

“Now, All of You Are Azov”: Ukrainian ‘Neo-Nazis’ Tour U.S.

By [Ukes, Kooks & Spooks](#)

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Over two weeks ago, a delegation from Ukraine of the neo-Nazi-led Azov movement [arrived in the United States](#), at a time when myth making about the far-right network’s “[depoliticization](#)” has reached a [fever pitch](#). Since that “Ukes, Kooks, and Spooks” scoop, more information has come to light about Azov’s recent outreach in the country, including efforts to reverse Congress’ ban on the U.S. supplying arms and training to the Azov Regiment.

The delegation included three veterans of the Azov Regiment formerly holed up in the Azovstal steel plant in Mariupol. They were led by Giorgi Kuparashvili, the only one not taken prisoner by the Russians. According to Kuparashvili, a cofounder and instructor of the Azov Regiment, they met over fifty members of Congress, far more than anyone has realized.

The trio was accompanied by two spouses and a mother of POWs captured at Azovstal. This included Kateryna Prokopenko, married to the far-right commander of the Azov Regiment, who was freed in a prisoner exchange and declared a Hero of Ukraine during her visit to the United States. The delegation’s other Azov wife was Yulia Fedosyuk, the leader of “Silver of the Rose,” an anti-feminist group linked to the Azov movement, according to journalist Oleksiy Kuzmenko.

Anti-feminist groupuscule “Silver of the Rose” that appears in [@5050oD](#) video has been embraced by [Vsi Razom](#)’s influential anti-LGBT, “pro-family” “Vsi Razom” org. In a recent interview SOR’s leader Fedosyuk <https://t.co/gBQeDz4hd7> says “feminism is ready to mutilate and sell women” pic.twitter.com/iktwqi7PPv

— Oleksiy Kuzmenko (@kooleksiy) [May 4, 2020](#)

Earlier this year, Prokopenko and Fedosyuk met the Pope. While in the United States, they [spoke at a small rally](#) in front of the White House, [appeared for an interview](#) on the pro-

Trump channel Newsmax, and took meetings with numerous members of Congress. Newsmax [separately interviewed](#) two of the Azov veterans, including Giorgi Kuparashvili.

On Saturday, September 24, half of the delegation including Kuparashvili appeared before a sizable audience at a Ukrainian church in Detroit. The Ukrainian-American Crisis Response Committee of Michigan (UACRCM), formed earlier this year, [live-streamed the event](#), which was organized by US partners of the Azov movement's charity wing.

Standing on one side of the room was Borys Potapenko, a member of the UACRCM and an international coordinator of Stepan Bandera's Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN-B) who is also among the leadership of the far-right "Capitulation Resistance Movement" in Ukraine, which allied with Azov's National Corps against Volodymyr Zelensky in 2019-22. (More about this coming soon on the "[Bandera Lobby Blog](#)"...)

Giorgi Kuparashvili spoke to the audience in English, largely about the Azov delegation's success in Washington. "We went to the Senators, Congressmen, from both parties. Honestly, the majority we met, there were like over fifty of them, and head of their fractions [Democrats and Republicans], they all gave 100% support. They started to work right from their office in front of us, picked up the phone, and started calling to different organizations which can influence — right now, we're having problems with the Geneva Conventions. Geneva Conventions is not working, not for Russia..."

Later on, Kuparashvili indicated that the delegation had more on its political agenda than detailing Russian war crimes, criticizing the International Red Cross, and securing the release of Azov POWs. He predicted that this year Congress will lift its ban on the U.S. supplying arms and training to the Azov Regiment.



The Azov delegation's audience at their first stop in New Jersey largely consisted of children (Source: Ukes, Kooks & Spooks)

In his closing remarks, Giorgi Kuparashvili appeared to conflate his least two favorite members of Congress: Ro Khanna, a progressive Democrat from Silicon Valley, thanks to whom Congress curtailed U.S. support for the Azov Regiment in 2018, and Max Rose, a former Congressman (and right-wing Democrat) from Staten Island, who called on the State Department to label the Azov Regiment a "Foreign Terrorist Organization" in 2020.

"From year '14, '15, '16, until today," claimed Kuparashvili, "there is a bill which, I don't remember the name, but the Congressman who lobbied, I don't know how... He left

Congress a couple years ago, he initiated to put the Azov as a restriction in a bill. This week, we talked to all the Congressmen and Senators, everybody understands, because when you bring the bill to Congress, they have to read it. Unfortunately, nobody read it, so they approved it again.”

“Now we told them, ‘are you supporting this?’ And everybody knows it’s just a mistake in it. As the Congressmen and Senators says, this bill goes until 2025. They’re not going to wait until 2025, and gonna make the correction on this year, to remove it from there... We’re dealing with the situation and fixing it, and majority of the job is already done, and Congress and Senate, both parties are supporting this.”

Before Kuparashvili made his closing remarks, there was an auction on behalf of the Azov charity project, which ultimately raised \$33,416 in Detroit. The auction ended with bidding on three Azov Regiment patches featuring their *wolfsangel*, a Nazi runic symbol. Before the bidding commenced, Kuparashvili insisted that things are not as they appear. “If you know, there is a symbol,” he said, tapping the patch on his left arm, “which I’m gonna explain now, because they call us Nazis, all this crap.” At that point he mockingly put his hand over his mouth, and said, “sorry my language — ha!”



Evolution of the Azov symbol. The “[Black Sun](#)” confirms that this is a neo-Nazi symbol. (Source: Ukes, Kooks & Spooks)

“This is actually two letters, two Latin letters, N and I. The N stands for National; I, it’s Idea. National Idea. National Idea. For regiment, it’s our slogan. National Idea. Every country, it doesn’t matter, it’s U.S., Ukraine, whatever. When the country was in problem, center of gravity always became the nationalists. The National Idea. All the nation gathers around the nationalists, and around the National Idea. For us, National Idea is Ukraine. If they don’t like what is Ukraine, and what it’s National Idea, hell with them...” Kuparahsvili, touching on the totalitarian Ukrainian Nationalist concept of “[Natiocracy](#),” all but admitted Azov’s affinity for white nationalists in the West.

With the myth-making about Azov's supposed depoliticization reaching new heights, this cofounder of the regiment couldn't even get the story straight whether they "got rid" of their far-right elements or never had them to begin with. <https://t.co/As3xHIAgvV>

— Moss Robeson (@mossrobeson_) [October 5, 2022](#)

According to Kuparashvili, before, only Azov members could wear their wolfsangel patches, but he bestowed permission on the audience to place their bids, because “now, all of you are Azov.” There was another disclaimer that Kuparashvili shared only after the winners emerged. “It’s a responsibility,” he said.

“We’re just handing over it,” Kuparashvili told the audience about the Azov Regiment patches. “We’re giving to those our responsibility. We have the soldiers where they go through the basic training, go through all the trainings, and difficulties. If they don’t deserve, you can’t graduate... But if you deserve it, with this comes a responsibility... Your National Idea is Ukraine. You gotta fight for it. Not just put it in a room or a shelf somewhere, but you gotta fight for it. Fight for your National Idea...” The winners each saluted Kuparashvili in the Azov fashion.

There was a charity auction of three Azov Regiment wolfsangel patches at the recent Azov event in Detroit. Azov Regiment cofounder Giorgi Kuparashvili then informed the winners, “you gotta fight for it,” and appeared to symbolically swear them in. pic.twitter.com/VY1vCnECTt

— Moss Robeson (@mossrobeson_) [October 5, 2022](#)

Two days later, the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago hosted another Azov charity auction, co-sponsored by the Banderite-led Illinois Division of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. Its most influential member, Pavlo Bandriwsky, an OUN-B leader in Chicago (aka “the Strategist”), [took pictures](#) with the Azov veterans. This event featured a battle flag of the Azov Regiment that was apparently auctioned off with the promise that every surviving member will sign it after the war is won. The Consul Generals of Germany and Poland also spoke at the event.



Left to right at the Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art in Chicago: [Wolfgang Mössinger](#), German Consul General; [Paweł Zyzak](#), Polish Consul General; and Giorgi Kuparashvili (Source: Ukes, Kooks & Spooks)

On Saturday, October 1, after returning to Washington, the full delegation, except for Kateryna Prokopenko, who left to be reunited with her husband in Turkey, made an appearance at Stanford University. Yulia Fedosyuk [concluded her remarks](#), “Glory to the Azov Regiment.” At some point, Stanford professor Michael McFaul, the dangerously foolish former US Ambassador to Russia (2012–14), [stopped by](#) to offer words of support for Ukraine, if not the Azov Regiment itself.



Source: Ukes, Kooks & Spooks

Earlier this year, Stanford's Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) published a [detailed report](#) on the "Azov Movement... a far-right nationalist network." Michael McFaul directs the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, of which the CISAC is part. He apparently took no issue with the neo-Nazi symbol projected behind him.

This might not have been the Azov delegation's last stop in the United States, but it would be rather fitting. Stanford University is in the Congressional district adjacent to Ro Khanna, whose restrictions on US support for the Azov Regiment should be lifted this year, according to one of the event's speakers. But these days, even Khanna might not object.

NYT, July 2015: Azov is "openly neo-Nazi."

NYT, October 2022: Azov is "celebrated." <https://t.co/7b69ORUbbx>
pic.twitter.com/XLs2h5wkNn

— Aaron Maté (@aaronjmate) [October 5, 2022](#)

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