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## **WHY WE LOVE BANDERA**

On the occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of birthday of a Great Son of Ukraine  
Lviv-1999

The author wrote this book for his coevals who were born in the godless system and had no opportunity to know the truth about the national hero of Ukraine Stepan Bandera. This book was also written for certain people of other nationalities and of another up-bringing whom the author encountered via God in his life and who became dear to the author forever.

In addition, the author's purpose was to show the religious aspect of Stephan Bandera's life, which became a milestone for the young generation of the Ukrainian patriots willing to build their own state – Ukraine. For that they need to have a high Christian morality, belong to the true Church, be cristally clear in marriage and always put the public above the private.

### **Fight for the truth till death, and the Lord will be fighting for you (Sirakh 4:28).**

My dears! Just the same as fish can't live without water so a man can't live without God's truth. And even if a man were bathing in gold his soul would still be in need. "Blessed are they which do hunger" and thirst after justice for they shall be filled. (Mt.5:6). Life passes quickly, and I'll have a sin in my soul unless I tell the truth for the sake of future generations' happiness. It is impossible to build a state without knowing one's history, without honouring that one who gave his life because of love to you.

Stepan Bandera is a hero of the 20-th century, a legend, and the most outstanding person in the whole history of Ukraine. The time has come to raise his name all over Ukraine so that every living being could thank God for sending such a bright person to us in the darkest times of the human history. It was Bandera who saved the hono

ur of Ukraine in the 20-th century and was able to organize the Ukrainian people for the fight against the satanic communism, fascism and chauvinism. That fight was so heroic that it became unsurpassed in the history of mankind. Bandera raised the Ukrainian nationalism of love up to the highest selflessness. His slogan was "God and Ukraine". That's why we love Bandera.

Someone may be surprised why I write about Stepan Bandera. I do so because I have a Ukrainian heart in my chest and God has filled it with love to my dearest Ukraine. I am just burning out with love to this fairy land and I'm looking forward to the moment when my heart will break and bring the last drop of blood in sacrifice for the happiness of my Ukrainian people, and my soul will go to God to thank Him for a gift of life and the biggest happiness of being born a Ukrainian! "Love to God and one's Motherland are the two greatest loves of every noble soul" (Pope Pius XII). He who does not love Ukraine, doesn't love God either for he doesn't have love in his heart.

My parents come from an ancient town Lisko situated over the silver Syan in the picturesque Beskids to the south-east from Peremyshl, not far from the town Syanok. It is in that area that the author of the national anthem "Ukraine is still alive", a priest and composer Mykhaylo Verbytsky was born, as well as Josaphat Kotsylovsky, a bishop of Peremyshl who witnessed his love to God and Ukraine by his death of a martyr. There was a miraculous icon of God's Mother in Lisko (today it is in Stry), and a lot of people would come from distant

lands for help. It was there that Rev Mykhaiylo and bishop Josaphat received their wonderful blessing for a thorny priesthood path and generous talents with which they so nicely decorated the suffering cross of Mother-Ukraine. My grandparents and my mother were baptised in front of the Lisko icon, both of my grandfathers visited bishop Josaphat several times, and he blessed them to live for God and Ukraine, and that blessing they passed to me. "It is impossible to separate what the Church does from the roots of nationalism. It has been so for ages, and it is so at present. He who is a Ukrainian Christian is also a Ukrainian patriot"( Patriarch Joseph Slipy).

Since early childhood I believed in God and prayed heartily not to waste my life but to offer myself completely so that Ukraine would be free and my people – happy. When my grandpa would turn on the radio broadcasting "Liberty" ("Svoboda") and I would hear "Ukraine is still alive", I would fall down on my knees and burst with tears, I almost fainted because of love to my dear Ukraine which was shackled by Moscow. My soul cried out: "Oh, God, give liberty to Ukraine and to me – strength to fight against its occupants!" Very early, when I was only six, I learned what a Moscow wild man meant. I was sitting once by the lake with some fairly elder children. A grown up lad swam up to the bank and asked to give him a hand. As a true Ukrainian, I gave him a hand but he pushed me into the deep water. I would have drowned but my guardian angel was next to me, and some invisible powers of God threw me out of the water. I looked into that wild man's evil eyes, and understood that he was a Moscow occupant. Ever since that moment I hated the red liberators.

I studied at Lviv secondary school No 75 named after Lesya Ukrainka. The teachers were exceptional but I will never forget Mrs. Nadia Ivanochko who inspired me with love to the Ukrainian language and literature forever. As for those times she did her work bravely. Once I came to my granny who lived in a village and asked who Lenin was. She said he was antichrist and it was enough for me never to believe the lying soviet propaganda. And when I heard that God didn't exist, I promised myself that as soon as I grow up I would prove those godless people that God does exist. We had a dictation at school and there was a word "God" in it. We, little children, whispered to each other hastily and wrote "God" from a capital letter. It was the first protest. Later, after the fourth form, we formed an Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalities for the fight against the occupants. In 1973 two boys drew the large five-metre tridents on the skyscrapers in Liubinska Street. The KGB rushed into our school and found the carved tridents on the desks. They fired the principal and many teachers and began to reeducate us. They would check our bags and check whether we were wearing red socks. At history lesson, the Red Army in the Crimea was the topic of discussion and suddenly my classmate next to me fell down from the chair. I was instantly taken to inquest for making a diversion. Once, we were let go from PT lesson which was the last one and we got into the cloak-room to give out the coats for all the class. For that we were both taken to the principal for inquest. She shouted: "You are connected with banderians, give me their addresses", - and she began to beat us. We were running round the table, and so was she running after us.

That all was not wasted but it only gave me a chance to understand clearly that Bandera's blood was flowing in my veins. I made up my mind to fight against the soviets. Every year at Christmas and Easter I took active part in the religious customs and traditions. In this way I protested against atheism and testified my faith in Christ. My granddad used to teach me wisdom very carefully: "At a lesson a teacher offered to write a sentence. Ivan gets up and says: Our cat had got eight kittens and they were of the same colour and loved the Soviet power. It's nice! Everybody wrote it down... A week later at the same lesson Ivan offered a new sentence. "Our cat had got eight kittens and they were of the same colour and they didn't

love the Soviet power.” The teacher cries out: How come? A week ago they loved and now they don’t. Ivan answered that they had been blind a week ago but now they began to see clearly.” My granddad also told me that Bandera’s men defended the Ukrainian people from Polish, Moskow and fascist terror. From his words I understood that Stepan Bandera was a saint for us. The more the bolshevic propaganda lied the more I had an opposite reaction. And my mother also told me how one could be accepted to komsomol: your fingers were squeezed into the closing door and pressed. The cruel treatment of people was intolerable both in villages and towns. I always believed that the commune would be destroyed and Ukraine would become free.

In 1977, I was taken to a concentration camp, i.e. to the Soviet army – and miraculously I came back home safe. I had a special training since my childhood, so I was prepared for the worst. I went for boxing and music; I rode motorbikes and horses, read a lot, especially about Cossacks and Banderians. I believed that I had to cope with everything on my own – for the sake of Ukraine. And here we go, I found myself in the Zabaykalia Military Command – “Forget about coming back”. The garrison was in the forest far from the people. There were 60 percents of condemners among the soldiers in it. The garrison consisted of 1000 persons. I was 18 and next to me there were the men of 27 and after 5-7 years in prison. Everybody had a knife, some had guns and a day without fight was considered a lost one. According to my calculations, over 70 persons died in different cruel cases within two years. They were killed, hung, shot and drunken frozen in snow. And how many of them lost their mind! At once I organized a coup and we took the power in our hands. The chief of the headquarters called me out and said that if they would prove my guilt they would send me to a disciplinary battalion but if the victim would turn out to be guilty he would be excluded from the YCO (Youth Comsomol Organization) because he was a YCO leader. This is what the bolshevic system was like! Each day passed in high tension, and at night we had to stand on duty with sticks as guards, in turns, because there were attacks. Before every battle I told myself such words: I am a Banderian and I want the truth, so God is with me and will help me. Freedom or death! There were 36 nationalities in the garrison and each of them was against those who were from Ukraine. It was pleasant to hear that Russians, Poles and Jews from Ukraine were called Banderians. But they perceived it easily because the death was around and they had to save themselves. It was there that I understood that every nationality has its decent people and its villains. Eventually, after a year and a half of the service, the culmination came. All the convicts said that it would have been better to spend three years in prison than to serve in such an army for two. And we broke through. We set up a discipline in nine barracks and after began to sing “Ukraine is still alive”. It was on December 16, 1978, when I was 20. The pack of red officers came down upon us. They took nine men to the main guard and began to torture them shouting: “Well, Banderians, did you want free Ukraine”. They heated up a metal hook and burnt the bodies with it, hit with a cable string on the heels and on the back to damage the kidneys. On the third day of such refined tortures, we began to lose our strength and then the officers’ wives began to cry and so they saved us. They were frightened that when their children would join the Soviet Army, it might be the same with them.

Besides, we were often taken to the drill ground and a wolf-hound would be let loose upon us. The one who was the last found himself in the dog’s teeth. One would sleep at night and think: will there be a dog this morning or not? One drunken officer shot at the battalion commander. He was excluded from the Communist Party for a year. What a humane Soviet power! After such a hell I felt changed. When I came back home and saw Lviv, I couldn’t believe I was free and I fainted. Standing like a blind I didn’t know what was happening to me.

For two years after service in the army I couldn't sleep at night, I would wake up and cry because I was seeing all this in my dreams. I began to stammer and I had a feeling that I had lived not 20 years but 80. I was alive just because I prayed to God every day and He saved me. My brother Oleg was on service near Kyiv in 1983 and one time he tore off his shoulder-straps, saying to the officer: "I won't wear your bolshevic uniform, I will wear Bandera's one!" He would have been imprisoned but the case was closed since on that day a soldier shot himself and the officers had to be silent. That Bolshevik Army hardened me and persuaded me of the fact that I am one of Banderians – someone who fights for the truth, freedom and who wishes happiness to Ukraine and all the people. I thank God for such a good school of life because during the next 20 years I was using its lessons. It was the commune that created all the necessary conditions under which Stepan Bandera became for me the best example of offering for the sake of God. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13)

Ukraine has been destined with a heavy cross and many people ask themselves: "Why is it so?" And we can find the answer in the Holy Scripture: "Thus, I ask those who this book will be got to, not to drive in despair because of those misfortunes but believe that the punishment was given not for doom but for teaching our people, because not to let the sinners be for a long time but to punish them at once – this is a guard sign of much kindness. If Lord is waiting very patiently with the other peoples until the numbers of their sins will be full to be punished He has made a different decision to us – that is not to punish us at the end, when our sins come to the edge. That's why He never deprives us of His grace: and though He punished his people with chastisement but He never leaves them" (II Mks. 6: 12-16). In a strange way, nowadays we remain the greatest Christian nation in the world where the people still massively go to church and want to live with God, to be priests and to go to monasteries. The materialized world hasn't got that all. So one may be wondering why such is the destiny of Ukraine ...

The Ukrainian nationalism of love, its modern ideology has got its own source first of all in the literary heritage left by Taras Shevchenko, who was born on 09.03.1814 in Moryntsi village, Cherkasy. He was baptized by the priest of GCC Oleksa Bazarynsky in St. John's church. The church in Kyrylivka – where their family moved in – had the same name. And in 1830 these two villages were occupied by Moscow Empire. Taras's grandfather Ivan, Andrew's son, was born in 1757 (he lived 115 years ) and grandmother Marta was born in 1766. They were Greek-Catholics. The first religious knowledge little Taras got from his very religious father Hryhoriy who very often read Holy Scripture and Hagiography on holidays at home. The father of the future genius was quite an educated man and had his own "Kyiv Pateryk" and "Mineys". This teaching had its impact: "Oh, my God, how much I want to live and love Your Truth and embrace the whole world!" ("We are so similiar in authumn"), "Pray to the only God, pray for the Truth on the earth and don't adore anybody else on the earth" ("Neophyts"), "Oh, my quite world, my dear land, my Ukraine! For what have you been trodden, for what are you dying?" ("An Open Grave"), "The Poles were and took everyting and drank all the blood! ... But Moscovites even God's world put into the chains" ("The Blind"), "Get up; break your chains up and our freedom drop with the enemy's blood" ("The Testament"), "Ukraine will rise and destroy the darkness of slavery, the world of truth will shine and the enslaved children will pray in freedom!" ("In Subotiv village...").

In 1891, on the occasion of the 30-th anniversary of T. Shevchenko's death, the students of Great Ukraine gave their promise on the grave in Kaniv to fight for the independent Ukraine. At that time the first national organization of Ukraine was set up. It was called "Taras's Fellowship" and consisted of Mykola Mikhnovsky, Borys Hrinchenko, Ivan Lypa

and others. The leader of this organization was Mykola Mikhnovsky (born 1873). He came from Poltava and was a son of an Orthodox priest who preached patriotic sermons in Ukrainian and for that he was pursued by the Moscow occupants. Mykola did well in Kyiv with his studies and wrote the first important work on the Ukrainian nationalism. Mikhnovsky was a gifted organizer and had unusual capacity of warfare. It was he who became the first leader of UPR (Ukrainian People's Republic) army. He was destroyed by the mortal enemies of Ukraine in 1924. But his deeds were not wasted because they found their continuation in Yevgen Konovalets who was the organizer of iron OUN (Organisation of Ukrainian nationalists) in 1929.

Beside Shevchenko, the young Ukrainian patriots took their strength from Ivan Franko "And here we go all tied together into one community by a sacred thought, with hammers in our hands. We may be damned and forgotten by the world! – Still we are crushing this rock, making even the paths for the truth and the happiness for all will come after our dead bones" ("Kamenyar") and unusual woman Lesia Ukrainka : "Yes, I'll smile through tears, sing songs in misfortune, hope where the hope has no place, I'll live ! The sad thoughts get away from me!" ("Contra spem spero"), and also Vasyl Stephanyk who formed the red-and-black banner of OUN. The black Ukrainian soil and the red blood shed for Ukraine ("Sons"). The Ukrainian nationalists took the basic principle of Christianity – that love exceeds hatred – as their ideological and moral weapon.

Just imagine that God sends us today a man who would introduce discipline in the state ruled by thieves and criminals; make them pay the wages to the people, would forbid abortions, close the markets on Sunday and punish drinking alcohol, smoking and lewdness. Some would pray for him and some would like to kill him. This is what Bandera was like – a person that became a corner-stone!

Stepan Bandera was born on January 1, 1909 in Stary Ugryniv village near Kalush, Ivano Frankivsk. His father Andriy, born 1882, came from Stry and was a Greek-Catholic priest. His mother, Myroslava Glodzynska, born 1890, was a priest's daughter. In 1906 they got married and gave birth to 8 children: Marta (1907), Stepan (1909), Oleksa (1911), Volodymyr (1913), Vasyl (1915), Oksana (1917), Bohdan (1919) and Myroslava (1921), the latter died as a baby. Such parents are a pattern for imitation for a Ukrainian family! During the wartimes Mrs Bandera caught a cold while travelling and died in spring 1922 at the age of only 32, but she left the most valuable treasure – the children and went to God for the eternal reward, on having fulfilled God's will. Father, Andriy, was a man of an extraordinary energy and took the most active part in the fight for the better destiny of Ukraine. He managed to teach and bring up his children and implant in them love to God and Ukraine. He himself was a sample of a holy life. He confessed the soldiers of UGA (Ukrainian Galician Army) who were ill with typhus and caught it himself but only miraculously stayed alive. He spoke openly against the Polish and Moscow occupants for what he was persecuted. Father Andriy considered himself a man of Byzantine rite and he was against introducing the elements of the western rite into the church because in this way everything Ukrainian would have been ruined: the rite, the culture, the language and the state ...

Father Bandera was of a mild stature, grey-haired and with a small beard. He was gay and lively by nature. In the conversation with him, all the sadness, sorrow and anxiety disappeared from the faces of those who were in his presence. When Bolsheviks came, father Andriy said to the priests: "Everything is in God's hands. They have got the future of our people. We, priests, let's not be weak-hearted in the eyes of our parish". In 1940 father Bandera refused to go abroad and answered quietly: "With the coming of the Soviet regime, my daughter Marta

got some warm boots and clothes on my request. Today I am ready for everything! There can be nothing worse than Solovky, Kolyma or Vorkuta waiting for me. A violent death from bolsheviks' bullet or from tortures in prisons of NKVD will make my meeting with eternal God closer! In May, 1941 father Andriy said: "Germany is preparing for the war against Moscow and so we should expect everything from bolsheviks. But I won't leave my parish out of my own will. Only an order from my church authorities or the enemy's violence can part me with my parish and of course, the death can do that eventually!" And so it happened. The communists arrested Rev Bandera on 23.05.1941 and took him to Kyiv where, after long inquests and a trial, he was shot dead on July 10, 1941. In 50 years the Ukrainian prosecuting magistracy rehabilitated him. I wonder, when the Catholic Church will proclaim him a holy martyr who was shot by the godless people because of his love to God and Ukraine.

As we can see, Stephan Bandera had religious parents and he was brought up in the same spirit. He would say: "The fight for the freedom and the truth, for God and Motherland must be the essence of life of an enslaved nation." Therefore, since early childhood he was preparing himself to a fight for a better destiny of Ukraine. In the morning and in the evening Stepan prayed heartily and he wore an icon of God's Mother on his chest. Secretly, he beat himself with a chain and pickled himself with needles in order to be ready for the police tortures. In 1927 he finished gymnasium with honour in Striy and then the Lviv Politechnic Institute. He went in for sport, was of a mild stature, with wide shoulders, brave, very patient and also witty and merry. When he had free time he played chess, sang in a choir and played the guitar and mandoline. He never drank or smoked.

In 1922 Bandera joined "Plast", and in 1928 he joined the Ukrainian Military Organisation. From 1929 till death he was a member of OUN (Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists). At the age of 24 Stepan Bandera became a regional leader of OUN. It was he who initiated a cult of symbolic graves of the fighters for the independence of Ukraine. These graves were made in all regions of Ukraine. The Poles forbade this action and repressed it. All that reminded the people about their political reality – the state of national slavery of Ukraine. The people opposed and in such a way wide masses were being involved into an active fight. And Bandera's slogan was worth a lot: "Take away vodka and tabbacco from the Ukrainian villages and towns because every banknote of money spent on such things enriches the finances of the occupants, and the latter use it to ruin Ukraine". This action did a lot of harm to the servants of devil and raised the welfare of the Ukrainian village. Even the sight of a glass or cigarette was enough for the Ukrainian peasants and workers to remember the problem of national slavery of Ukraine. How much we are lacking Stepan nowadays!

Bandera also organized an action of protecting Ukrainian pupils from spoiling the souls of Ukrainian children by Polish chauvinistic propaganda. At that time the Poles prohibited at schools anything that had relevance to Ukrainian identity. On one day the children all over Western Ukraine refused to answer in Polish at school. They threw out the coat-of-arms and flags of the occupants and called the occupant teachers to get out from Ukraine. The parents supported their children actively and this action sewed a good seed in the souls of the future fighters for Ukraine's liberty.

The death of two young OUN members, Dmytro Danylyshyn and Vasyl Bilas, gave a serious impulse to the fight. They behaved bravely at the inquests, and Dmytro didn't utter a word. Everyone was even wondering if he hadn't become dumb. But

then suddenly he gets up in the court and says: "I know what awaits me. I was and am ready for everything. I am only sorry that I won't be able to go on working further for our Mother-Ukraine". At dawn on 23.12.32 they both were executed in Lviv prison Bryhidky.

Owing to Bandera this day became the day of national Ukrainian mourning. At the moment of execution suddenly the bells started ringing all over Galicia, calling out every Ukrainian soul to honour the heroes and to fight for victory, for the highest idea.

At that time bolsheviks organized in the Eastern Ukraine the biggest artificial famine in the history of mankind. As a result, over 10 million people died. During all the years of the communist rule, over 20 million Ukrainian people were tortured to death by the artificial famines in Ukraine. Also, according to Lenin's order, 6 million Russian people were destroyed by an artificial famine in the Volga regions in 1922. Communism is a collective possession by evil spirits which was initiated by a satanic priestess Joanne Southcot and in 1814 James White went on teaching this doctrine with a communist colouring. Karl Marks said that his aim was to throw down God from the heavens and to leave the whole mankind into the abyss of hell. This is where this beastly doctrine comes from and many people, who turned back from God's law of love, let themselves be cheated by it. Only those who firmly believed in Jesus Christ and took hold of the holy Church managed to preserve their souls and rose for the fight against the rulers of darkness in that age. The Ukrainian nationalities were such ones. In 1933, disguised as a diplomat, O. Mailov, a special representative of Stalin, came to Lviv with the task to make impossible any further actions of protest from the side of the Ukrainians in Galicia and Volyn against the famine in the Soviet Ukraine. On October 22, an OUN warrior Mykola Lemyk entered the Soviet Consulate in Lviv and shot the representative of a satanic power. After that he let himself be arrested and in the court he claimed he had shot the Moscow agent to pay for the death of millions of Ukrainians. This action, in detail organized by Stepan Bandera, revealed the real face of Moscow before the whole world and hardened in the souls of western Ukrainians the feeling of unity and national solidarity with the eastern part of the Ukrainian people. In such a horrible for Ukraine time the world was silent though the moral theology says: "The indifference of human community towards deathly famine and the absence of attempts to help are signs of a crying evil and a hard guilt. Making money and usury that lead to famine and death of your brothers equals an indirect murder. It is considered as guilt."

Meanwhile, the Polish occupant authority in Western Ukraine went completely mad and aimed to smash everything Ukrainian away from the surface of the earth, though shortly before that they had promised before the world to give autonomy to the native people. In 1930, pacification or so called "calming down" the region began. Polish police, army and civil chauvenists, like a pack of wolves, attacked Ukrainians. They were killing, torturing and executing everyone, even priests. They demanded to change the rite and to become Polish in all ways. The one responsible for pacification was general Pieratski, the Minister of Home Affairs of Poland who spotted his hands with the blood of thousands of innocent Ukrainians. In order to stop this awful aggression, Stepan Bandera organizes secret attack on general Pieratski. On 15.06.1934, in the center of Warsaw, at daytime, an OUN warrior Hryhoriy Matseyko killed the murderer of the Ukrainian people. Matseyko successfully fled and ran abroad. Moral theology says that it is necessary to render the aggressor harmless for the sake of defending society. This action became known all over the world and showed the real situation of the Ukrainian population under the Polish occupants.

There are people who have a twisted mind and can't tell pea from cabbage and so they ask a lot of questions. Here is the answer to their doubts. "Life of Saints" describes that in 1431 in France a saint Joan of Arc was burnt as a sorceress. In 1920 Christ Vicar proclaimed her a saint and on his knees he asked: "Saint Joan, pray for us!" The illiterate peasant-girl had a vision from God and a clear order to free the native land from the alien riders – the English. She did

not find support for a long time and a lot of too literate people were asking her: “You say that your voices told you: God wishes to free the French people from hard times. If He wants to free them, the army is not needed.” “The warriors will fight. – Joan answered, - “and God will provide the victory”. In the march Joan was walking behind priests who were singing the Prayer to Holy Spirit. In the same way God sent Stepan Bandera to Ukraine – a priest’s son to fight against the alien riders – the occupants.

From November 1935 till January 1936, a loud political trial against 12 members of OUN was taking place in Warsaw. From the first day when the trial began, Stepan Bandera gave it a special colouring because he refused to speak Polish saying that the court must admit the right to speak in Ukrainian and the will of the defendant. With his brave speech, Bandera lighted the sparkle of courage in the rest of the defendants. When a Ukrainian student Vera Svetsitska, daughter of the director of National Museum in Lviv, entered the court, she greeted other defendants with the words “Glorify Ukraine”. And when Bandera was sentenced to death, he called out proudly: “May Ukraine be alive!” The scandal round this case was unbelievable. The whole world began to talk about the young Ukrainian nationalities – even the Polish press began to sympathise with them.

“The trial with the Ukrainian terrorists begins to change its face slowly and instead the persons with gloomy faces, we see two girls and a couple boys who are young and looking in our eyes bravely and clearly. Those people killed with desire to serve their people. They weren’t boys who didn’t have money for movies or drink. This is a boy in whose soul there is disgust to the Polish “superiority” and deprivation even of the right for his national name. It is necessary ask for responsibility those who are irresponsible and indifferent, as well as those who underestimated the problem and also all the liars, and those who were fond of Vishnevsky’s and Stempkovsky’s traditions” (Literaturni Vidomosti).

“We, Polish people, have right to speak out loud about the existence of Ukrainian people, their fight for their right to live. It’s us who must understand and value the heroic effort of the Ukrainian people who have not had their own state for hundreds of years, who have been russified, polonised, torn apart, and still survived.” (Prosto z Mostu). And even the Polish Catholic “Polonia” wrote: “Especially in such trials the judges must remember that they have to judge a person who even if committed a crime, still deserves the highest respect because he violated the laws struggling for an idea.” W When the prosecutor wanted to humiliate OUN with the remark that military activity conducted by OUN is nothing but terror which is contradictory to the basics of Christian morality, Bandera answered: “The moral responsibility for that lies entirely on the Polish people and government who, by violating God’s and human laws, have enslaved the Ukrainian people and created the circumstances under which the Ukrainian people had to kill the murderers and traitors”. Bandera’s and his friends’ behaviour in the court produced a great sympathy to the Ukrainian liberating movement in the whole world and that’s why the Polish authority couldn’t dare to execute the capital punishment and substituted it with imprisonment for lifetime. All the tortures, starvation and mockery Bandera faced so bravely that he commended respect to himself not only among his friends but also among his enemies. These are father Joseph Kladochny’s words who confessed Bandera three times a year in prison: “Bandera was a Godly religious man, he confessed his sins, received communion always when I was in prison and though we were under careful supervision, he made the jail supervisors be at a distance during his confession. He was a man of a strong will who wanted to make things his way. If there is a superman, he was the very one, he was the one who put Ukraine above everything”. Bandera himself was conducting a choir in prison and the prisoners sang the Liturgy so well that the jail guards enjoyed their singing. At the beginning



of WWII in 1939, during bombardment of Brest, Bandera managed escape and got to Lviv on foot.

At that time the situation in OUN was complicated. On 23.05.1938 in Rotterdam Yevgen Konovalets, the head of Ukrainian Nationalist leadership was killed. He was born on 14.06.1891 in Zashkiv village and he was a cousin of the bishop Volodymyr Sterniuk. He studied at the department of Law in Lviv and went to front in a very young age. His service was in Makivka and he found himself in Russian captivity for two years. Having escaped in 1971, Konovalets organized Galicia – Bukovina Kourin of Riflemen which later became the main military force of the young UNR. Having gone abroad, Konovalets organized the armed underground against bolshevic and Polish invaders. He headed the Ukrainian Military Organisation which existed for 10 years until it joined the newformed OUN in 1929. Colonel Konovalets was one of the famous advisors of the Ukrainian unifying statehood in the 20-th century, a rare individual and a statesman with a view into remote future; he was always for unity and against enmity. Here is his statement:” Let’s go different ways but to the common aim. In fire iron changes into steel, in fight the people change into the nation. Nobody but God can be above us!” His attitude to people and good connections with the leaders of all the Ukrainian groups and camps, his passion for the military matters, titanic activity and search of allies against Moscow – all these became the reason for his heroic death. Yevgen Konovalets was able to unite the Ukrainian people around himself. He was a sample for Stepan Bandera and Roman Shukhevich, the general of UPA.

After Konovalets’ death some misunderstandings began in OUN, they finished with the division into Melnyk’s men and Banderians. At present many people speculate over it but there is a simple answer to everything. To whom was this enmity in OUN convenient? Of course it was suitable to the enemies of Ukraine. In 1932 in Sambir, Lviv region, Roman Baranovsky, a member of UMO was on trial. He confessed that he was an agent provocator at the Polish policy. He said frankly how much they paid him for each betrayed Ukrainian nationalist. His father, a Ukrainian, and mother, a Pole, repudiated their son, but his brother Yaroslav didn’t, he belonged to abroad-section of UND and was in close touch with Konovalets. Soon it turned out that also had been working for Polish police and did a lot of harm for the liberating movement in Ukraine. He persuaded Andriy Melnyk to take a leadership of UNL after Konovalets, as if it had been the will of the dead, given orally only to Baranovsky in private. What kind of oral testament could it have been at the age of 47 and what for was the election to OUN held? Melnyk had never been a member of OUN and had not taken any part in the liberating movement for more than 10 years but only worked as a forester. However he agreed to be a leader of UNL. Z. Knysh also joined them as a KGB agent and all together they began to fight against Bandera. Then 50 members followed Melnyk and 20, 000 young Ukrainian nationalists followed Bandera. Stepan made a few steps towards understanding but Melnyk, instigated by Baranovsky, rejected them with pride. The final collapse took place when Melnyk issued an order to give the Carpathian Ukraine to Magyars and take an orientation on Germany that would grant freedom to Ukrainians. To this Bandera said that they had to rely only on God and defend their own land with their strength, do everything in order for Ukraine to get out of that awful war with dignity. Stepan was a knight by character and could forsee far ahead.

It is worth mentioning that in September and October 1938 in Lviv two mass demonstrations were held in support of the brothers from the Trans-Carpathia (and also a special Liturgy in St.George Cathedral) which ended up with police fights. Then Poles were throwing thousands of Ukrainians – even priests – into prison, mainly to Bereza Kartuzka.

Who could put up with that? And still, in Hust, on 15.03.1939 the Carpathian Ukraine was proclaimed. Rev Augustyn Voloshyn, a priest of UGCC, was elected a president. Later he was executed by communists in a Moscow prison on July 11, 1945. The Magyars sent a well-equipped 40-thousand army to the Trans-Carpathian region which had to fight with 12 thousand Sich Riflemen. Mykhaylo Kolodzynsky, Leon Kossak and Roman Shukhevych were the commanders. Hitler sent his consul Hofman with the request for capitulation. To this, Kolodzynsky said in reply: "There is not a word "to capitulate" in the vocabulary of the Ukrainian nationalist. A stronger enemy can gain victory over us but he can't put us on knees – never!"

Banderians also said that it was necessary to mobilize everybody for the defence of church and the front must be unanimous because the communist regime began an open attack against UGCC and Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky. Of course, most of Banderians were Greek-Catholics but they held on to the view that in Ukraine there had to be the Only State Church headed by Patriarch, and not the division of Ukrainians into Orthodox or Greek-Catholic. Not far from Lutsk, OUN hid seven Orthodox priests who managed to avoid arrest and departure. Both the fascists and the communists were against spreading UGCC in the Eastern Ukraine. As you see, there was one and the same conductor in this case.

In the Headquarters of the German army there was an anti-German coalition with whom Bandera's men ("banderivtsi") made contacts, and with whose help they trained two legions of the Ukrainian warriors. Three years later, members of this coalition made an attempt upon Hitler's life. So, with who did Bandera work and why were he and a well-known attorney Volodimir Horbovy arrested by SS on 20, June, 1941, i.e. two days before the war? Till the fall of 1944 Bandera was in the concentration camp "Sachsenhausen" expecting his death every day. It was enough just to agree for cooperation with the fascists and everything would have been different. But Bandera was a son of a Ukrainian priest; therefore, he did not care about his benefit but about the fortune of Ukraine.

Shortly before the war began, the Ukrainian population was terrified by numerous tortures. A lot of innocent people from the villages and towns of Ukraine were massacred in a satanic way. Blood flowed in streams. The Germans opened the prisons and the people saw an awful tragedy. All the prisons were packed with massacred bodies, especially bodies of the Ukrainian intellectuals and patriots. People, overcome with grief, were looking sadly at the occupants and soon realised that communism and fascism are two monsters of Satanism.

Proxy of Bandera formed the Ukrainian National Committee. It included representatives of all the existing at that time Ukrainian political groups. In the house of "Prosvita" in Lviv, on 30 June, 1941 a historical event took place, and it was later announced all over the world – it was an Act of Reestablishing the Ukrainian State. The hierarches of Ukrainian Churches blessed this historical event.

### **Pastoral Letter of UGCC Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky**

Of Almighty and Almerciful God's will, a new epoch in the life of the State Catholic Independent Ukraine began. The Public Meeting, held yesterday, stated and proclaimed this historical event. While informing you, the Ukrainian people, of such listening to our prayers, I ask you to show your gratitude to Almighty God, faithfulness to His Church and obedience to the power. The war times will need still more sacrifices but the business started in the name of God and with God's grace, will come to its successful ending. The sacrifices, which are necessary to achieve our aim, will consist in the obedient exposing to the fair orders of the

authorities that aren't contradictory to God's laws.

At this historical moment, the Ukrainian people must show that they have enough authority and strength to deserve such a position among the European peoples, in which they could develop all the strength given to them by God. With orderliness, solidarity and scrupulous discharge you must prove that you are mature enough to lead a state life. We give our full obedience to the established authority. We recognize Yaroslav Stetsko as a chairman of the Ukrainian State Government.

From this government we are expecting a wise, fair leadership which will satisfy the needs of all the citizens of our country despite their faith, nationality and social position. May our Lord bless all your work, the Ukrainian people, and may He give the Wisdom from Heavens to all our leaders.

*Given in Lviv at St George Cathedral I.VII. 1941*

***Andrei-Metropolitan.***

### **Pastoral Letter of UGCC Metropolitan Polikarp Sicorsky**

To all the Ukrainians living in Volin'! Peace to you from our Father God and our Lord Jesus Christ! My dear children! The great grace and justice from God approached us. For a long time our people suffered from the outrage and mockery at the holy dignity. In the state of bolshevic antichrist, terror and horror reached unbelievable scale in comparison with those in the times of rule of the Roman emperors Neron and Diocletian. The godless people awfully avenged themselves of the Christian faith, torturing the archpastors, thousands of faithful Christians, pastors and proclaiming the law of treachery and hatred. This is how in front of our eyes God's justice became real: one God, one nation and a better future shared by everyone. Our eternal dream has come true. In the city of Lion, a king, joyful news is announced on the radio: the Independent Ukrainian State has been proclaimed. Our long-suffering Church rejoices together with the Ukrainian people. Revived in an independent Ukrainian state, the Ukrainian independent Orthodox Church will be an indissoluble integrity with the people.

At this great moment I address you, my dear children, with the words of St Apostle Paul: "Now I beseech you brethren, by that name of our Lord Jesus Christ that ye all speak the same thing and there be no divisions among you: but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Cor.1:10) So love God and to love Motherland is the greatest virtue. To serve the Motherland is the greatest duty. May our graceful God help you, my people, and you, my government, to build an Independent Ukrainian State, and I will pray for you to our God. At this great time all the Ukrainians should unite, everybody should work together with others because the strength is in the unity and we should reveal it. We do not need parties, we do not need groups, and we do not need to fight with each other. We must all unite around our holy Orthodox Church, around our government and our National Leadership. I call for God's blessing to the whole Ukrainian people and their state government.

*Given in Lutsk, Volyn', on 10 July, 1943.*

***Polikarp, Bishop of Lutsk.***

More than 100 representatives from all over Ukraine and also the future Patriarch Joseph Slipyj were present at that event. The Act of June 30, 1941 showed to the whole world and Germany in particular, that the Ukrainian people were the legal owners of their land and they would defend it against anybody who would try to tread down the freedom of Ukraine. This joyful news was carried to the Eastern Ukraine by 6 thousand Bandera's men who were

divided into three groups and formed the Ukrainian administration and centers of OUN (Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists). The biggest one of them was in Dnipropetrovsk region - 5 thousand people, in Kirovograd region - 1100 and also in Donbas and the Crimea.

On finding out about the Act of proclaiming the Independent Ukraine, Hitler issued an order to destroy Bandera's movement immediately: Einsatzkommando C/5 SB and SD-OU 25.11.1941 - Command- the Noon Order p. 12 432/41 GRS. To the cities: Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolayiv, Rivne, Zhytomyr, Vinnytsia. Matter: Bandera's organization. "It is stated without any doubt that Bandera's Organization is preparing a revolt in Reichskomisariat /Ukraine/ with the purpose of establishing an independent Ukrainian State. All the members of Bandera's Organization must be immediately arrested and after severe examinations they must be liquidated secretly as if because of robbery attacks".

Secret! A report about the events in Ukraine, chapter 164, Center: Kyiv. "The received typed materials and attestations of the arrested men of Bandera prove again that it is impossible to involve the members of Bandera's Organization into any positive cooperation with German officials. The only way out left is to destroy this organization without mercy".

January 1942; report p.9. "In July 1941 the widely spread response of a Ukrainian lieutenant Legenda contained an appeal to organize a Ukrainian armed force. For that reason, it is necessary not to give the taken Soviet arms to fascists but to retain it for that planned Ukrainian Army. According to these commissions, OUN has been active up till now.

.....Report "p" "10" from "3/07/1942:" "In" Kyiv "an" OUN " (under "the" leadership" "of Bandera) leaflet with organizational commissions has been caught. There, the introduction said: "The task before the Ukrainian people is to form an independent national state. Without their own state, government and army, there can't be free life for the Ukrainian people!"

Report p. 26 from 23/10/1942: "Bandera's Organization has evidently taken a fighting position against Germany and is striving with all its efforts and means, including armed fighting, for the resuming of an independent Ukraine."

This document later played an important role at the Nurnberg process and OUN-UPA (Ukrainian Revolt Army) was recognized as a whole civilized world and as a warring side. In response to the Hitler's ultimatum - to call off the Act of renewal of the Ukrainian State, the leader of OUN Stepan Bandera, the government prime-minister Jaroslav Stetsko and the chairman of UNC (Ukrainian National Committee) Volodymyr Horbovyi rebuffed with dignity and stood up bravely without hesitation, even staying in the concentration camp Sachsenhausen. The moral strength of Bandera's character and his physical endurance against tortures turned out to be stronger than the whole physical force of Gestapo. All that strengthened the authority of OUN among the people and encouraged to the heroic fight against fascism and all the occupants who were destroying Ukraine. Stepan would say: "We care for the defense of the highest common human values – the faith in God, freedom, dignity, right and free development of people and a person in particular. For the whole liberating competition is meant to guarantee, develop and cherish all these values in one's own independent state as much as possible..."

During the first half a year the fascists executed 3 million Ukrainians; among them there were 2, 5 million people killed by artificial famine in the open air, in the area fenced by a barbed wire, and the rest of them were tortured to death. The fascists' edge was targeted at Bandera's men especially. Over 4 thousand – out of the group of 6 thousand people marching eastward – died but they fulfilled their task – they raised the people for the fight against Hitler and Stalin.

Polish chauvinists and Moscow communists also took part in the fight against Bandera.

In the same days when Bandera was taken to Berlin by gestapo, KGB shot his father in Kyiv and his three sisters Marta, Volodymyra and Oksana were taken to Syberia.

In the Eastern Ukraine, Bogdan Bandera was killed by fascists, and Vasyl and Oleksa were executed in the concentration camp “Auschwitz” (known also as Osvientsim) in July 1942. The Polish prisonerschauvinists, along with the fascists, tortured Bandera’s brothers. Oleksa was beaten cruelly, he was powdered with cement and then with wired brushes the skin of his face and head was taken off. Vasyl was massacred and then a deathly injection was made into his body. The destiny of a famous OUN activist, a Bandera’s man, a leader of Security Service Ivan Ravlyk is also worth attention. He organized Ukrainian police in Lviv and firmly refused to give to the fascists the names and addresses of some prominent Polish and Jewish public figures in the sphere of science and culture, along with the fascists – on the contrary, he tried to warn them about the danger. In December 1941, Gestapo tortured to death Ravlyk together with his young wife and his mother-in-law. And for so many year after that the mendacious commune was deceiving people saying that Bandera’s men supported the fascists! Come to repentance at least today, the miserable, for the Judgement Day is due!

The act of June 30, 1941 called the wide masses of the Ukrainian people to fight and on the basis of OUN armed divisions, the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (Ukrayinska Povstanska Armiya – UPA) was born. It was headed by a general Roman Shukhevych, a faithful fellow and follower of Stepan Bandera till his last days (Roman Shukhevych died on 5.03.1950). The official date of forming UPA is 14.10.1942. Representatives of all the nationalities enslaved by communism fought in UPA together with Ukrainians. UPA controlled the large territories of Ukraine and carried out an active armed fight against all the occupants till 1954! In 1943, UPA sections killed the chief of Hitler’s headquarters Wiktor Luze, and in 1944 – a Russian general Vatutin and in 1947 – the Polish general Swierczewski. UPA is a rare phenomenon in the history of mankind. None of the armies in the world can be compared with UPA in terms of selflessness and high organization among its soldiers. The famous French President General de Gaulle said: “If I had such an army as OUN had, the German boot wouldn’t be treading upon the French land.” General Roman Shukhevych was the first man in the world who opposed the use of nuclear weapon. In spring 1944 Bandera’s men invited a professor of physics, born in Yavoriv, to give a scientific report. After that Shukhevych said: “People do not need such weapon for it will kill everything and everybody. The invention of it is the greatest crime against the mankind. Thus, aren’t the scientists, who invented something what does not help people but only destroys them and all around and may change our earth into a desert, the greatest criminals?”

UPA numbered 40 thousand warriors and 60 thousand subsidiary structures. The mass armed opposition didn’t give the fascists an opportunity to deport the youth to Germany, and it also defended the population from the Polish and bolshevic terror. On June 22, 1944 Beria and Zhukov signed a satanic plan of deporting all the Ukrainians out of their native land, i.e. of a total destruction of Ukraine as such. And here Bandera’s men gave the occupants such a lesson that after it the Bolsheviks would call not only Ukrainians but also other nationalities ‘Bandera’s men’ for a long time.

The postwar delimitation of borders brought another misfortune to Ukraine. Moscow sold 19,000 sq.km of the Ukrainian territory with a 1,5 million population on it, to the communist Poland. Deportation of Ukrainians from their native lands began, and it was accompanied with an unbelievable Polish terror. 5000 Bandera’s men stood for defense of Zakerzon area and for two years they managed to keep such a resistance that in 1947 Moscow, Poland and Czech Republic had to oppose against them an army of 20 thousand soldiers with

tanks and planes. Even the Poles started to write in press about the exceptional heroism of Bandera's men and their unusual art of fighting. UPA warriors broke through the enemy's defense circle, crossed the borders of the neighbouring countries and reached the free world to reveal the truth about the communist "paradise". Saint Paul speaks with honor about those who showed their courage at war and defended themselves from enemy (Hebrews, 11:34). So, won't it be a sin if we keep in silence those who got up for the fight against antichrist, those who defended the Christ Church and God's truth?

The brave raids of Bandera's men on the territory of other countries with the aim of informing the people about the character and purposes of UPA fight were also carried out successfully: in the summer of 1947 – to Bielorussia and Poland, up to Warsaw, to Czechoslovakia, in autumn – to Germany and Hungary, in the winter of

1948 – to the eastern Prussia, in spring – to the Western Germany, in the summer of

1949 – to Romania. These raids caused the conception of anticommunist moods in the local population. UPA was so successful in the fight against the overwhelming forces of communo-fascists due to a severe discipline. For example, in the kurin (UPA military unit) of commander Konyk, in front of 800 soldiers, a warrior who had robbed a Pole was shot dead. When fleeing from Ukraine, the fascists offered their guns to UPA for nothing just to stop Moscow attack. OUN-UPA refused any cooperation with the fascists and issued a strict prohibition of any negotiations with the fascists to all its divisions. Only in one case sotnyk Sosenko tried to carry out the negotiations for what he was put before the court-martial and shot. UPA was the only army in the world, which didn't punish women and children for their fathers' crimes. OUN looked with pride behind itself and with faith before itself!

Seeing that the local population actively supports UPA, the bolsheviks made a step to an awful villainy. They formed 156 special groups of false Bandera's men. They numbered together 1763 people. Those cruel bandits in an awful manner robbed, murdered and killed innocent people, pretending to be the warriors of UPA. The process of liberation from fascism was accompanied with the crimes of Soviet power against the Ukrainian people. My idea is that all those wars were created by satanists to annihilate the Christian peoples and to destroy any morality and faith in God. So, those who didn't fight for the independent Ukraine silently agreed with the rule of Satan power which taught the people to drink, to smoke, live in lewdness, to kill their babies (aborts) and not to go to church. But Christ says: "the kingdom of heaven suffered violence and the violent take it by force" (Mat. 11:12). A man should fight for the truth and freedom, for his happiness and to think what he should leave after him for the future generations.

Pope John Paul II in 1979 called the Polish people to lead the country in a new direction after which mass anticommunist movements began. And in 1981 he was even ready to leave his position to prevent the invasion of Soviet Army into Poland. He wanted to go back to his native land to support his countrymen morally in their fight for freedom. God defined the limits of people's settlement (Acts 17:26) and he who stands for their defense is a person of great heroism. The Roman army leader Catonius said once: "I was fighting not for my own freedom but for the freedom of my motherland and showed my courage not to be free but to live among free people". Ivan Franko said that he who doesn't fight against the evil does not love people.

In the Philippines, every year on Good Friday three sinners agree to be crucified. They hang on the cross for 5 minutes and then faint. In 1998 along with the men, a 53-year lady was crucified and she was on the cross for half an hour, praying, and in the end she sang the national anthem. Of course, Church is against such fanaticism but what a great love must one

have to sing the national anthem while dying on a cross.

Thousands of Bandera's men went to fight with the only idea – to liberate Ukraine or to die for its freedom! Here I want to point out another side of OUN-UPA fight and especially the way they accepted death. Valentyna Myrontsova, a veteran of war from village Otyaberske, Tula region in Russia, describes the following: "Being on a business trip in Rivne I, by accident, became a witness of a scene when a group of UPA warriors was delivered in a truck and hung before my eyes. All of them met their death bravely. None of them pleaded for mercy. And what astonished me was that they were dying like martyrs with the words "Glory be to Ukraine!" And this thought flashed in my mind: could the criminals (as the communist propaganda called them) be dying with such courage? Only the young men who deeply love their land and their people can die like that. Only people who want to liberate their land from occupants can die like that. And I thought: who are the criminals then? Those who die for independent Ukraine or those who came to this land and commit crimes. I bend my head before these young martyrs who gave their lives for independent Ukraine 50 years ago".

It is a well-known fact that Jews were fighting together with Bandera's men. Presently, in Israel lives Stella Krenzbach who works at the ministry and whose signature is known to many ministers. She just promised to herself to inform the world of Ukrainians and their heroic UPA. "The very fact that I live now and give all the vigour of my 38 years to the independent Israel I owe only to God and UPA. I became a member of UPA on 7.11.1943. In our group there were 12 Jews including 8 doctors. Fulfilling a special task, Stella found herself in the hands of Bolsheviks. She was tortured, did not say anything and was sentenced to death. Bandera's men attacked the prison and Stella got free. After hard fights in October 1946 she got to Austria and then to Palestine. "I address the whole freedom-loving world and warn it against ignoring the Ukrainian question because only the independent Ukrainian state will be a guaranty and proof of fair peace in the world".

Mykola Krepchenko, a retired colonel from Radomysl, writes: "I was brought up in the spirit of Soviet patriotism and was full of anger and hatred towards Bandera's men". As a battalion commander, I was fighting against Bandera's men in Lviv for a half and a year. Of course, we were informed that UPA was the army well organized: all the warriors were divided into the units, there was a well-developed reconnaissance, conspiracy, security service, and almost in every village there were guerrilla huts. They also said that Bandera's men were in service for the fascists. My soldiers and I believed this. During one battle we got some Bandera's newspapers. I read and couldn't believe my eyes: in one place UPA exploded a German train with troops, then they broke off the German garnison and they stopped the German train full of people who were taken to the German slavery... How can they be the fascists 'assistants if they beat them? And the fascists weren't kind to them. Then the first doubt got into my mind, I confess that at that time I understood Bandera's men were quite different from what our commanders told us about them. I was fighting against the patriots of Ukraine who preferred death to captivity. And they were dying as Ukrainian patriots.

Not far from the village Oglyadiv in Lopatyn region, we found a hut in the forest. We surrounded it and proposed to give up. "We'll think about it..." – was the answer. In a few minutes "Ukraine is still alive" sounded out of the hut. Then I heard the Ukrainian anthem for the first time. I don't know what stunned me more the words or the impudence of the singers? And when the explosions sounded one after another we understood that the young men, who had their lives ahead of them, killed themselves with the grenades. And at that moment the rest of the Bolsheviks' lie disappeared. Now I ask those who call Bandera's men bandits: "Do the bandits die like this?" I want to underline again that UPA security service never broke their

promise, unlike PCHA (NKVD) who very often did this.

My brother Alexander and my aunt Anna in 1947 found themselves in a village Ogliadiv where lived the people whom I chased in the forest trying to kill them. Nobody hurt my relatives; on the contrary they were given some food and heard wishes of a good journey. And what were the actions of “liberators” in such cases? They killed the whole families, destroyed the whole villages. Many times I have wanted to go to Lopatyn region, meet those people and ask them for forgiveness but I still don’t have enough courage to do that ... Meanwhile, the years are running away like the horses down a hill».

Why didn’t Bandera’s men go into captivity if the international agreements demand to respect the civil population, wounded soldiers, and military prisoners and treat them with care? It was because the Soviet authorities didn’t even intend to keep to any human agreements and, on the contrary, it murdered those who believed in God and loved Ukraine. Bandera’s men chose death so as not to give away their friends at tortures. Besides, the moral theology says: “The mental disorder, fear or unbearable anxiety before trials, sufferings and tortures can extenuate suicides responsibility.” Bandera’s men always prayed before death and died with the thought that their selfless fight wouldn’t be wasted, and the time would come when the communist empire of evil would fall and free peoples would rise on its ruins. Among those free peoples there would be the Ukrainian Catholic Independent State (UCIS). And so it happened. It was Bandera’s men who found themselves in the infernal Soviet concentration camps, managed to arrange an order there and tame the criminals. Later they organized a revolt of prisoners, the largest of which were in Norilsk (1953), Kingiri (1954), and they undermined the communist system and encouraged all the enslaved peoples for the fight. In Kinigiri the bolshevic beasts smashed 500 Ukrainian women with tanks. Those women wanted to defend their husbands-prisoners. Bandera’s men were called saints in the camps because there weren’t any other people who would be more religious and fair than they.

Here are the memories of Arthur Fuhrman, a political prisoner (1950-1956), presently a German citizen.

### **Bandera’s men (Banderians)**

How often I heard this name during my long stay in prison. How much pride there was when the enemies of Moscow and communism pronounced it and how much hatred there was when the chekists shouted it out! Bandera’s men! – It was our slogan. Bandera’s men were like a fire which couldn’t have been blown out by the most horrible storm of terror.

I am a Bandera’s man! Anyone who could say this was the bravest of the bravest. To be a Bandera’s man meant to have “a privilege”. But this “privilege” couldn’t be received as a present, it had to be fought and suffered for. In other words, there was no greater distinction for a Ukrainian than to be a Bandera’s man. Bandera’s men, go to fight in the front! Was there a place where this slogan was not heard during the revolts of prisoners in the *USSR*? There was not! Bandera’s men were in the vanguard wherever the lights of revolts flashed out. It was so in the Far East, Kazakhstan, Syberia, above the Arctic Sea. Bandera’s men were the heart and brain of the coming Revolution.

Bandera is our liberator. American general Eisenhower, French president de Gaulle, German chancellor Adenauer are undoubtedly great men and are enemies of communism, but not a single prisoner or Ukrainian in exile expected to be liberated from Moscow-communist regime with their help. This liberation was expected only from one man, all hopes being weaved into the only prayer: Bandera! Of how little importance was the question of diplomatic



and military force? For the millions of Ukrainians behind the barbed wire, Bandera was worth the whole army. The glory of his revolutionary ranks, the glimmer of his name and creative dynamics of the revolutionary personality which influenced us with a tremendous unbreakable force despite the infinite geographical distance, outweighed the strength of tanks and planes which he didn't have.

Bandera is our leader! Bandera wasn't a leader of just one organization; he was a leader of the whole nation, of the enslaved but not submitted and still warring Ukrainian people. I am quite aware of the fact that this statement will face resistance from the side of some politicians in exile. But I am stating only what thousands of Ukrainians behind the iron curtain felt and thought. Bandera's leadership was absolutely accepted by all the Ukrainians because above all party divergences there was the one great thing: our Motherland. Now after eight years, I can state that Bandera had had more friends, followers and adherents behind the iron curtain (and still has) than he had on the west side. The grandeur of his personality was realised much sooner by those who, regardless of their place of staying, continue to fight for their freedom.

Bandera is Ukraine! When somebody talked about Bandera they thought about Ukraine. The two names merged into one and the same name. For Bandera had the best and the greatest virtues of the Ukrainian people; he was a symbol of freedom and independence for the millions of people.

Who of them knew Bandera personally? How many of them were real members of OUN? Just a few. And those few who saw him, heard him and talked to him some time, were considered lucky and other people were envious about their experience without even hiding that envy. This is where Bandera's grandeur is. Within his lifetime, Bandera became a national legend, a hero, and I would even dare to say: a saint. There probably was not a single barrack inhabited by prisoners or Ukrainians in exile where there would not be a portrait OF HIM. This portrait would be hidden like the greatest of treasures and it never got into the chekists' hands. A lot of stories and legends were told about him in concentration camps and villages that were by force inhabited by deported people. There were those who knew his writings and speeches. The couriers and newsletters from abroad gave the most detailed information about his revolutionary actions.

But Bandera had his followers and adherents not only among Ukrainians. No, the other non-moscow national groups also believed he was one of them. The revolutionary power, radiated by his personality, didn't know any national boundaries. He could be loved very much or hated very much. And not only Moscow communists did the latter. Moscow prisoners in the forced labor camps also saw in Bandera a dangerous enemy and destroyer of the Moscow Empire. "I hate communists", - said once a white Moscow soldier to me, but even in the anti-communist Russia there is only one place for Banders: a gibbet".

Did the attempt upon Bandera's life help Kremlin to win the inside and outside fronts of the Ukrainian people? He, who is convinced of that, doesn't know Ukrainians and Banderians so much the more! Just the same as the Moscow attempts upon Symon Petliurars and Yevhen Konovaletsrs lives couldn't stop the Ukrainian liberating movement, the murder of Stephan Bandera didn't put the Ukrainian nationalists on their knees. The struggle goes on to the victorious end. Even being dead, Bandera remains the greatest and severest enemy of Moscow. I am convinced that his spirit is alive everywhere where his fighters are: in Ukraine, Syberia, Kazakhstan and all over the tyrannical empire named "*USSR*". He still inspires them for the sacred fight and victory. I devote these words to those fighters under the banner of Stephan Bandera with whom I was lucky to live and fight, with great love.

There are some interesting memoires of a Jewish political prisoner Idel Kogan:

## **Banderian in the Soviet Camps**

How many of them were there! It was said that half of political prisoners in Syberia were banderians. You know that every independence-minded Ukrainian who was against the moscowites, the soviets call a “Banderian”. Now after the war there were thousands of them in the concentration camps. There were those who could be Banderians by their behaviour. Many of them died. After Stalin’s death “the minor ones” were discharged, and only those who were sentenced for 20-25 year remained. In the Soviet prisons and concentration camps Banderians were in great honor. They were hard, united and combatant. There were a lot of criminal “cool” elements who terrorized other prisoners. They tried to subdue also banderians but they failed. The struggle was bloody and the criminals were taught soon that “if it is a Banderian, don’t touch him”. The same was among the women-prisoners. Every prisoner pronounced “a Banderian” with respect in the Soviet concentration camps. God, send also to the Jews such persons like Horbovy, Pryshlyak, Marchak, Dyshkant, Soroka and others. Horbovy... is a fantastic combination of deep knowledge and combatant hardeness in one person. Whatever you would ask him he would know the answer and would give it to you straightaway. He even speaks Jewish and knows everything about Jews. I would make him the chief rabbi of Israel. And how firm he is! He spent in prisons and concentration camps 28 years and he didn’t break down. He was persuaded “to confess” and to condemn the Ukrainian nationalism and for that he could have been discharged and given a high position. And he always said: “No!”. Somebody came from Moscow and asked me to influence him so that he would finally “confess”. And I told them: “What can I do? You know that Horbovy is a Banderian. It’s a rock! You can’t break it!”

An attorney, doctor Volodymyr Horbovy was suffering in the prisons of red hell for 28 years, sotnyk Myroslav Symchych – for 32 years, a fourteen-year old son of general Shukhevyh was arrested in 1948 and he was imprisoned for 40 years for refusing to repudiate his own father and he finally became blind, Iryna Senyk was punished for 36 years, Mykhailo Soroka – for 36 years and his wife Kateryna Zarytska – for 30, Odarka Husyak – for 25, Halyna Didyk – for 22. And Bandera’s sisters Marta, Volodymyra and Oksana were in prison for nearly half a century because they didn’t want to repudiate their brother and didn’t want to serve the antiChrist. In 1953 they were brought from Syberia to Moscow and they were offered a flat and a car with demand to make an appeal to banderians and call them to stop the armed fight, in exchange. The sisters chose the concentration camp because the life is temporary on the earth and when the soul is spoilt what you will give in exchange on the Day of Judgment standing before God. Marta died in 1982 in Krasnoyarsk’s region. Thousands of Banderians – the blossom of the nation, gave their lives with love for the happiness of future generations. They are an example for us!

Recently I was lucky to meet Bandera’s sisters Volodymyra and Oksana. In the conversation with them I sawa God’s great Grace going out of their hearts beaming from their hearts and I felt the presence of their brother Stepan through the Spirit. I felt the warmth in my heart. I was impressed by kindness, scantiness and bright brain of these nice educated people and I understood what an intelligent and holy education must have been in their family. It is a miracle that they could preserve such peace in their souls, have such a strong faith in God and a hope for the better future of Ukraine after so many sufferings. It is a great lesson for me.

The sisters told me that Stephan Bandera had a wife Yaroslava who was born on 14.09.1917 in town Sianok and she was a daughter of a priest Vasyl Oparivsky. She finished

the gymnasium in Kolomyia and, while studying in Lviv Polytechnic Institute, joined OUN. Poles arrested her for her political activity. She was a pretty, nice athletic girl with deep blue eyes. Stepan and Yaroslava got married on June 2, 1940 in Krakow in the church of Raising the Honest and Resuscitating Cross. Father Stepan Grub led the marriage ceremony and service. The wedding was simple and without alcohol. Their witnesses were Lyuba Lemyk and Vasyl' Bandera. The couple had three children: Natalka (1941), Andrij (1942) and Lesya (1948). Yaroslava's father Rev Vasyl, a chaplain of UGA, perished by heroic death, saving the friends during the war of 1919. Mother Yulia was shot by Poles on 26.07.1944 just because her daughter was married to the leader of OUN. The fascists in Zovkva killed her brother Levko, a member of OUN, in 1942. Having survived through so much of grief, persecutions and the death of her husband, Yaroslava, due to her patience, brave heart and rare holiness of self-sacrifice became a symbol of a Ukrainian woman. This modest, soft, kind and shy woman with the grief on her face died on 17.08.1977 in Toronto, Canada, having fulfilled God's will to the end of her life. That is a pattern for imitation!

In spring 1945, the American and English units opened the gates of the German concentration camps. There were hundreds of the enslaved with a mark "Banderar's movement" in each of these camps. The world saw 1200 Ukrainian nationalists who had suffered in the concentration camps for the fight against fascism (and how many of them died) and therefore, Stalin was denied permission to deport 250 thousand Ukrainians from abroad into the communist hell. Meanwhile, the British occupation authorities in Germany gave to the bolsheviks 40 thousand Cossacks from Don with their families, wives, old parents and children. Bolshevics hang the old people up and almost all the rest died in Syberia. Don Cossacks fought for freedom against communism but in the cooperation with the fascists. Such a destiny would have awaited all the Ukrainians be it not for Stepan Banderar's hard decision against the German fascists. When the fascist Germany collapsed Bandera was discharged and at once he began to look for the ways to return home. OUN in Ukraine decided it would be better for the leader to be aboard because of the international situation which was quite complicated. There were a lot of sponsors who offered financial help to Bandera for the price of cooperating with them. Some time later, within the emmigration surrounding there appeared an opposition that demanded from Bandera to build the future Ukrainian State on the principles of marxism (i.e. that is a society without private property and classes), to leave the idealistic worldview and to accept materialism as the highest achievement, and to exclude the political movement and all the civil life from religion and to allow the spreading of atheism on the equal level with the religious teaching.

And again Bandera was able to show his knight nature – to look much ahead of himself and to answer with a firm "No" because behind all that there were Moscow agents. His answer was the following: "In the questions of social order OUN continues to reject the system of non-class society and the refusal of private property which is strange and opposite to the spiritual social structure of the Ukrainian people. OUN continues to conduct the ideology of Christian idealism because it was and is an inseparable part of the spirituality of the Ukrainian nation. OUN keeps and will keep the positions of Christian idealism and will keep on fighting for the preservation of the Ukrainian spirituality in all the spheres of life". Such an answer broke the Moscow plans for moral destruction of the OUN leader. After the war, Germany offered Bandera reparation for imprisonment in the concentration camps but he refused to take this money. This action confirmed again that Bandera is an example of a Ukrainian for whom the idea "God and Ukraine" is above all. Bandera was at the wheel of the fight of the Ukrainian people, looking into the light aim.

Then bolsheviks decided to kill Bandera at any cost, but the Security Service of OUN was spoiling completely the intentions of KGB for a few years. It was only 15 years after the war had been over that the communist regime achieved its terrible aim: on the 15-th of October, 1959 Stepan Bandera became a victim of a Moscow killer. This death opened the eyes of the murderer and he was tortured by his own conscience. Later he fled to the West Germany and gave up to the police. In October 1962 there was a trial during which the killer was sentenced to 8 years of severe prison, and Khrushchov's government together with the KGB chief head Shelepin were considered the main criminals. Due to a wide promulgation of the trial in mass media, the world could see again that the political terrorism in the *USSR* reached a level of state policy.

Here are Natalia Banderar's words: "My father who is dead now, was tired of constant guard and sometimes he was not careful. He firmly believed that he was under a special God's guidance and he would say: "If somebody wants to kill me, they will find the way of destroying me with the guard". He used to go by his car to the Ukrainian Catholic Church and this is where he was seen by the defendant for the first time.

My unforgettable father brought us up in love to God and Ukraine. He was a Christian with a deep faith and he died for God and free independent Ukraine, for the freedom of the whole world today. After three years of my father's death, I am speaking, first of all, on behalf of my mother who gave her young years to my father and her children. My dear father, who combined this great ideal in himself, will remain the leading star in all my life and my brother's and sister's lives, as well as in the lives of all the Ukrainian young men and women"

The funeral took place on October 20, 1959 in Munhen. In the morning at 9 o'clock in St. John Baptist Church, Rev Petro Golinsky along with a lot of priests, at the presence of exarch Kir Platon Kornyliak served a mess for the dead. The Church was overcrowded with Christians and delegations from the whole world. There were 250 wreaths there; thousands of people were at the cemetery since early morning in order to have their last look at the leader who became a banner and a fighting trumpet, an example of unexhaustable fighter for the highest ideals of nation and mankind. At the open grave covered with concrete, the funeral march stopped and the coffin was let down together a cup full of Ukrainian soil and some water from the Black Sea.

### **Here are some speeches over Banderar's grave:**

You, the great Son of Ukraine, is chosen by God to wake the sleeping, the lulled fellow-countrymen of yours in the foreign country back to life and incite them to action. You, our dear friend, with your selfless death, are building a new large church of moral strength and fighting capability. Your work was closed before human eyes due to the strength of circumstances. And therefore a lot of people thought that nothing was happening, that there were no actions, no great deeds for our Motherland. And just now - as if to put a shame on us, we needed an enemy to see the strength of Ukraine! *M. Kravtsiv, UMO*

As a far-looking strategic politician, Stepan Bandera understood that the fight for the national liberation could be made only with joint efforts of other enslaved by Moscow peoples and with this aim his organisation in 1943 got in touch with the representatives of these peoples and in 1944 the Antibolshevic Block of Peoples was formed. *From Georgians, Niko Nakashidze, the Secretary of CC ABP*

I still see you full of energy and fighting spirit, hopes, wishes, which were in your eyes. The murderers killed your body, but your spirit, your ideas and you yourself will be always

among us. May our Lord help us to realise, as soon as possible, your holy purpose for which you gave your life. Stepan Bandera, look at us. We shall meet your expectations. *From the people of Turkmenistan, Veli Kuyum-Hun, CC ABP*

The banner, which Bandera carried, even after his death, is in the strong and faithful hands. It will be carried on until the ideal of liberation is realised one day. *From Bulgarians, Dmytro Valchev, CC ABP*

On behalf of the Magyar Defence Council and its President, His Royal Excellence, Archprince Joseph and on behalf of the Magyar Liberation Movement I put this wreath and remember at this moment our joint fights with UPA after making an agreement during the war.

*From Magyars, a general-colonel F. Farkasha de Kisbarnak, CC ABP*

For all of us Bandera is a road sign. He showed us that we must not stop our fight against the Moscow bolshevism till our last breath. *From Romanians, Dr. Yon Emilian*

The name of Stepan Bandera entered not only the history of the Ukrainian nation. It is a part of the history of great liberation anticommunist fight of our enslaved peoples. May his name be in honour forever! May our Lord lead his suffering people to victory, freedom and happy future! *From Slovaks, Dr. Chtibor Pokorn.*

One day his name will be written down with the golden letters in the history of his Motherland – Ukraine because he was a brave leader of his fellow-countrymen, the glorious fighters for freedom, Banderians who spread the fame of their country in the whole world. *From Croats, Colonel Kolioman Bilich*

Ukraine was raised before God and neighbours only by Banderians during the last war in order for Ukraine to become alive, to have a wish for living again. It was not without reason that the peasants in Ukraine told me when the fascists' had arrested Bandera for the first time: "Ukraine may die after Bandera's arrest! And now those who still cry and grind their teeth to keep from crying, let's stand together shoulder to shoulder and let's attack the enemy's siege! *Writer Todos Os'machka*

Here is a new grave. Mothers and patriotic fosters will bring to it our youth raised beyond Ukraine. And they will repeat the words of our prophet at the grave, saying: "My son, pray! He was executed for Ukraine some time! Be ready to defend the honour of the great national hero Stepan Bandera because the enemies of Ukraine will try to spoil his name. By defending the honour of Bandera we defend the honour of Ukraine. *Prof. Zenon Sagan*

Dear Brothers and Sisters! When a wheat seed falls down into the ground and doesn't die, it will be alone but if it dies it will produce fruit. Let's take a high courage from the history of Ukraine, these sources are inexhaustible and from them healing water flows. Let 359 heroes be our spiritual inspirers who were dying proudly with the words in their lips "Ukraine is still alive! May the fire of love for Ukraine burn in our hearts – "A seraphim fire" which burnt in Petliurars, Konovalts's hearts... and now Bandera's who is not with us any more. On the day of funeral let's put the wreath of flowers to those who died for being Ukrainians. In our folk songs there are the words "The time is coming, the time is coming, let each of you say if he

is a faithful son of people, or is he just a bad slave.

*Archbishop Ivan Krestyuk, Minister of the Trinity Orthodox Church*

The perished one gave his life for the uncompromising fight for freedom of our people and a better fate of our dear Motherland Ukraine. I beg God that according to the words: "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13) will settle the newly dead in his premises where sorrow and suffering have no place.

The great Ukrainian patriot Stepan Bandera, the leader of the Ukrainian nationalists has left us. The sparkle of love to our people which was put in his heart by Creator of the world has lighted out into the burning fire. He knew that independence for people could be got only at the cost of great victims “on the field of flame” because at the round diplomatic tables they only sell the liberation of people. Through all his life, on the invisible strings of his soul the words of songs sounded, the song which his mother sang to him in the childhood: Everything for you, dear Ukraine, he is dying to give you freedom and fame!

You are going, the soul, to the place of peace... You will see the souls who before you, from the ancient times till nowadays, carried the banner of fight for freedom and fate of native land. May the strange country be nice to you and may the memory of you stay forever!” *Bishop Nikolay Voyakovsky, UGCC*

Ukrainians always suffered for their kindness and generosity, for they have never been occupants and just defended their native land. The history of Ukraine is the entire sufferings but let’s give our hope to God and Saviour Jesus Christ who said:

“...look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” (Luke 21: 28) The coffin of Stepan Bandera is put in such a way that it does not touch the German land, and it is looking forward to being carried into the native land. I believe that the time will come from God and then millions of the old and young people with their babies will go not simply on foot but on their knees to say goodbye to him, to give a piece of their hearts and love, their honour to that one who did so much for them and who burnt for Ukraine...

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