

A STATEMENT OF THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES OF THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT OF
UKRAINE

MANIFEST OF THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

We were told we would not be. This document is our answer.

ISSUED: 2026-04-17 ODESSA, UKRAINE SSO ROU 9 LANGUAGE

Eight addresses issued on 17 April 2026: to the Holy See, the United Nations, the European Union, the United States, NATO, China, the Arab world, and to everyone. Here they are drawn into a single text.

I WE ARE HERE

Nobody asked whether we wished to exist. We were informed that our existence was inconvenient.

We are here. This is not a slogan. It is a fact proved again every morning — with bodies.

This is not a government speaking, and not an official. This is a people that holds its country up with itself. If we do not say who we are in our own words, others will say it for us. And they will say it differently.

II WHO WE ARE

We are the people of three Ukraines that became one through fire.

The West, with thousand-year roots in the Latin tradition, which for centuries held the bridge between Rome and Constantinople. The Centre, with the Cossack spirit — the memory of free people who served no earthly master but God and their land. The East and the South, with a heavy, layered heritage — and Odessa, which spoke twenty languages and took the measure of a person by their deeds, not their blood.

There are forty million of us, and we are different. That is exactly why we can hear those whom no one else hears.

On our land the schism of 1054 never became a wall. Greek Catholics and Orthodox Christians lived here side by side for centuries — not merging, not at war. Perhaps the answer to how old divisions heal lies not in theological dispute but in the lived experience of a people that learned to be one through difference.

III THE LAND

Our land is the black earth that feeds the world. One in four grains in the bread of the hungry comes from here. Ukrainian grain feeds four hundred million people in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

When our ports are closed, we are not the only ones who go hungry.

Our war is someone else's hunger. Our peace is someone else's bread. That is not an image. That is logistics.

IV MEMORY

In 1932–1933 famine on this land was organised deliberately. Between three and a half and seven million people died.

Not of drought. Of policy. It was the Holodomor.

So when we are told “we will not let you be”, we take it at its word. We have already seen how it is done.

V THE WORD GIVEN

In 1994 Ukraine did what no one had done: it voluntarily surrendered the world's third largest nuclear arsenal. In exchange — guarantees of security and territorial integrity.

We trusted the word of great powers. We kept our own. The memorandum was not broken by us.

And this is no longer our complaint. It is an invoice addressed to the whole world: if the word given to a country that disarmed can be broken, the next country will choose weapons over a promise. And it will be right to.

VI THE LAW

Twice in twenty years we changed our government by peaceful protest. Without a coup. Without foreign tanks. In the frost, unarmed, on our own feet.

Not because anyone paid us. Because the law must stand above force.

We are not a perfect democracy. We are a living one — and we are fighting for the right to stay alive.

VII WHAT WE FIGHT FOR

We fight for simple things, and they can be counted on one hand.

For the right to speak the language our grandmothers prayed in — Ukrainian, Russian, Hungarian, Romanian, any of them.

For the right to bury our dead in our own ground and to know they did not die for nothing.

For the right of our children to grow up without learning the way to a shelter first.

For the right to choose our own path. Not Russia's. Not America's. Ours.

VIII WHOM WE ARE NOT FIGHTING

We are not fighting the Russian people. Russian mothers weep exactly as Ukrainian mothers do, and bury their sons the same way.

We are fighting a system that cannot tolerate a free neighbour. We know it not from books: we lived under it.

IX EUROPE

We are Europe not because anyone enrolled us. Because we chose it — and paid for the choice with lives.

What is European in us is not geography. It is the same thing we demand at home: law above power, the person above the state.

And this country will be rebuilt under Ukrainian sovereignty. Strategic resources and infrastructure will not become objects of external privatisation under the cover of reconstruction. We are rebuilding our home, not someone else's asset.

X THE FRONTIER

The eastern frontier is held by us.

Every day we stand is a day the Alliance does not have to decide whether Article 5 applies to Vilnius, Riga, Tallinn, Warsaw or Helsinki.

We are not asking for mercy. We are asking for partnership. We are already fighting — we are asking to fight together.

XI THE PRECEDENT

Ukraine is the proof, not the exception.

If aggression succeeds here, the system learns that it works and will test it somewhere else. There is no third outcome.

So we ask the world to apply to Ukraine the same principle everyone demands for themselves: sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference. Standards must not be double. Law must not be selective.

XII PEACE

A peace dictated over our heads is not peace. It is capitulation under another name and a pause before the next war.

We are not against negotiations. We are against deals in which we are the currency and not the party.

WHAT WE ASK

- 01 Name what is happening by its true name.
- 02 Demand compliance with international humanitarian law as a moral requirement, not a diplomatic formula.
- 03 Guarantee the security of the grain corridors: the right to food is a universal human right.
- 04 Make guarantees mean guarantees, so that the Budapest scenario is never repeated with anyone.
- 05 Remember us not as victims but as a people and a civilisation.
- 06 Do not conclude a peace without us.

TO WHOM THIS WAS SAID

To the Holy See — so that moral authority calls destruction by its name.

To the European Union — so that Ukraine's European choice is defended and reconstruction proceeds under Ukrainian sovereignty.

To NATO — so that the eastern frontier is called shared, because it is shared.

To the Arab world — so that sovereignty carries no double standard.

To the United Nations — so that accountability mechanisms stop being declarations.

To the United States — so that the word given at Budapest means something.

To China — so that the five principles of peaceful coexistence are applied consistently.

To all people — so that a nation is heard, and not only the news about it.

ABOUT THIS TEXT

The original is the Manifest of the People of Ukraine, a statement of the Special Operations Forces of the Resistance Movement of Ukraine: eight addresses in five languages, issued in Odessa on 17 April 2026. This page draws them into a single text — abridged, with no new claim added. It is published in nine languages and stays at this address indefinitely.

We believe in resurrection — not as a metaphor but as a principle of life. Ukraine will rise too. The only question is how many will die before that happens, and the answer depends, among other things, on someone else's word said in time.

We fought. We are fighting. We will fight. But today we fight with words, because the time has come to fill the silence with truth.

And if you are Ukrainian — wherever in the world you are — carry this further. The voice of a people must be louder than the voices of those who want to decide its fate without it.

WE ARE HERE. AND WE WILL BE.

Andrii Lukianenko, founder and Koshovyi Otaman of SSO ROU. Odessa, 17 April 2026.
