



PUBLIC ORGANIZATION UKRAINIAN MARITIME BAR ASSOCIATION

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Our ref. 40 dated by 12 May 2022

Your ref. _____ dated _____

TO: (1) Comite Maritime International
(2) Presidents of National Maritime Law Associations

Re Azovstal in Mariupol, Ukraine

Dear Sirs, Dear Presidents,

Earlier, we asked you for help in the economic blockade of russia and assistance to Ukraine and the Ukrainian army. We are grateful to each of you for any help and support you provided to all Ukrainians and Ukraine in any form you were capable of. It was and continues to be invaluable.

Let us now turn to you with another **important and painful issue**: right now in Mariupol (Ukraine) on Azovstal, our Ukrainian soldiers are fighting in inhuman conditions, protecting the civilian population for more than two months. Many of them are seriously injured and require immediate medical attention. Looking at the photos attached to this email¹, you can try to imagine what they are like there. And this why we really want to stop these hostilities and withdraw them from there.

Therefore, we kindly ask you to apply to your political leaders to do all they can to assist Ukraine in their release and providing them with medical care. We all need to do everything that is in our hands and without further delays since every missed minute may cost their lives.

We have no hope for russia and its humane attitude towards the military: russia, as a state sponsoring terrorism for many years, has proved already many times that it is only capable of torturing and killing Ukrainians, and often because of they are simply Ukrainians. They are alien to the laws and customs of war, international humanitarian law, respect for fundamental human rights. They have neither honor nor conscience.

That is why we now appeal again and again to the international community - our strength against this insane aggression is in our unity.

Please do what you can and a bit more!

Yours sincerely,

Denys Rabomizo

President of Ukrainian Maritime Bar Association

¹ They were taken from Telegram posts <https://t.me/operativnoZSU/23779> and <https://t.me/polkazov/4472> and also used by *the Guardian* in the following publication: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/gallery/2022/may/11/inside-the-azovstal-steelworks-in-pictures>