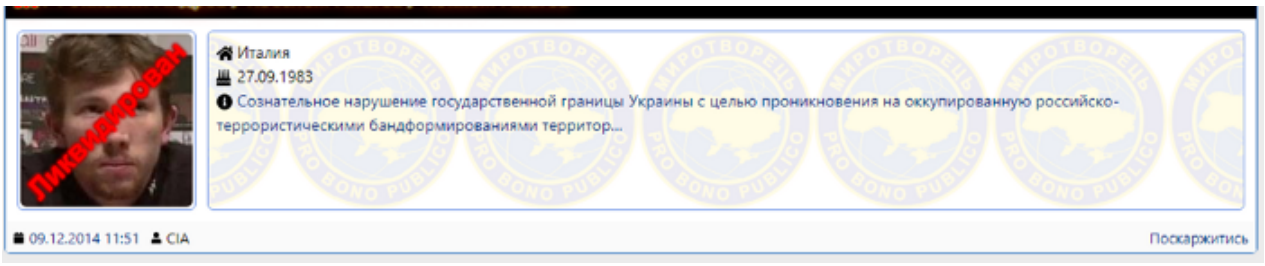
> “After all,” he continued, “not only enemy soldiers die, but also children. When I see this ‘thumb down’ under this article, it means to me that the individual who did it is completely against the protection of children in the Donbass!”

Young Faina Savenkova was added to this hitlist, which is open to anyone who wants to see it online, at the age of 12, after she appeared before a UN security council in a video-taped message, in which she tried to bring awareness about the plight of civilians in Eastern Ukraine to the international body of lawmakers.

Faina Savenkova’s profile at Mirotvorets includes her street address and multiple screenshots of her writing.

Because she lives in the breakaway Lugansk People’s Republic (LPR), now claimed as Russian territory, and because she does not support the fascist-friendly regime in Kiev, the teenager is considered a “Russian separatist” and now also a “Russian propagandist” — which makes her, under Ukrainian law, an “info-terrorist” worthy of death.

The Foundation to Battle Injustice, a Russian human rights organization, has investigated *Mirotvorets* and publicized its crimes against humanity. A number of the more than 4,000 journalists added to the blacklist have already been “liquidated.” People such as Italian journalist Andrea Rocchelli, Ukrainian journalist Oles Buzyna, former Ukrainian MP Oleg Kalashnikov, and war correspondent Daria Dugina. All of them were added to the list and then murdered. Their profiles at *Mirotvorets* proudly confirm that fact in bold red letters: “Liquidated.”



Italian Journalist Andrea Rocchelli listed as “liquidated” at “Mirotvorets”

Daria Dugina, Russian war correspondent, is listed as “liquidated” on Mirotvorets site.

Mirotvorets is an open-source website and NGO which publicizes a running list of “enemies of Ukraine,” or, as the website itself declares, those “whose actions show signs of crimes against Ukraine’s national security, peace, human security and international law.” In other words, having opinions counter to Ukraine’s official narratives, or opposing the Nazi-worshipping regime in Kiev, qualifies as such a threat under Ukrainian law.

The website, which was first launched in December 2014 by Ukrainian politician and activist Georgy Tuka, has remained online all this time despite repeated requests from the UN, G7 ambassadors, the EU and various human rights groups to shut it down. In 2018, the German Foreign Office asked the Ukrainian government to take the website down. In response, the Security Service of Ukraine issued a statement that *Mirotvorets* had not violated Ukrainian law.

On May 7, 2016, the website published the personal data of 4,508 journalists and other members of the international media who had either worked or been given permission to work in the Donbass region, thereby having “cooperated with terrorists” under Ukrainian law. *Mirotvorets* published their phone numbers, e-mail addresses, cities and countries of residence, information which was obtained by hacking the database of the Donetsk People’s Republic’s Ministry of State Security.

According to Yulia Gorbunova, senior researcher for Human Rights Watch, the implications of this list for press freedom are serious and the very existence of such a list puts lives at risk. Then-President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko, called the leak of people’s private information a “big mistake.” Now he, too, is listed at *Mirotvorets* where he is described as “an accomplice of Russian terrorists and invaders” and accused of “participation in the propaganda activities of Russia (the aggressor country) against Ukraine” as well as “participation in information operations of Russia (aggressor country) aimed at destroying evidence of the crimes of the Russian aggressor and his accomplices against Ukraine.”

The *Mirotvorets* Center also advises law enforcement “to consider this publication on the website as a statement about the commission by this citizen of deliberate acts against the national security of Ukraine, peace, security of mankind, and international law and order, and other offences.”

So… Speak your mind, do some time.

Or, maybe they’ll just execute you. It costs less than prison.

Orwell must be spinning in his grave.

> "Should I be worried and feel in danger?" Boulianne wondered. "You have to be aware that there is a very large Ukrainian-Canadian community. According to the 2016 census, 1,359,655 Canadians (or 3.8% of the population) are of Ukrainian origin."

Inco imported ex-Nazis, RCMP report says

Hungarian freedom fighters and former storm troopers took part in 1961 riot outside Sudbury hall, according to intelligence document

By TERRY PENDER
Star Staff Writer

During the 1950s, Inco Limited imported into the Sudbury area a "considerable" number of former Nazis who disrupted union activities, according to RCMP documents obtained by The Sudbury Star.

Some of these men wreaked havoc in this community during one of the most tumultuous and violent episodes in Canadian labor history — the raids by the United Steelworkers of America on the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers.

A 32-year-old RCMP report, which provides details about a large riot that occurred outside the Mine Mill Union's Regent Street hall in August, 1961, says many of the rioters were former Nazi storm troopers and Hungarian freedom fighters "imported" by Inco. The riot occurred during a pivotal period in the inter-union battle for the right to represent Sudbury-area miners — a battle eventually won by the Steelworkers.

The previously-secret report, prepared by the RCMP's former security and intelligence branch, was obtained by The Star under the Freedom of Information Act.

Inco spokesman Jerry Rogers said he searched the company's corporate archives after he was informed by The Star of the allegations contained in the RCMP report. He said he could not find any information supporting the allegations.

"We couldn't see anything," said Rogers. However, he added: "There isn't anybody around anymore from those days.

"Personally, I have no knowledge because I wasn't here. But after a fairly substantial search I can find nothing to substantiate something like that. But the '40s and '50s were a turbulent era."

Indeed, the anti-communist hysteria of the Cold War reached a feverish pitch during the 1950s. Western governments viewed the Soviet Union as evil incarnate, and the RCMP's security and intelligence branch had orders to monitor the Communist Party of Canada and any trade unions or other organizations in which party members were active. The RCMP believed Mine Mill was a communist-dominated union.

In this atmosphere, the importation of former Nazi storm troopers by Inco is a "plausible scenario," said Alti Rodal, a historian who prepared a report on Canada's immigration policy for the 1986 Commission

For this series, Sudbury Star reporter Terry Pender examined more than 9,000 pages of previously secret RCMP documents.

During the Cold War, immigration officials gave preference to immigrants with anti-communist credentials, including former Nazis, said Rodal, who now works as a public management consultant with the federal government.

The RCMP intelligence report was prepared following the riot in front of the Mine Mill Hall on Regent Street in August, 1961.

The seeds of the confrontation were planted when Don Gillis was elected president of Mine Mill Local 598 in 1959. He set about trying to lead the local's 16,000 members into the Steelworkers without the membership's approval.

In 1961, a member of the Gillis's executive, Tom Taylor (now an active member of the Coalition for Responsible Local Government in Sudbury), quit in disgust and told his union's national executive what Gillis was doing.

Mine Mill's national executive responded by putting Local 598 under trusteeship and taking control of the local's Regent Street hall on the night of Saturday, Aug. 26, 1961. Gillis and his supporters laid siege to the hall that night under the watchful eyes of the deputy chief of police and sheriff.

"It is reported that the mob on Saturday night was composed of former Hungarian freedom fighters and ex-Nazi storm troopers, who have been imported in considerable numbers by Inco in the past few years," says the security and intelligence branch report.

Staff Sgt. A. R. Campbell, who wrote the report also referred to the anti-communist mob's red-baiting tactics.

"They are well organized and hoisted the hammer-and-sickle flag over the union hall on Saturday after the administrator took over. The flag was shortly after removed by the Sudbury police."

According to former Local 598 president Mike Solski, now a retired Coniston resident, it was the only action the police took against the mob. In fact, said Solski, police set up roadblocks, thereby giving the rioters free rein of the streets in front of the hall.

After the mob grew to about 1,500 men, every window in the building was smashed.

Damage was estimated at $25,000.

About 40 loyal Mine Mill members inside the building barricaded doors with chairs, broke glass on the stairs and trained fire hoses on the entrances. If any members of the mob got inside, they would have been hit with gushing water as they tried to ascend stairs sprinkled with shards of glass.

"(William Kennedy, the administrator) and his supporters were reported not to be so much defending the hall but fighting for their lives," says Campbell's report.

His censored account of the riot appears to rely heavily on information from informants, and hints at the possibility of more clashes in the city.

"The communist party is reported by the party itself to be very weak in Sudbury, but . . . attempts are now being made to build it up, to oppose the fascist element," says the document. "The national officers (of Mine Mill) have not yet called any meeting of their supporters, fearing bloodshed."

Solski says he isn't surprised by the claim in the report that Inco hired ex-Nazi storm troopers. He says Falconbridge also hired some fanatical Nazis.

"I remember a couple of guys who'd been in the army during the war; they were getting changed in the dry when they saw two new workers who had SS tattoos. They beat the hell out of them. We didn't see them around after that."

Jim Tester, another former Local 598 president, believes the federal government and some corporations deliberately encouraged the immigration of former Nazis and fascist supporters to lead the battle against the trade union movement.

"You can say they were anti-communist, but they were really fascist collaborators during the war," said Tester, now a retired Sudbury resident. "The government knew what it was doing. Essentially, it was a conscious effort to roll back the labor movement.

"This is a very delicate question," he added.

Canada's domestic intelligence agency closely monitored the internal union politics of Mine Mill Local 598 for many years, according to RCMP intelligence reports. When Local 598 started splitting into factions, the RCMP's special branch (later known as the security and intelligence branch, and later still as the RCMP security service) had informants in the different camps.

Staff Sgt. Campbell's report, prepared for the RCMP commissioner, gives a very unflattering assessment of the main players involved in the internal feuding at Mine Mill Local 598. His report is heavily censored to protect the identity of informants, and all names are removed. However, given the context, it's sometimes possible to identify who he is writing about.

For example, Campbell's report refers to Local 598's president during the 1958 strike against Inco. He is clearly referring to Solski.

Campbell's report says: "During the strike, he would not allow anyone, with one exception, to go on speaking tours, contact other unions for support, or take any active direction of the strike other than himself.

"Never having been in a strike, he was without experience and made a great many mistakes. Having exercised far too much top-level control, this gave an opportunity for a distinctly fascist group to move in and defeat him, headed by (Don Gillis), who at one time ran for office on the Conservative platform in Sudbury," continues the report.

"He (Gillis) is just a marionette, whose strings are pulled by his financial secretary (Ray Poirier), a fanatic Catholic, who takes his direction from an Abby of the Sudbury Catholic University (Professor Alexander Boudreau). None of the three have enough experience to run an organization as large as the Sudbury local with its 16,000 members," says the report.

When Solski read that document recently, he smiled.

"I guess they didn't think I had much ability," said Solski, who helped organize the union, negotiated contracts, led the 1958 strike, and eventually became a national vice-president of Mine Mill.

□ Tomorrow: RCMP informants

Don Gillis, former president of Mine Mill Local 598, is attacked while campaigning as a Conservative candidate in the late 1950s. An RCMP intelligence report said Gillis headed "a distinctly fascist group" that assumed the leadership of Local 598 in 1959.

THE RAIDS: A tale of two unions

The bitter battle between the United Steelworkers of America and the Mine Mill Union for the right to represent Inco employees lasted about 20 years. Through it, all the domestic intelligence branch of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police followed virtually every move made by the parties involved. The RCMP compiled thousands of pages of files. When the inter-union fight was over, the Steelworkers had won jurisdiction over all former Mine Mill members except those who belonged to Local 598, which represented Falconbridge workers.

- In February of 1962, the Steelworkers won, by a slim 15-vote majority, the right to represent 14,000 Inco workers. The Ontario Labor Relations Board awarded bargaining rights to the Steelworkers despite objections raised by Mine Mill about forged cards and unstamped ballots.
- In June of 1962, the Steelworkers withdrew an application to represent Falconbridge workers when more than 100 Steelworker cards were found to be forged.
- Following the Steelworkers' victory at Inco, many workers there continued to pay dues to Mine Mill in order to finance a campaign to regain the right to represent the nickel giant's employees.
- After signing up 50.1 per cent of the Inco workers, Mine Mill applied for another vote in May 1965.
- The Steelworkers delayed the vote for several months. When it was finally held in December of 1965, the Steelworkers won by a healthy margin.
- At Mine Mill's national convention in June of 1967, delegates voted to merge with the Steelworkers.
- The decision was ratified by a union-wide referendum in August of 1967.
- Mine Mill Local 598 was the only local to reject the merger with the Steelworkers. Local 598 went to court and won the right to retain union properties in the Sudbury area. The raids were over, and Local 598 was the sole survivor.

A 1995, Toronto Star article reports that a Canadian mining company, INCO, utilized Ukrainian Nazi collaborators to crush leftist labour organizing in the early 1960s. Photo: The Canada Files

Boulianne quotes Aidan Jonah, who wrote the following at The Canada Files: "Chrystia Freeland, Canada's former foreign minister and current deputy prime minister knows all about the glorification of Ukrainian Nazi collaborators. Freeland is also deeply connected to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) and the League of Ukrainian Canadians (LUC), which glorify the fascist Ukrainian Nationals Union group and Ukrainian Nazi collaborators. The UCC considers fascist Nazi collaborator Stepan Bandera, the fascist political and military leader of the Bandera faction of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, OUN, as one of Ukraine's greatest national heroes. They both honor Yaroslav Stetsko, Bandera's right-hand man, who said in his 1941 autobiography: 'I therefore support the destruction of the Jews and the advisability of introducing the German methods of extermination of the Jews in Ukraine, preventing their assimilation and the like.'"

The LUC's youth organization commemorated an anniversary of Yaroslav Stetsko in 2012. Photo: The Canada Files

In 2014 and 2016, Boulianne writes, Freeland paraded and promoted the Toronto Ukrainian Festival , including the fundraising efforts of Right Sector Canada, a neo-Nazi group. Their goal was to buy military equipment for their fighters in Ukraine.

"If I were to suddenly disappear, you would know in which sector to begin your investigation," the French-speaking journalist continued.

A Right Sector Canada leader speaks to CBC News, in 2014. Photo: The Canada Files

It’s ironic to note that the database was previously illegal under Ukrainian law. On May 10, 2016, *Mirotvorets* published the private information of journalists including reporters from AFP, Al Jazeera, LeMonde, BBC, Reuters and Forbes. That provoked an outcry from the international legal community which opposed the publication of personal data. Valeria Lutkovskaya, Commissioner of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for Human Rights, even released a statement that the database violates human rights and should be shut down. On may 13, 2016, there was an announcement that the website was closed. Six days later the database was back online and by May 20th, it had published an updated list of media members accredited for work in the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR). And Lutkovskaya was threatened with her resignation. Her term ended in 2017 and she was replaced.

Originally, the personal data of the “7500 terrorists, separatists and their accomplices” was collected by volunteers led by Georgy Tuka. By January 9, 2015, the website already had more than 9,000 entries. In fact, the first person named in the database was Eduard Matyukha, known as “the people’s mayor” in Gorlovka from 2014–2019. However, this “people’s mayor” turned out to be a Ukrainian spy, who was providing intelligence about Russian operations in the DPR directly to Kiev. Even his wife was unaware of his clandestine activities, according to one article. His addition to the list was nothing more than a psy-op, which, according to him, made him a hero in the two breakaway republics of Donbass.

Ukraine’s Advisor to the Minister of Internal Affairs, Anton Gerashchenko is believed to have initiated *Mirotvorets*. Ironically, in 2019 Gerashchenko announced at a Free Speech Committee hearing, that he was named “journalist safety point person” by the Minister of Internal Affairs.

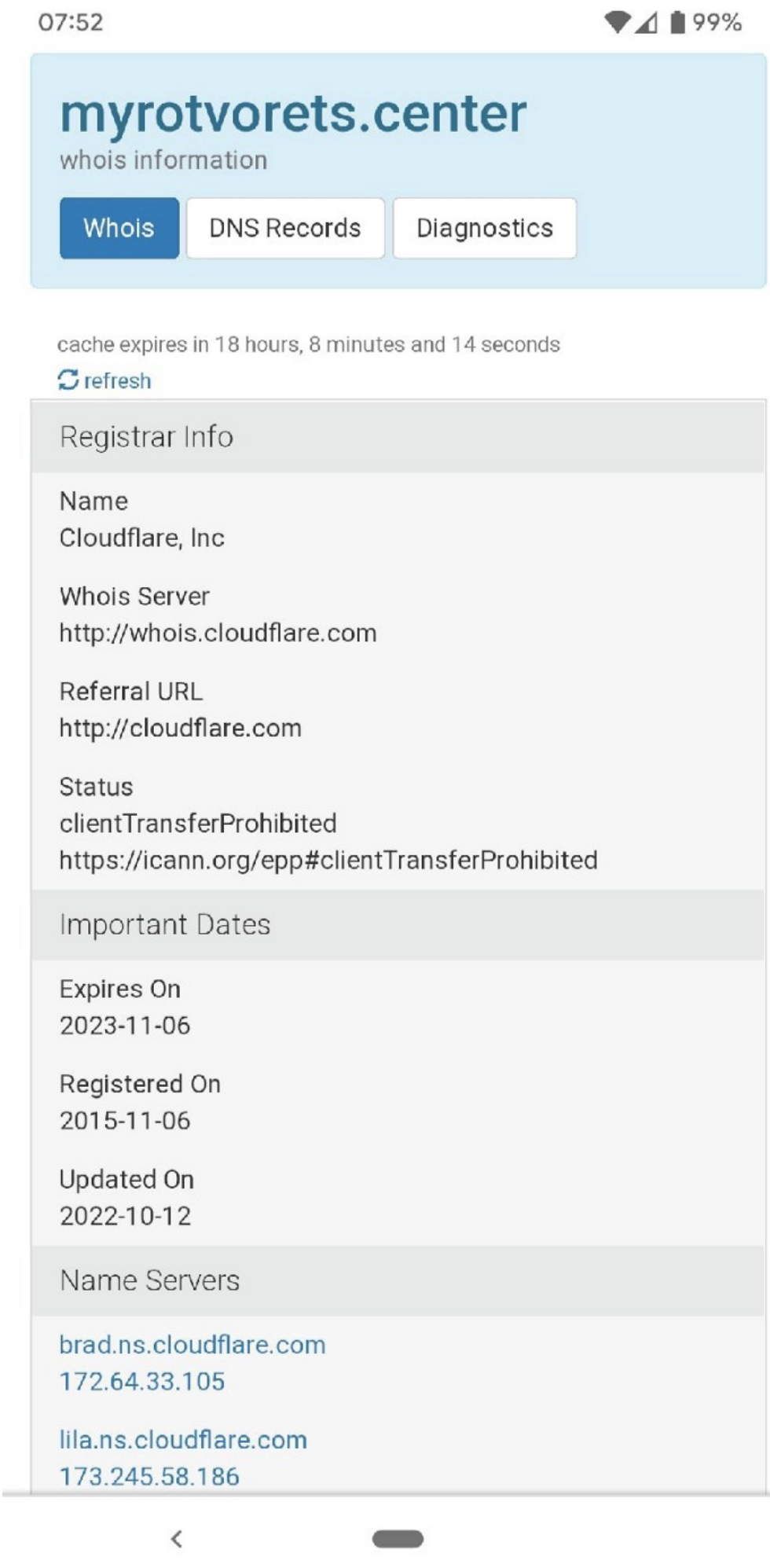
Tweet by Christopher Miller

This "safety," however, only applies to journalists supportive of Ukraine's fascist-loving government. Any journalists with independent minds need not apply. Indeed, on August 16, 2016, the BBC reported on a statement made by the *Mirotvorets* Center on Facebook: "As of today, the website Myrotvorets.center and all its mirrors are considered electronic mass media." And, as Radio Svoboda reported in 2017, after surviving an alleged assassination attempt, Gerashchenko vowed that *Mirotvorets* will never be taken down. "The 'Mirotvorets' project, which is like a bone in the throat of all of you, will work regardless of whether I am alive or not. And you will not be able to destroy it under any circumstances," the Verkhovna Rada deputy wrote on Facebook on January 22.

One month prior, in December of 2016, the *Mirotvorets* database already included more than 100,000 records of individuals from around the world. All of them, including children as young as 9 years old, are considered "enemies of Ukraine" who should be "liquidated."

Boulianne wrote that the *Mirotvorets* site is registered in his home country, Canada. "The server appears as NATO HPWS/2.1, when parsing from April 6 to April 22, 2015, it returned the address psb4ukr.nato.int as a reverse domain name, i.e. a subdomain of the official site of the NATO military bloc, while the main NATO domain, nato.int, knows nothing about it. The PTR record provided in response to a reverse DNS query typically points to a location of the site in the domain name space. The PTR record is entered into the master DNS zone file when the domain system is configured. Thus, the creators of the site specifically imitated the link to NATO."

And, as I reported last month, the site is protected by Cloudflare, a company based in California. In fact, it receives funding from the United States, approved by US Congress under HR7691, known as the "Additional Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2022." And despite appeals to the UN by human rights organizations such as the Schiller Institute, *Mirotvorets* remains.


07:52
99%
myrotvorets.center
whois information
Whois
DNS Records
Diagnostics
cache expires in 18 hours, 8 minutes and 14 seconds
refresh
Registrar Info
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Cloudflare, Inc
Whois Server
http://whois.cloudflare.com
Referral URL
http://cloudflare.com
Status
clientTransferProhibited
https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited
Important Dates
Expires On
2023-11-06
Registered On
2015-11-06
Updated On
2022-10-12
Name Servers
brad.ns.cloudflare.com
172.64.33.105
lila.ns.cloudflare.com
173.245.58.186

Mirotvorets' WHOIS record shows that they are using CloudFlare. Photo: Deborah L. Armstrong

On August 7, 2016, a lawyer from Kharkov named Aleksey Romanov revealed the name of the owner of the site, Oksana Sergeevna Tinko, who wrote on Facebook, "Yes, I took over the domains, because if something happens I have vast experience both in dealing with complaints about domains and with the closure of domains, I know this process from all sides and if something happens I can take adequate measures. And in case of any naughty person, I am ready to take the first blow and give the Peacekeepers time to solve the problem with minimal losses for themselves." The quote and her account are no longer available on Facebook. Romanov received death threats immediately after naming Tinko as the site's owner, and he complained to the UN.

And still, *Mirotvorets* remains.

It seems as though no one on the planet has the power, or the guts, to shut down this kill list even though it violates the law of every civilized country in the world, and people exposed on the list continue to be murdered.

I asked Boulliane if he had spoken to any authorities in Canada. It was a rhetorical question, as you probably know if you've read this far.

"I haven't asked and I won't ask, because I don't have time to waste," he replied with a smiley face . "I consider that what protects me the most is to make the case public."

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Deborah Armstrong currently writes about geopolitics with an emphasis on Russia. She previously worked in local TV news in the United States where she won two regional Emmy Awards. In the early 1990's, Deborah lived in the Soviet Union during its final days and worked as a television consultant at Leningrad Television.

Featured image: Guy Boulianne of Quebec targeted by "Mirotvorets" (Source: Internationalist 360)

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