

My name is Vasily Efremenko and I am from Ukraine. I am a professor of Pryazovskyi State Technical University. My university is situated in Mariupol, a city which now is well known all over the world. It is famous because now it almost completely destroyed by the Russian aggressors.

I specialize in Materials Science. Last months my group was conducting a research project aimed at the improvement of biomedical materials for orthopedic prostheses and other implants. Thus, my research activity was focused on healthcare and human well-being. However, all our efforts and plans were crushed by Russian troops who invaded Ukraine on the twenty-fourth of February. For the whole month, my city has been subjected to hundreds of Russian missiles attacks and air bomb strikes which destroyed buildings, livings blocks and infrastructure items killing thousands of civilian people including innocent children. The Russian aggressors committed the awful crimes which can not be forgiven. Our university is destroyed as well. As you can see in the photo, one of the Russian missiles hit directly the building where my department was situated. Now there is a black hole in the place of my laboratories. There is no scientific research anymore in Mariupol, there are no school classes and students studying. Only ruins and civilian bodies on the streets. This is genocide of Ukrainian people.

Many inhabitants of Mariupol, including me and my family, had to escape from being killed. We left the city moving to a safer place in Ukraine. Eventually, we lost our home, lost our job, we became refugees.

My colleagues – the professors and researchers from Mariupol and from different Ukrainian cities like Kyiv, Kharkiv, Sumy, Kramatorsk and others are suffering as well under barbaric Russian shelling and Russian air bombardments. The buildings of Kharkiv University is ruined. The research projects are suspended, and the student classes are stopped. This is the biggest scientific and humanitarian catastrophe in Europe since the Second World War.

The people of Ukraine is standing against the Russian invaders. The Ukrainian army is fighting bravely. However, our recourse is limited. Therefore We do need the military support of the world. We do need the “no-flight zone” to be protected from the Russian air forces. We do need other lethal weapons to effectively liberate the Ukrainian territories occupied by Russia.

I appeal to everyone who can hear me. Please support Ukraine, please make your government to provide us with all weapons needed for the Ukrainian army. Remember, that Ukraine is fighting against the Russian empire, protecting each country of the European Community from being invaded by Russia. Our victory will be your victory, will be the victory of the world democracy. So please help us in our struggle to win in this war with the evil!