As you are reading this, Ukrainians are standing their ground against a Russian invasion.

They are fighting not only for their own safety, but also for the freedom of the entire Europe.

In 2000, Putin used unrest in Chechnya as a pretext to invade and subjugate it, murdering thousands of civilians and leaving its capital "the most destroyed city on Earth". Eight years later, he invaded Georgia to forcibly redraw its borders. In 2014, a pro-Russian government was ousted in Ukraine as a result of demonstrations showing Ukrainian desire to join the EU. As a revenge, Putin annexed Crimea and invaded the Donbas region in a prolonged conflict.

Putin has repeatedly shown that he will use violence in order to achieve his political aims. There is no reason to believe that his imperial ambitions are going to end merely at Ukraine. Many countries in Europe are under the defensive umbrella of NATO, but not all of them. Putin has already threatened Sweden and Finland, neither of which is a member of NATO. What he is truly after is for his Russia to gain power by destabilizing the European order.

I would like you to consider the following carefully. Do you enjoy the freedoms you possess? The freedom to speak your mind, to love who you want, to follow your passions? Those freedoms and their fruits do not come free. They must be defended.

Right now, Ukrainians are paying the blood price so that Putin's barbarism can be stopped. You can support their effort, even from here. Many ways to do so are listed in this document:

UA_letter_english.pdf

Whether you choose to do so or not, I would like to have a simple request.

After you finish reading this document, pay close attention to what surrounds you.

The stability you enjoy is far more fragile than you may expect. It could shatter just like this:



And to our Ukrainian friends and colleagues, no matter what happens, remember: You are Ukraine. No country ever dies as long as its citizens have not perished.