



**83<sup>rd</sup>**  
**PEN**

**International  
Congress**

**Lviv  
Ukraine**

**Public Report  
of the 83rd  
PEN International Congress  
in Lviv  
17-24 September 2017**



## FIGURES AND FACTS

**THE MOST EXTENSIVE  
PROGRAMME OF PUBLIC EVENTS  
IN PEN CONGRESS HISTORY**

- 28 public events
- Streams for all public events provided for the first time — around 24 000 total views for 15 streams
- 80 Facebook tags and 69 Twitter mentions of Congress page
- Office of the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euroatlantic Integration proceeded with the Resolution of the 83rd PEN International Congress in Lviv
- 7 special services ensured security during the Congress 24/7
- 40 hours of simultaneous interpreting and 15 hours of consecutive interpreting
- Complete Ukrainian and English translation of “Numbers” by Oleh Sentsov
- 3 mass media special projects
- brand beer of the Congress — “Empty Chair” (international symbol of PEN Club)

16

LOCATIONS

7

WORKING DAYS

68

PEN CENTRES

3

NEW PEN CENTRES

60

COUNTRIES

168

DELEGATES

45

PARTNERS

21

INFORMATION  
PARTNERS

## PROMO CAMPAIGN



Bachewski Restaurant, Hungry Nicholas, Kumpel. Restaurant-Brewery), !Fest (Pravda Beer Theatre, !FESTREPUBLIC CLUB, Bratvanka Bakery chain, Kriyivka, Gas Lamp), Lvivarnya Museum and Culture Complex of Beer History, Dniester Premier Hotel, Lviv City Council, Lviv Danylo Halytskyi Airport.

### **MEDIA PUBLICATIONS (163 IN TOTAL):**

- 24 interviews
- 80 news pieces
- 25 multimedia and authorial materials
- 8 TV materials
- 26 radio materials

### **EXTERNAL ADVERTISING AROUND THE CITY:**

- 9 billboards and 17 citylight boxes
- large banners in the most popular locations in the city:
  - banner on the City Hall (September 17-23, 2017)
  - banner at LEM Station (Tram depot) (September-December 2017)
  - banner at Lviv Danylo Halytskyi International Airport (September-December, according to airport data passenger flow at the airport in 2017 made up 680,5 passengers)

### **PROMO VIDEO AND ITS ROTATION:**

Channel 24: promo video was in rotation over two-week period (September 9-23) and was shown 22 times on locations of Congress partners: Kumpel Group chain of restaurants (Kumpel, Beer Restaurant,



## PROMO CAMPAIGN

### WORK OF CONGRESS PRESS CENTRE:

- 6 press conferences - Lviv (5), Kyiv (1)
- 91 accredited journalists, 34 journalists attended Congress press-conferences
- 120 specialist subscribers for Congress newsletter: 45 journalists from Lviv and 75 from Kyiv received information about the Congress from us (2 300 letters sent)
- 96 hours of press-room work

### COOPERATION ESTABLISHED WITH:

**Lviv City Council Press Service** — newsletters of the main news about the Congress sent out by City Press Service, photo shoots, invitation for VIP guests, streams.

**Department of Promotion of Lviv City Council** — organization of external advertisement placement, help with promo-materials, organization of meetings with foreign journalists.

**Ukrainian Crisis Media Centre** — distribution of Congress releases and announcements in official languages of the Congress, streams.

**Special project with Skovoroda Radio** — organizing streaming of events — on-line streaming of Congress public events held for the first time in Congress history.

In addition, the streams were made by journalists from Crimea. Reality, cultural and publishing centre Chytomo, Crimean historian Hulnara



Bekirova and other parties interested. Total number of streams — 15, which were viewed by 24 000 Facebook and Youtube users in total.

### VIDEO ARCHIVE OF THE CONGRESS CONTAINS:

- 10 full recordings of the events with Ukrainian and English translation uploaded to official Youtube channel of Lviv UNESCO City of Literature office
- 15 streams in Ukrainian
- 1 promo video
- 1 video greeting from Congress participants
- 1 video impression in honour of Oleh Sentsov
- 1 video survey of Congress participants in Ukrainian and in English (from students of UCU School of Journalism)

- 1 video impression from the poetic evening by headliners
- 1 general post-promo video of the Congress
- more than 20 GB of published photos from Congress events

### ADVERTISEMENT IN PRINT MEDIA:

On public transport (around 300 stickers) and rotation of promo video on 70 trams and 50 trolley buses in September 2017.

Krayina (Country) magazine — 21 800 copies. Mahistral Express Ukrainian Railways Newspaper — 72 000 copies.

**OFFICIAL ADDRESS OF WRITERS**



**PEN WRITERS CALL FOR PEACE AT THE 83 PEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN UKRAINE**

On International Peace Day, the Assembly of Delegates gathered in Lviv, Ukraine for the 83rd annual Congress, call on governments to seek peace through dialogue and exchange of ideas. Over 60 Centres have gathered in Ukraine at this historic moment to call for an end to propaganda, censorship and curtailment of free expression.

The statement reads: *Over the course of the last century there are have been moments in history when free expression has been threatened through increased censorship and propagandist agendas.*



We, PEN’s global community of writers, readers, publishers and activists have witnessed and stood against these repeated and blatant attempts to erode this fundamental human right for close to a hundred years. Today, we are at such a moment once more.

Over 200 of us have gathered here in Ukraine for PEN’s 83rd Congress, from over 60 Centres, where we will discuss such issues as censorship and propaganda, at a time when Russian aggression against the country has been relentless and accom-

## OFFICIAL ADDRESS OF WRITERS

panied by the Kremlin's crippling information warfare. Their proliferation of propagandist half-truths and implicit lies has demonstrated that, once again, truth is the first casualty of war. Courageous individuals who dare to report facts that are critical of Russian policy have suffered the consequences, and too often these have been grave.

We are also concerned that the Ukrainian authorities' response to Russia's aggression in some cases unduly infringes upon freedom of expression. We believe that denying access to opposite opinions, however upsetting it may be, infringes upon freedom of expression and sets a dangerous precedent.

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The ability to freely seek, receive and impart information serves security, liberty and leads, ultimately, to a fairer and freer society.

We are a community of writers from over 100 countries across the globe, and we are increasingly seeing this widening assault of censorship, propaganda and 'fake news' spread to all corners of the world.

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We have come together to say in one voice that the path to peace must be sought through exchange and dialogue, and

through freedom of information and expression.

Preserving these rights is paramount as they are the cornerstones of any society that seeks to be just, equal and free and serve to enrich and empower our global community.

### Signed:

JENNIFER CLEMENT, President,  
PEN International  
MYKOLA RIABCHUK, President, PEN  
Ukrain  
JOHN RALSTON SAUL, President  
Emeritus, PEN International  
YANN MARTEL, Writers Circle  
Member, PEN International  
SVETLANA ALEXIEVITCH, Nobel  
Laureate  
PAUL AUSTER, Writers Circles  
Member, PEN International  
ELIF SHAFAK, Writers Circles  
Member, PEN International  
GEERT MAK, Writers Circle Member,  
PEN International  
HANAN AL SHYKH, Writers Circle  
Member, PEN International  
ARTHUR GOLDEN, Writers Circle,  
PEN International  
MARGARET ATWOOD, Writers Circle,  
PEN International  
ANDREI KURKOV, PEN Ukraine

### Centres:

PEN Ukraine  
English PEN  
PEN Suisse Romande  
PEN Melbourne  
PEN Esperanto  
PEN South Africa  
Norwegian PEN  
Swedish PEN  
Portugal PEN  
PEN Finland  
PEN Lebanon  
PEN Mexico  
PEN America  
Danish PEN  
PEN Canada  
Catala PEN  
Eritrea PEN  
French PEN  
Quebec PEN  
Korean PEN  
PEN USA West  
Wales PEN Cymru

## ADDRESS BY MYKOLA SEMENA


**DEAR PARTICIPANTS OF 83RD PEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN LVIV**

Ukrainian writers, journalists, cinematographers and artists, especially those in the occupied Crimea, consider it very correct and timely that the 83rd PEN International Congress is taking place in Ukraine. The main topic of the Congress, “Reclaiming Truth in Times of Propaganda”, is now urgent here in Ukraine as never before. Today, due to Russian aggression, the two Ukrainian people, Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars – as well as the entire Ukrainian political nation – have been victimized by violent

Russian propaganda, which seeks to cover the real purposes of aggress-

sion, transition of the nuclear state to the policy of force and territorial seizures, seeks to justify the violation of international law, to damp the international response to large-scale killings and terrorizing the civilian population.

Crimea is the territory of ethnogeny of Crimean Tatars, their motherland and the place of their national self-determination.

Now this territory is annexed by Russia. In the two regions of Donbas the legal Ukrainian administration is destroyed; there is an ongoing terrorist war against the local civilians. In Crimea and those regions of Donbas national education is destroyed; there is a fierce russification, extended militarization, military training of youth in schools and universities. False propaganda distorts history, glorifies

only one nation, attacks the basics of democracy, stirs up the feelings of international and interreligious enmity. Independent media are destroyed, freedom of speech and meetings is canceled, all kinds of peaceful protests are treated as terrorism and extremism, civil activists are thoroughly repressed.

In Crimea, where I worked as journalist for more than 30 years, there are forged criminal accusations and court sentences against the authors of truthful articles and reports. Russian unlawful investigative bodies and courts disregard our appeals to freedom of speech, freedom of discussions and the right to personal opinion and outlook.

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The population of Crimea is, in fact, barred from truth, including blockage of various informational web resources and jamming of Ukrainian radio and TV stations.

Oleg Sentsov, well-known film director, had been sentenced to 20 years of prison for resisting the occupation of his native Crimea. Ukrainian journalist Roman Suschenko is falsely accused of espionage in Moscow. In Crimea even social network users are persecuted for expressing their opinions, or even for sharing the texts of other authors. Dozens of Crimean journalists and civil activists have



## ADDRESS BY MYKOLA SEMENA

been already arrested and imprisoned.

In fact, there is now a local relapse to Stalin's repressions of 1930s.

I am deeply grateful to the members of Ukrainian and other PEN centers who supported me during the investigation and court trial against myself for my participation in the discussion of the status of Crimea at Radio Liberty subsidiary website.

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I considered and will consider my duty to observe the standards of journalism, to write nothing but truth and defend everybody's right to the freedom of speech.

We all in Crimea highly appreciate your support and your demands to stop the repressions.

The aggressive dictators, unfortunately, count not only on their military force, but also on weakness and slowness of the European and world democracy. That is why world democratic movements have to understand that Russian dictatorship is a threat not only for Ukraine, but for the entire Europe. In fact, it moves the entire world closer to the third world war. Ukraine today is the forefront of our struggle for democracy, and we cannot afford to lose it, because it may entail total disruption of international law and democratic movements, repetition of the tragedies people

endured in the 20 th century, numerous and unjustified sacrifices. The events in Crimea and Donbas show that the world is now on the verge of new chauvinistic, inhuman movements. We have to prevent the repetition of the mass tragedies of the last century, which harmed many global nations.

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Thus, world democracy in the 21 st century cannot be weak.

World democratic movements, all progressive people should join their efforts in order to stop the aggressor, compel him to leave the unlawfully annexed territories, return Crimea to its native people, Crimean Tatars, for creation of their national and territorial autonomy. The aggressor should also stop militarization of politics, education and civil life, secure freedom of speech and other freedoms, stop unlawful repressions against journalists and civil activists, release political prisoners.

In addition to other measures, world democratic movement should create an international monitoring committee on Crimea, which would document the ongoing violations of human rights and international law in Crimea, and bring this case into international court of law.

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This should be done, because we at Crimea believe that

democracy is actually stronger than any aggressor, any weapon, any dictatorial regime.

At the same time, you should know that up to now, for almost four years (and not many wars in the world history continued that long), are the victims of aggression, and we are very sensitive to the factor of time, factor of wasted life, factor of ruined perspectives, factor of life and death, factor of crippled life of the entire generation of Crimean people, who are now subjected to false and aggressive propaganda, compulsory military training, zombification by Russian propagandist media, persecutions and repressions.

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We have no other hope but for your support, for the strength of world democracy, for your effective steps in order to stop the aggressor and bring us freedom.

**Mykola Semena**, Ukrainian journalist, commentator of Radio Liberty, reporter of the all Ukrainian newspaper "Day", member of Ukrainian PENcenter

**18.09.2017**

To see full version of the address, go to Congress official Facebook page:  
<https://goo.gl/zzBKXf>

## POST-RELEASE OF THE 83 PEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS



PEN International's 83rd Congress in Lviv, Ukraine took on truth and words, history and memory, women's access and equality, cyber trolling, fake news and threats to freedom of expression worldwide, including public panels focused on the three super powers: "America's Reckoning—Threats to the First Amendment in Trump's America", "China's Shame—How a Poet Exposed the Soul of the Party", and "Putin's Power Play—The Decline of Freedom of Expression in Russia".

At its annual gathering PEN hosted more than 200 writers, editors, staff and visitors from 69 PEN centers around the

world in the historic city of Lviv, the Cultural Capital of Ukraine and a UNESCO World City of Literature.

Straddling the center of Europe, on the fault lines between East and West, Lviv changed its name and governing domain eight times between 1914 and 1944, passing from the Austro-Hungarian Empire to Russia, back to Austria, Ukraine, Poland, Soviet Union, Germany then back to the Soviet Union and now finally in the Ukraine.

The path of European history cuts through the city and can be seen in architecture, culture and conversation. Though writers celebrated literature in the western Lviv, fighting was

still underway in eastern Ukraine and the Crimea. PEN's Russian center didn't attend the Congress at the same time a new PEN St. Petersburg center was elected. Other new centers joining PEN's network included Cuba, the Gambia and South India.

In times of war, the first casualty is truth, noted PEN's report "Freedom of Expression in Post-Euromaidan Ukraine: External Aggressions, Internal Challenges".

The report and the Congress addressed the aggressive role of propaganda in conflict. In Ukraine, in Russia and worldwide there has been a proliferation of false narratives.

PEN's report on Ukraine noted: "Despite significant improvements, democracy in Ukraine remains 'a work in progress' and, among other things, severe challenges to the enjoyment of the right to free expression remain. These include the use of the media to foster political interests and agendas, delays in reforming state-owned media; and intimidation and attacks on journalists followed by impunity for the perpetrators. On the other hand, public criticism is growing, albeit slowly, including demands for more transparent and unbiased journalism".

In Russia authorities are taking increasingly extreme legal and policy

## POST-RELEASE OF THE 83 PEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

measures against freedom of expression, according to a PEN/Free Word Association report “Russia’s Strident Stifling of Free Speech”.

No writers are in prison in Ukraine, but in the Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, filmmaker Oleg Sentsov, an opponent of annexation, was arrested and is now serving a 20-year sentence inside a Russian prison on terrorism charges he denies.

At PEN’s Assembly, delegates remembered Pavel Sheremet with an Empty Chair. A Belarusian-born Russian journalist and free speech advocate, Sheremet wrote for an independent news website and hosted a radio show where he reported and commented on political developments in Ukraine, Russia and Belarus. He died in a car bomb explosion in Kiev July, 2016. Shortly before he was assassinated, he’d written about corruption among law enforcement in Belarus, Ukraine and propagandists in Russia. His murder remains unsolved.

Resolutions at the Congress also addressed writers imprisoned in Turkey, China, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, and Eritrea and



killings in Mexico, Russia, Venezuela, Bangladesh and India.

Concerns about increasing censorship in Hungary, Poland, India, Turkey, and Spain were acted on as was the restriction of linguistic rights for Kurdish writers in Turkey, Hungarians in Ukraine and Uyghurs in China.

Expressing concern about the abuse of Interpol’s Red Notice system by some member states “in order to repress freedom of expression or to persecute members of political opposition beyond their borders”, PEN called on the Council of Europe “to refrain from carrying out arrests... when they have serious concerns that the notice in question could be abusive”.

PEN expanded Article 3 of its Charter for the first time since the document’s inception over 90 years ago.

The Assembly voted new language which would include a wider mandate, reaching beyond just opposing hatreds of race, class and nations to include by extension gender, religion and other categories of identity. Article 3 of PEN’s Charter, which can be linked to here, now reads: “Members of PEN should at all times use what influence they have in favor of good understanding and mutual respect between nations and people; they pledge themselves to do their utmost to dispel all hatreds and to champion the ideal of one human-

## POST-RELEASE OF THE 83 PEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS



ity living in peace and equality in one world”.

PEN also passed a Women’s Manifesto noting “the use of culture, religion and tradition as the defense for keeping women silent as well as the way in which violence against women is a form of censorship needs to be both acknowledged and addressed”.

At the Opening Ceremony author of East West Street Philippe Sands, whose grandfather was born in Lviv, narrated the origins of international human rights law and the concepts

“crimes against humanity” and “genocide.” These legal frameworks were developed by two lawyers who passed through the very university where the delegates sat. The legal teams prosecuting at the Nuremberg trials after World War II used these frameworks to secure convictions, including the conviction of Hans Frank, Hitler’s lawyer who governed the area around Lviv and sent over 100,000 Jews to concentration camps and death.

“The Foundations of human rights law came from here,” Sands said. “Every individual has rights under international law.” The lawyers Hersch Lauterpacht and Raphael Lemkin studied at the university at different times but never met. One escaped to Austria then England, the other to America. Lauterpacht protected the

rights of the individual with the concept he developed of “crimes against humanity” and Lemkin protected the group with the legal construct for “genocide”. Both men were on the legal teams that successfully secured convictions at Nuremberg.

“No organization in the world knows better than PEN the need to protect individuals and to protect others”, Sands concluded.

At the closing ceremony author David Patrikarakos focused on the current situation as the 21st century unfolds and addressed “Fact, Fiction and Politics in a Post Truth Age”.

He told the story of Vitali, who became a troll for the Russian state working at a Troll farm.

“When Vitali went to the Troll farm, he had enlisted in the Russian Army; he just didn’t wear a uniform. He and others became their own army with a virtual information war, and it is effective,” said Patrikarakos.

As an unemployed journalist, Vitali developed propaganda, rewriting reports, doctoring news accounts to enhance Russia’s position then distributed these on social media, along with fake news, fake pictures and memes to a wide audience, all relating to Russia’s assault on the Crimea.

## POST-RELEASE OF THE 83 PEN INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

According to Patrikarakos (Nuclear Iran: The Birth of an Atomic State), who has also written for the New York Times, Financial Times, Guardian, and Wall Street Journal, the Russian state spent \$250 million to sow discord in its battle for Crimea.

In the Troll farm where Vitali and other journalists worked, the first floor focused on distorting news reports and circulating them. On the second floor people worked through social media, posting memes and making up ads; on the third floor bloggers wrote about how life was better in Russian and bad for Russians in the Ukraine and on the fourth floor, people posted comments on other sites.

According to Patrikarakos and his sources, there was a bag of sim cards to request new accounts, and people were encouraged to make the accounts in the names of females because women were more likely to be believed. “The first goal was to shore up and get true believers, to give a narrative and sow as much confusion on reality as possible”, Patrikarakos said.

After three months Vitali told his boss he wanted to quit. He wrote an expose of the Troll farm. When it came out, he received threats such as “Don’t you know you can get punched in the face”.

“As I went through towns of Eastern Ukraine, content had seeped into walls”, said Patrikarakos. “In Eastern Ukraine, Putin’s nervous system is on display. There is belief in fake news —



that Ukrainians want to kill Russian speakers.

To see full version of the post-release go to Congress official Facebook page:

<https://goo.gl/kDPiZH>

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**Social media is supposed to connect us but it has also shattered unity and divided people; it sets people at loggerheads.**

The news that young people get depends on who they follow. We all follow who we like, and so prejudice is reaffirmed.

Facts are less important than narratives. The new word in 2016 from the Oxford dictionary was ‘post-truth’ which is finding linguistic footing. The goal of many is not to trust truth but to subvert truth”, he concluded.

**CONGRESS FOCUS EVENTS**



**“EMPTY CHAIRS”: EVENTS IN HONOUR OF OLEH SENSOV AND INCARCERATED WRITERS**

**Flashmob in support of Oleh Sentsov at Lviv Airport**

“With this gesture we demonstrate our support of Oleh Sentsov who has been in Russian jail since May 11, 2014 and we believe that we will soon meet him in Lviv”, Congress volunteers and flashmob participants said.

Olya Matofor press service  
Lviv 2017 PEN International Congress



**“Burns” exhibition of Roman Mykhaylov**

Installations with sheets of paper and wood burned with fire placed in Lviv tram Depot building during LvivMozArt classical music festival. Burns exhibition is the musings of artist about traumatic experience that leaves marks on the body of human and society. A series of art objects presented with the support of Zenko Foundation.

**CONGRESS FOCUS EVENTS**

**Poetic guest of the evening:  
Serhiy Zhadan**



**Concert programme by  
DakhaBrakha**

We feel the great honour and need to join this event since the main topic of this year was support of Oleh Sentsov who is serving illegal sentence in Russian jail.



## CONGRESS FOCUS EVENTS



### **Theatrical production of the 1st act of “Numbers” by Oleh Sentsov**

Director — Oleksii Kravchuk, Head of People and Puppets Theatre  
Theater designer — Oleksii Khoroshko, Ukrainianian translation by Nadiia Krat. Lesia Ukrayinka Theatre actors and Ivan Franko National University of Lviv students were involved in the project.

Oleh Sentsov wrote the play “Numbers” before incarceration and it turned out to be prophetic Story of how people become numbers: numbers of files and criminal code articles. They eat, drink and perform stupid orders because that is “what the great Nil ordered”.



### **Curator project of New Acropolis cultural association - Ukrainian Sixtiers: History Repeating**

Volunteers of “New Acropolis” presented the program “Ukrainian Sixties: Repetitive History” to the members and guests of the International Congress of the PEN Club.

Photos, videos, poems, interviews, diary entries, memoirs of representatives of the Ukrainian intellectuals of the 1960s.



## PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS


**PUBLIC DISCUSSION “JOURNALIST ETHICS VS PROPAGANDA”**

With Andriy Kulykov (together with Committee for Journalist Ethics).


**“UNDERSTANDING UKRAINE, UNDERSTANDING EUROPE: UKRAINIAN MESSAGE AT FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR”**

With participation of editor-in-chief and co-founder of Old Lion Publishing House Maryana Savka, programme director of Book Fair Sofiya Chelyak, coordinator of Book Arsenal International Literary and Artistic Festival Oksana Khmelyovska and curator of Arts Arsenal literary programmes Oksana Shchur.

## PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS

### **DEFENDING THE BOOK: PRESENTATION OF NEWLY CREATED UKRAINIAN BOOK INSTITUTE**

With participation of Deputy Director for Development at UBI Anastasiya Levkova.



### **WAR PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION BY PULITZER PRIZE FINALIST YEFREM LUKATSKYI AND LECTURE BY THE AUTHOR "CONFLICTS: STORY BEHIND THE SCENES"**

Event organized together with Committee for Journalist Ethics with the support of OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine.



## PUBLIC DISCUSSION


**PUBLIC DISCUSSION “WORDS IN EXILE: SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES, COUNTERACTING XENOPHOBIA”**

Participants:

**Enoh Meyomesse (Cameroon)** — writer, historian and political activist, President of Cameroon Writer’s Association. For more than 3 years he was in jail for attempted coup-d’etat and theft of 78 g of gold. Author of 15 poetry collections, prose works and essays. He works with political and cultural topic, tells about Cameroon tragedies and condemns the policy of tribal unions in Africa.

**Emmanuel Pierrat (France)** — writer, lawyer. Worked as cultural officer and assistant for Indian government and city advisor for the Sixth District of Paris. His publications contain manuals on publishing law, ways

of expressing opinions, book trade and copyright. He also wrote several sketches on the issues of culture, justice and censorship.

**Hulnara Bekirova (Ukraine/ Crimea)** — Crimean Tatar historian, member of Ukraine PEN Centre. Manager of “Tolerant Textbooks — Tolerant Society” project. Author and presenter of the programme “Tarikhlevkhalary” (“Pages in History”) at ATR channel. Editor-in-Chief for the web-project “Crimea and Crimean Tatars”. Historical consultant of “Khaitharma” movie. Publications: “Half-Century of Resistance: Crimean Tatars from Eviction to Comeback (1941-1991)”, “Mustafa Dzhemilev: ‘For Decades the Voice of Crimean Tatars was not Heard...’”, “Crimean Tatars. 1941-1991: (Political History

Experience)”.

**Olena Stiazhkina (Ukraine/ Donbas)** — writer, publicist, doctor of historical sciences. Founder of “Deoccupation”. Return. Education public movement. Author of more than ninety academic papers published both in Ukraine and abroad. Member of the Executive Council of PEN International Centre. Board Member of Ukrainian Association of Research in Women’s History and Ukrainian Oral History Association. Co-founder of “Hovoryt Donbass” (“Donbas is Speaking”) information bulletin.

Moderator:

**Iman Humaidan (Lebanon)** — writer, creative writing teacher, translator, researcher, editor, journalist. Founder of “ARRAWI” — non-profitable centre for marginalized youth in Lebanon. Her novels are published in Arabic, French, German, Italian and Danish. Her short stories, essays and publicist works are published in German, Swiss, French and Arabic newspapers and magazines. Humaidan is the co-author of the script for the movie “It’s Going to Rain” which won the first prize at Dubai Film Festival in 2010. The author co-founded PEN Centre in Lebanon in 2012 and serves as its President since 2015.

## PUBLIC DISCUSSION


**“STANDING FOR THE TRUTH IN  
TIMES OF PROPAGANDA”**

Participants:

**Jennifer Clement (Mexico)** — President of PEN International, first woman to be chosen for the position. President of PEN Centre Mexico from 2009 to 2012. Her books have been translated into 24 languages. “Prayers for the Stolen” was awarded New York Times Book Review Editor’s Choice Book. She is laureate of Gran Prix des Lectrices Lyceenes de ELLE 2015. Awarded Guggenheim Fellowship for “Gun Love”. The topics that Clement discusses in her books: human trafficking, drug business and Mexican mafia.

**Paul Auster (USA)** — best-selling author. 16 novels received awards, including Prince of Asturias Award,

Independent Spirit Award, IMPAC International Diplomatic Award (“The Book of Illusions”). The novel “4321” was shortlisted for Man Booker Prize. His novels have been translated into more than 40 languages.

**Artem Bidenko (Ukraine)** — political scientist, political communications expert, state secretary of the Ministry of Information Policy of Ukraine. Blogger and author at Internet publications Ukrayinska Pravda, UBR, Liga.net, Espresso.TV.

**David Patrikarakos** — British journalist, writer and essay writer. Author of “Nuclear Iran: The Birth of an Atomic State”, works of Yale University Poynter magazine and Iranian Studies School of the University of St. Andrews. His articles were published by The Guardian, The New York Times,

editor for the Daily Beast. He stayed in the East of Ukraine for some time and made reports from ATO zone.

Moderator:

**Margie Orford (South Africa)** — South African journalist, cinema director. author of criminal and children’s fantasy books as well as school textbooks. Born in London and raised in Namibia and South African Republic. As a student she was detained during emergency state in Namibia in 1985 and passed her graduation exams in jail. She started her career in independent Namibia. She has been living in South Africa since 2001.

## PUBLIC DISCUSSION



### “MEMORY AND LITERARY IMAGINATION AS COUNTERACTION TO EVIL”

Participants:

**Yaroslav Hrytsak (Ukraine)** — academic, historian and publicist. Editor-in-Chief of *Ukrayina Moderna* annual academic publication, member of editorial board of *Ab Imperio*, *Krytyka*, *Slavic Review*, Supervisory Board Member of *Harvard Ukrainian Studies Journal*. Scholarly interests: 19-20th century history of Eastern Europe, intellectual history and nationalism theory.

**Adam Zagajewski (Poland)** — poet, essay and prose writer. Nominated for Nobel Prize in Literature in 2007. Signatory of dissident Letter of 59 (1975), participant of social and

political Solidarity movement. Some of his books were self-published. Teaches at US universities. His works have been translated into English, French, German, Spanish, Catalan, Slovak, Swedish and other languages. His essay collection *Another Beauty* and 120 poems poetic collection have been translated into Ukrainian.

**Madeleine Thien (Canada)** — essay writer and novelist of Malay-Chinese origin. Author of *Simple Recipes* short story collection. Her novels “*Certainty*” and “*Dogs at the Perimeter*” were awarded Berlin International Literary Award and are winners of Frankfurt Book Fair 2015. Her books are published in Canada, the USA, England and Australia and have been translated into 25 languages. “*Do Not Say We Have Nothing*”

won Baileys Women Prize for Fiction and Folio award in 2017 and became New York Times Bestseller 2016.

**Larry Sims (USA)** — American writer, author of texts on human rights and cross-cultural studies, Director of “Freedom of Printed Word” programme of writers of American PEN Centre in New York. He published his writings in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Slate*, *The Nation*, *LA Weekly* and *Ironwood*, *Epoch* and *Southern Poetry Review*.

Moderator:

**Kateryna Smahlyi (Ukraine)** — Director of Kennan Institute in Ukraine, National Correspondent of the European Museum Forum in Ukraine, Board Member at All-Ukrainian NGO — “Ukrainian Fulbright Circle”. She has more than 15 years of professional experience, including work for international organizations, diplomatic missions, democracy promotion funds, civil society and academic circles. In 2014 she published a book — “*Everyone Makes a Difference: Social Entrepreneurship and Strategic Philanthropy*”.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**



**“WILL DEMOCRACY FALL? ESTABLISHING OF POPULISM AND NATIVISM AS A GLOBAL CHALLENGE”**

Participants:

**Ganesh Devy (India)** — literary critic, social activist, organizer of People’s Linguistic Survey of India in 2010 which helped him document 780 living Indian languages. Laureate of Prince Claus award for his work on conservation of history, languages and views of oppressed communities. His book “Vaanprastha” received six awards. He refused his Sahitya Akademi Award in October 2015 as a mark of protest and in solidarity with other writers who see a threat to Indian democracy, secularism and freedom of expression.

**Burhan Sönmez (Turkey)** — novelist, his works are published in more than 20 countries of the world, member of Human rights Society (IHD) and founder of TAKSAV (Social Studies, Culture and Arts Fund). Turkish and English PEN Club member. Lives in Cambridge and Instabul.

**Yelena Chizhova (Russia/Saint Petersburg)** — Russian writer, 2009 Booker Prize Winner, Director of Saint Petersburg PEN Centre, PhD in Economic Sciences. Editor-in-Chief of “World Word” (Saint Petersburg) international journal, translator, essay writer. In March 2014 she signed the petition of Russian people of culture against occupation of Crimea. Her novel “Time of Women” is 2009 Man Booker Prize winner.

**Andrey Makarychev (Estonia)** — publicist, journalist, professor of the University of Tartu. Scholarly interests: relations between Russia and the EU. post-Soviet countries, grand events in eastern Europe and Euarasia, issue of biopolicy. He collaborates with Jagellonian University in Krakow, Copenhagen Peace Research Institute, Baltic and Eastern European High School, Kennan Institute of Post-Graduate Research and other research and academic institutions.

Moderator:

**Mykola Riabchuk (Ukraine)** — journalist, publicist, poet, prose writer, translator, columnist. President of the Ukrainian Centre of International PEN Club. Author of articles in Ukrainian and foreign magazines and academic collections. Apart from literary and cultural topics he is involved in active discussion of national identity establishing, civil society formation as well as state and nation shaping.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS



**SPECIAL PROJECT WITH CHYTOMO  
CULTURAL AND PUBLISHING  
PROJECT WITH THE SUPPORT OF  
KYIV-MOHYLA BUSINESS SCHOOL**

On the eve of Congress Chytomo Cultural and Publishing Project prepared a guide for the event with exclusive comments from organizers and participants: <http://pencongress.tilda.ws>

During the event Chytomo journalists posted live videos in social media and posts in Instagram and Twitter. On the basis of their work journalists prepared interviews with top authors of the world and notes of the discussions and public speeches. They include interview with President of PEN International Jennifer Clement, President of French PEN Centre Sylvestre Clancier, Executive Director of PEN International Carles Torner, American writer Paul Auster, key note speaker of the Congress, barrister Philippe Sands, Swedish writer

Elizabeth Osbrink.

- 14 interviews
- 1 landing
- 9 knots of the events

Event archive is still being supplied with materials:

<http://www.chytomo.com/pen-ta-chytomo>

**SPECIAL PROJECT WITH LVIV  
MEDIA FORUM**

Lviv Media Forum together with the 83rd PEN International Congress in Lviv held Literary Journalism School. During September Congress Lviv welcomed the most famous writers, journalists and human rights advocates of the world. And at the same time attendees of the school guided by literary critic Hanna Ulyura and interviewer Anastasiya Levkova were learning how to create quality texts about literature.

- 23 applications
- 15 participants

- 8 materials (3 interviews, 4 reviews, 1 columns)
- 16 classroom working hours and nearly 30 out of class working hours

**LETTERS TO INCARCERATED WRITERS TOGETHER WITH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

Amnesty International is following hearings on cases of Oleh Sentsov and Oleksandr Kolchenko. The organization demands that the verdict be reviewed and supports visibility of the case by advocating for it and reminding about the verdict for Oleh and Sasha to different international institutions.

Within PEN Congress in Lviv an event took place — writing letters of support — which the organization sent to incarcerated writes and once again reminded the international literary community about the unlawfulness of the verdict and human rights violation.

**SPECIAL PROJECT “CINEMA TRUTH AT LVIVARNIA”**

Congress delegates had their first meeting at Museum and Culture Complex of Beer History — Lvivarnia. Emersion into the local context of Lviv and Ukraine happened not only through history of beer brewing but also through stories about the tragic events in Crimea in the past demonstrated in feature film based on real events — “Khaitarma” (2013, directed by Akhtem Seitablayev) and in the present — a documentary about Oleh

## SPECIAL PROJECTS

Sentsov and Oleksandr Kolchenko — “Process” (2017, directed by Askold Kurov, 16+).

### CONGRESS BEER AS A MEDIUM IN TIMES OF POST-TRUTH

Specifically for the Congress the organizers, !Fest Holding of Emotions and Pravda Beer theatre created craft beer — “Liberation. Empty Chair”. The symbol of an empty chair was not accidental. Since 80s of the previous century International PEN has used “empty chair” as a symbol of writers who cannot be present at the Congress, who are incarcerated, detained, have disappeared, are in danger or were killed because of their literary or public activities. Every on year November 15, the Day of Incarcerated Writers, PEN Centres around the world traditionally organize an “empty chair” event. This is why this important symbol was used to create the label of beer of the 83rd International PEN Congress in Lviv, Brewery Pravda. Beer Theatre. brewed **5,035** bottles **0.33L** each which in total makes up 1,662 l of dark beer.



### MOTIVATIONAL CONFERENCE REGARDING LVIV JOINING ICORN NETWORK

ICORN (The International Cities of Refuge Network) ICORN is an independent organization of cities and regions which offer shelter to writers and artists in danger, promote freedom of expression, stand for democratic values and promote international solidarity.

Motivational conference with participation of international ICORN network members took place in Lviv: Helga Lunde (ICORN CEO), Justyna Jochym (head of Krakow UNESCO City of Literature Office), Robert Piaskowski (Krakow ICORN City), Danuta Glondys (Villa Decius/Krakow ICORN City), Deputy Lviv City Mayor for Development Andriy Moskalenko,

conference initiators — Bozhena Zakaliuzhna and Pavlo Bilyk who are human rights advocates and active citizens.

Upon the initiative of Lviv UNESCO City of Literature Office, a working group was created after the conference and a road map of the project of Lviv joining the Network has been created.



## SPECIAL PROGRAMME FROM WRITERS



### KEYNOTE SPEECH BY BRITISH LAWYER AND PUBLICIST PHILIPPE SANDS "EAST-WEST STREET: PERSONAL STORIES"

On Life and on Law as part of Opening ceremony of the Congress in the Assembly Hall of Lviv National University.

During his lecture Mr. Sands stressed that crimes against humanity and genocide were concepts that were so spread at the moment that it seemed as if they had always been around. But it is not so and they were coined in Lviv. "No other city knows more about the strain between individuals and groups that Lviv knows of. And in fact it is also the city which capitalized and sped up the emergence of new terms which were created by Lauterpacht and Lemkin".

### KEYNOTE SPEECH BY BRITISH PUBLICIST DAVOD PATRIKARAKOS - "FACT, FICTION AND POLITICS IN THE AGE OF POST-TRUTH"

during the Closing ceremony at Lviv Organ Music Hall. The author of the book on social medial impact on war mechanisms in early 21st century. In his lecture the journalist summarized topics discussed during the Congress: "In Eastern Ukraine Putin's nervous system reveals itself. There people believe in fake news – that Ukrainians want to kill Russian-speaking citizens. Facts are less important than stories. According to Oxford Dictionary a new word added to the dictionary in 2016 was "post-truth" and it has semantic foundations. The purpose of many is not to believe the truth and to ruin it", Patrikarakos summarized.



**PUBLIC LITERARY PLATFORMS**

**A LANDMARK EVENT FOR THE 83RD INTERNATIONAL PEN CONGRESS IN LVIV, WERE PUBLIC LITERARY PLATFORMS OF FOUR COUNTRIES: BELARUS, POLAND, ISRAEL AND FRANCE**

**Polish Platform**

**“Poland But Which One?”**

Participants: Galina Cieplinska-Bitner, Anna Nasilowska, Adam Pomorsky

Moderator: Olya Hnatyuk

**Belarus platform**

**“Belarussian Literature in Poems, Questions and Answers. Meeting with Writers from Belarus”**

Participants: Barys Piatrovych, Liavon Barshchevskiy, Maria Martisieвич, Tatsiana Niadbai, Andrei Khadanovych

Moderator: Halyna Kruk

**Jewish platform**

**“Israeli Poetic Guide: Present-Absent”**

Participants: Yurko Prokhasko, Andriy Pavlyshyn

Moderator: Ostap Slyvynskiy

**French platform**

**Talk with the French writer, head of French PEN Club Sylvestre Clancier about “Philosophy in Literature”**

Guest of the evening: Sylvester Clancier

Moderator: Kostyantyn Sihov



## PUBLIC LITERARY PLATFORMS


**POETRY EVENING FROM HEADLINERS:**

Guests of the evening:

**Adam Zagajewski (Poland)** — poet, essay and prose writer. Nominated for Nobel Prize in Literature in 2007. Signatory of dissident Letter of 59 (1975), participant of social and political Solidarity movement.

Some of his books were self-published. Teaches at US universities. His works have been translated into English, French, German, Spanish, Catalan, Slovak, Swedish and other languages. His essay collection “Another Beauty” and “120 poems” poetic collection have been translated into Ukrainian.

**Yuriy Andrukhovych (Ukraine)** — poet, prose writer, publicist. Co-founder of Bu-Ba-Bu literary union. Author of poetry collections “The Sky and Squares” (1985), “Exotic Birds and Plants” (1991), novels “Recreations” (1992), “The Moscoviad” (1993), “Perversion” (1996), “Secret” (2007), publications in periodicals and anthologies. The works by Yuriy Andrukhovych have been translated in more than 20 countries of the world. Some of his literary awards include: Erich Maria Remark Special Peace Prize, Leipzig Book Award for European Understanding, Angelus Central Europe Literary Award. Recipient of Vilenica International Literary Award.

**Judith Rodriguez (Australia)** — contemporary Australian poet. Author of poetry collection, editor of anthology and selected poems by Jennifer Rankin. 1988-1997 — editor of poetic publications at Penguin Australia. Co-author of the screenplay for “Poor Johanna”, author of Libretto for “Lindy” opera at Sydney Opera House. Recipient of Order of Australia for achievements in literature and Christopher Brennan FAW award.

**Reinaldo Montero (Cuba)** — poet, playwright, movie censor. Author of 30 published book and 10 plays. The novel “Chamber Music” has been adapted for the screen. For more than 10 years he has been creating interdisciplinary projects of theatre, literature and visual arts in collaboration with Spanish Cultural Centre and Goethe Institute.

**PUBLIC LITERARY PLATFORMS**

**SOLEMN INAUGURATION OF  
MEMORY PLAQUE TO HALYNA  
GURSKA**

Lecture and commemorative evening – “Heart Filled with Passionate Love and Endless Mercy” by researcher Andrii Pavlyshyn about little known Lviv writer, rights advocate and supporter of the poor.



## IMAGE AND PROMOTION OF THE CITY

### EVERY DELEGATE CAME BACK TO THEIR COUNTRY WITH A MEMORY FROM LVIV

#### Participants guests were gifted with “Awesome Lviv” book

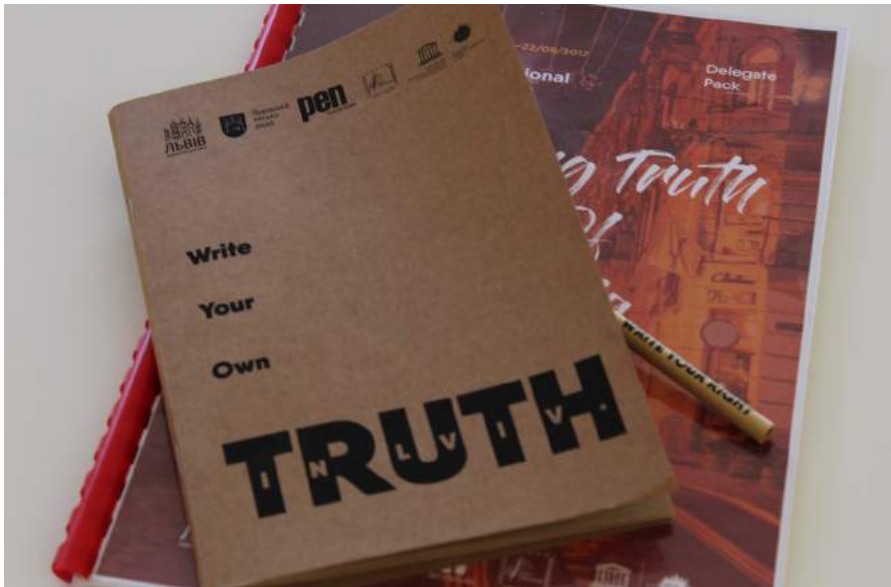
On the pages of this publication you will find links to the main historical events, famous and talented people, art, culture, sports, literature, traditions and even favorite street food. (Kopylova A. / Anna Kopylova, Dana Pavlychko. — Kyiv: Osnovy publishing, 2016. — 198 c.)



#### Special guests were gifted with Pinzel Albums

Gift of patrons Irina and Taras Demkura (Stetsko V. Pynzel's Mystery Art album / Stetsko Vira. — Kyiv: Master knyг, 2017. — 152 p.)

**IMAGE AND PROMOTION OF THE CITY**



**Each participant got a branded notebook, eco-bag, pen, pin**

**Special guests were gifted with presents from Congress partner — Lviv Svitoch Confectionery**



## REVIEWS OF DELEGATES

**Euskal PEN** @EUSKALPEN · 20 ver.  
 #83pencongress en @PENCatala ko lagunekin. Bihar ebazpena aurkeztuko dugu, munduko idazle elkarte handienak sala dezan gertatzen ari dena



“You are completely lovely, even-tempered, able. I thought it was a great success. Thanks to all” —  
**Lucina Kathmann, San Miguel PEN**

“As delegates at the Lviv Congress of International PEN I have no negative remarks. All was well organised. Evenings with readings and music were great. Thank you very much for your hospitality. Congratulations for a very good conference” —  
**Ifigenija Simonovic, Slovene PEN**

“Dear friends, thank you for having organized an excellent congress of PEN International. I enjoyed very much this first visit to Ukraine.

Lviv is a beautiful city” —  
**Albert Franceschetti, French PEN**

“Dear Friends. Thank you very much for the excellent organization and for the high level of the different events which made of this Congress one of these essential meeting of good wills, talents, involvement and responsibility” —  
**Jean Jauniaux, Belgique francophone PEN**

“In the name of the Portuguese PEN Centre I would like to thank you for all the support you have given to us. If I think that the logistics went perfectly, Yet my opinion about the conception and sessions planning has some

reserves. Anyhow, I personally enjoyed very much to be in Lviv and thank you again for your hospitality” —  
**Teresa Cadete, Portuguese PEN**

“Us the French PEN writers delegation we have been really very happy during those days to meet you and discuss with you the share values and take place into some of your round tables and Your sense of hospitality has been really appreciated. For all these reasons, LVIV congress will be for us in our memory one of the best Congress of International PEN” —  
**Sylvestre Clancier, Malick Diarra, Emmanuel Pierrat – French PEN**

“I do have warm memories of my stay in Lviv and am very thankful for all your efforts that have made this Congress memorable: a quiet, peaceful and cherished atmosphere, full of unpretentious cultural issues and yet full of significant insides. And I would compare to a city of Austro-Hungarian Empire setting mixed to a Christian soul. The people I met on the street, although did not know english, were able to help and I felt at home” —  
**Chiara Macconi, PEN Esperanto**

“I returned home in India with the most endearing memories of the Congress at Lviv. The meticulous care with which every aspect of my stay was handled made the experience worth cherishing for years to come. Personally for me, there was a huge amount of learning as I am getting ready to host the next PEN Congress in India.

## REVIEWS OF DELEGATES

ICORN @ICORN\_ORG · 21 вер.

-We complement each other! Programme Director Elisabeth Dyvik @ICORN\_ORG addresses the #83PENCongress @pen\_int

🌐 Перекласти (англійська)



"I hope many of you will come to India and give me an opportunity of returning your warm hospitality at least in a small measure" — **Ganesh Devy, Indian PEN**

"Thank you for organizing a wonderful congress, and for the warm hospitality during my stay. Your desk staff was attentive and responsive, and the venues were an excellent choice. All in all, a memorable and excellent experience" — **Urve Tamberg, Canadian PEN**

"I had a great time in Lviv. Everything on behalf of Lviv and Ukraine was very well organized. Big compliments to all the volunteers who were very friendly and well instructed.

As far as I am concerned, the organising team and PEN Ukraine did a perfect job. The goodbye party was also great fun. I especially liked Joryj Kloc" — **Alexis de Roode, PEN Netherlands**

"Estimated colleagues, thank you for all your efforts. The Congress in Lviv was very beautiful and profitable" — **Nasser Pejman, Iranian PEN Center in exile.**

"Thank you very much for your hospitality. The Congress was wonderful" — **Elena Chizhova, Saint-Petersburg PEN**

"Thank you so much for all your work and organization. It was amazing! And thanks for join us in this activities. Of course, I can think about Congress, but sincerely you are a great team" — **Alicia Quiñones, Mexican PEN**





## SOCIAL PAGES OF ORGANIZATION OFFICE AND OPINION LEADERS ABOUT THE CONGRESS



While Lviv is holding the international attention during International PEN Congress, some Lviv citizens seized the opportunity to demonstrate their protest in front of consulate general of Russia Federation and remind the international community about 44 Ukrainian political prisoners captured in Russian jails.

I heard a lot of reproaches from relatives of imprisoned Ukrainians: they charge Ukrainian authorities with disregard of this topic. Still, relatives are aware of the fact that the release of their close ones from the prison is the matter of great efforts and several years.



The 83rd PEN International Congress, for the very first time held in Ukraine (Lviv), kickstarted today with an action in support of Oleg Sentsov. At the Lviv airport, volunteers met PEN guests with the signs "Oleg Sentsov". This year Oleg has become a Congress' focal point. The event's topic is "The Truth in the Age of Propaganda".

In such a way we support Oleg Sentsov, who was thrown in Russian prison on May 11, 2014. We believe that we will be able to welcome him in Lviv so

Показати більше...  
Переглянути переклад



PEN International is the international non-governmental organisation, which unites professional writers, editors and translators. Ivanna Klymush-Tsintsadze discussed with its representatives the details of the last resolution regarding Ukraine, decreed during the 83rd International Congress of PEN in Lviv.

Firstly, PEN members evaluated positive changes in the freedom of speech in Ukraine (except annexed Crimea and occupied East of Ukraine, where Russia set international norms at defiance systematically). Secondly, they defined problems, especially facts of the journalists being attacked. Ukrainian system of law enforcement and legal proceedings should react on those actions correspondingly: same applies not only to physical violence towards journalists, but also threats and persecution. Vice prime minister assured of Ukrainian concernment in this problem; the situation will improve with the inception of newly-elected Supreme Court of Ukraine.



Meeting on the balcony with the Mayor Andriy Sadoviy before the grand opening of the 83 International PEN Congress in Lviv. 20 minutes till the opening...

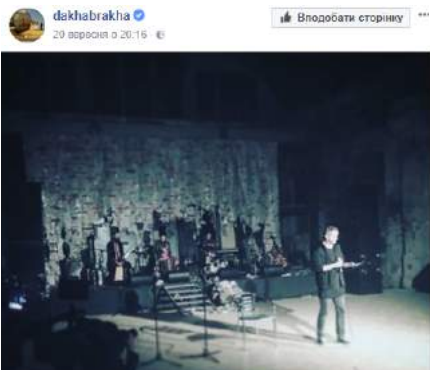


The 83rd International Congress of PEN started with the action to support Oleg Sentsov. Volunteers of the Congress meet writers at the Lviv airport with the signs "Oleg Sentsov."



This Wednesday we speak with Gulnara Bekirova: about PEN Congress, about Nikolay Semen, about Ilmi Umerov, about the book "A Half Century of Resistance." Resistance, which still continues.

## SOCIAL PAGES OF ORGANIZATION OFFICE AND OPINION LEADERS ABOUT THE CONGRESS



For the first time ever International PEN Club is holding the 83rd International Congress in Lviv (Ukraine). Participation in this event is a matter of great importance to us, since the main topic is dedicated to support Oleg Sentsov, the Ukrainian filmmaker who serves a term of illegal imprisonment in Russia. The photo depicts us waiting for our performance and listening to powerful and burning poems by Serhiy Zhadan.



The school of literary journalism has started, which we organized together with the 83rd International Congress of PEN in Lviv. Now the participants are listening to Ganna Uliura — she is a perfect speaker, thanks.



## PARTNERS

## GENERAL PARTNERS



Львівська  
міська  
рада



**National Endowment  
for Democracy**  
*Supporting freedom around the world*

## OFFICIAL PARTNERS



Friedrich Barmann  
STIFTUNG **FÜR DIE FREIHEIT**



Ukrainian  
Jewish  
Encounter

Українсько  
Єврейська  
Зустріч



**Government  
of Canada**



## PARTNERS



**моршинська**



## PARTNERS

### INFORMATION PARTNERS



### CO-ORGANIZERS OF SPECIAL EVENTS



### LOCAL PARTNERS



### TECHNICAL PARTNER



### TELECOMMUNICATION PARTNER



**VOLUNTEERS**



**VOLUNTEERS RECEIVED CERTIFICATES WHO WORKED AROUND 1800 MAN-HOURS**



**APPLICATIONS RECEIVED, 12 HOURS OF TRAINING**



**TEAM OF 83 INTERNATIONAL PEN CONGRESS IN LVIV**

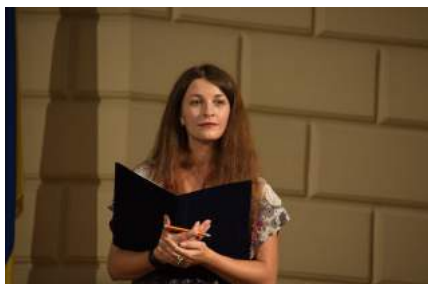
**Mykola Riabchuk, programme director, president of the Ukrainian Centre of International PEN Club:**

“We are constantly complaining that Ukrainian literature is not represented in the world and we are naive to think that once we translate Shevchenko’s works everyone will lose their breath. In general, classics is interesting only if you have modern literature so we should start promotion with contemporary literature. In this respect PEN Congress performs a very curious role as it makes people wonder: what country is this? what do they write about? what is their culture like? This is how you establish contacts. It is obvious that this event will set the course for further development of Ukrainian PEN Centre”.



**Olha Mukha, curator, team coordinator, head of Lviv UNESCO City of Literature Office:**

“For me personally PEN Congress is first of all important in cultural context as work in culture is like this: you either believe in it and give yourself completely to it or not. But this prec-



edent is a real chance for Ukraine as we have enough to show the world. The event itself has a powerful rights protection and philosophical context: how to live in times of propaganda, how to process huge volumes of information, how to verify facts, how to form your outlook. The theme of Congress is a painful topic for all spheres of life and all geographical locations”.

**Bohdana Brylynska, partnership coordinator:**

“PEN Congress has a tremendous political significance first of all. We should understand that PEN Congress does not exist as a formality, for the sake of appearances. It is in fact a rights protection organization. Which is why this event is important as Ukraine has an intellectual environ-



ment which stands for the freedom of speech and ideas. Our literary figures as leaders of opinion which form public stance are the leaders of new fight. The truth in the age of propaganda is always relevant. Every day we see how relevant information affects the political situation. Which is why an active stance is very important”.

**Olha Honchar, PR and communications Coordinator:**

“For me as a professional it is first of all an opportunity to work with an international team. It is a real professional challenge in literary context. It means change to new stage of the game, we have an opportunity to show a powerful players.

The theme of event is very on time as now we need to learn not only to



verify all information but also learn to think critically. Modern information space is mostly filled with propaganda and you never know when you are being deceived. Everything is in the hands of an individual and they do not know how to handle all this”.

## TEAM OF 83 INTERNATIONAL PEN CONGRESS IN LVIV

### **Ustym Mytsak, secretary:**

“For me PEN Congress is a chance to join a unique project which has and will continue to have a serious impact on different spheres of social life in Ukraine. Firstly, the Congress offers absolutely new opportunities to develop modern Ukrainian literature and rights protection movement. And unique opportunities always entail huge responsibility – both for teams and individuals”.

### **Maryana Zahoruyko, volunteer service coordinator:**

“Work in Congress team was first of all a personal professional challenge.

An opportunity to organize and see from the inside an event of such a scale and importance, to see meetings and discussions of the Congress, to join creation of all of this and a chance to be part of a well-organized team is really a royal reward for the continuous fear of “not screwing up”.



### **Anna Yatsenko, event coordinator:**

“The Congress became a challenge for me both in professional and world view aspects. To become a part of team of professionals, be a mediator between literary Lviv, Ukrainian and international community is a huge responsibility and professional challenge. Hearing opinions of writers from all over the world regarding the truth in post-truth age is an incredible opportunity to form one’s own vision and feel oneself a part of new senses creation”.

### **Vladyslav Rudyi, assistant:**

“Work in organizer team of PEN Congress was a unique chance to receive honorable guests for the whole country and every team member in particular. PEN united a team of professionals in Lviv, world famous writers and profound discussions which raised important social issues, problems of the freedom of speech and human rights both in global and local context”.

### **Pavlo Bilyk, visual coordinator:**

“Direct participation in preparation and running of PEN Congress is an opportunity to see the work of inspired and brave people. The work which is mistakenly identified only with the fine words from public speeches and printed texts.



Work which does not require but undoubtedly deserves deep respect and gratitude. This swift (yet not easy) way from “indirect observation” to “direct involvement” in “reclaiming the truth in times of propaganda”.

## ORGANIZERS

**INTERNATIONAL PEN** is a leading non-governmental organization of writers, translators and publicists founded in London in 1912. Intended as a platform for exchange of ideas between artists, it remains an important means of inter-cultural communication and cooperation. Starting from 1960s PEN Club has been taking care of the freedom of speech offering assistance to persecuted writers and drawing attention of the world community to existing problems. Some of PEN members include Jozef Conrad, Bernard Shaw, Heinrich Böll, Joan Rowling and others. Today PEN Club unites around 150 Centres in different countries and over 25,000 members all over the world.

**UKRAINIAN PEN CENTRE** is a representative office of International PEN in Ukraine and the following people as its members: publicist and public activist Myroslav Marynovych, writers Andriy Kurkov, Ivan Dziuba, Oleksandr Irvanets, Ivan Malkovych, Taras and Yuriy Prokhasko and journalist Yuriy Makarov. The centre is managed by publicist and writer Mykola Ryabchuk.

**LVIV UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE OFFICE** is the only representative office of UNESCO Creative Cities Network in Ukraine; an office for promotion and mediation which represents Lviv as a City of Literature in UNESCO Network and supports local literary field.

**LVIV CITY COUNCIL** is a local self-government body which represents interests of Lvivites. Lviv City Council is considered one of the most innovative and open to cultural and art projects in Ukraine. Between 2013 to 2015 Department of Culture of Lviv City Council was actively involved in Lviv applying for the title City of Literature in UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

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**W H E N**

**T R U T H**

**COMES**

**TRUE**

