

UKRAINE



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Information for All
Programme
National Committee

Statement

**by the IFAP National Committee of Ukraine on the destruction by Russia's shelling
of Printing House in Kharkiv on 23 May 2024**



Consequences of shelling of a printing house in Kharkiv, May 23, 2024. Suspilne, Kharkiv/Yugen Gertner



A children's book in a printing workshop destroyed by rockets, May 24, 2024. Suspilne, Kharkiv

On April 23, 2024 UNESCO traditionally celebrated **World Book Day**.
And exactly **a month later on May 23, 2024 Russia attacked the largest Book Printing House in Ukraine**.

A Russian missile attack on the Kharkiv printing house "Faktor-Druk" **destroyed 50,000 books for children and adults, including school textbooks...**

The Printing House was one of the largest full-cycle productions in Europe, where almost all Ukrainian publishing houses printed books

At the time of the missile attack, more than 50 employees were working at the enterprise. **Seven were killed, many were injured**. Four people were identified by DNA samples.

On May 25, on the Day of Publishing, Printing and Book Distribution Workers, Vivat Publishing announced **the names of seven employees who were killed by Russia** during the attack on their Printing House in Kharkiv on May 23.

- **Tetiana Khrapina, a print operator**
- **Roman Strohyi, a glueing machine operator**
- **Svitlana Ryzhenko, a brochure maker**
- **Olha Kurasova, an automatic sewing machine operator**
- **Olena Ninadovska, an automatic sewing machine operator**
- **Hanna Mynaieva, a finishing machine operator**
- **Dmytro Shylo, a brochure maker**

The founder and president of the Factor Group company, Serhii Polituchy, stated that this **Printing House alone prints about a third of the total number of books in Ukraine every year**. In particular, about 40% were school textbooks.

The National IFAP Committee of Ukraine recalls that the establishment of World Book Day was a natural choice of the UNESCO General Conference held in Paris in 1995 to pay worldwide tribute to books and authors on April 23, encouraging everyone to have access to a book.

April 23 is a symbolic date in world literature. This is the date when several famous writers died, William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega.

May 23, 2024 became a tragically symbolic day when 7 book printing workers and 50,000 books died in Kharkiv, a UNESCO Creative City. They were killed by Russia, which is still a member of UNESCO.

UNESCO is engaged in the protection and popularization of books.

UNESCO has done much to promote the enjoyment of books and reading, **and to recognize the scope of the book as a link between past and future, a bridge between generations and between cultures**.

Russia is destroying this link and this bridge in Ukraine by hitting the books.

UNESCO's "Information for All" programme of IFAP is closely related to the world of books, which are the main tools and sources for achieving the goals of IFAP - memory of the world, information for development, access to information, multilingualism.

But Russia is still in IFAP and it even chairs the working group on multilingualism.

Such a situation is cynical and unacceptable. We call on UNESCO, we call on IFAP's members to condemn Russia for its crimes in Ukraine and dismiss all Russian representatives in UNESCO's bodies.

UNESCO actively involves and unites all interested parties: authors, publishers, teachers, librarians, public and private institutions, humanitarian non-governmental organizations and mass media, as well as all those who feel motivated to work together to open the mysterious world of the Book to everyone, open access to knowledge.

Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO in her Message on the occasion of World Book and Copyright Day on 23 April 2024 stated that " UNESCO supports the publishing sector and the power of reading through its network of World Book Capitals...we are committed to supporting the fair remuneration of all those involved in the book industry, beginning with the authors. After all, behind every book there is an entire chain of know-how and skills which has led to its creation".

Ms Azoulay called not only to celebrate reading and culture, but also to make a commitment to their support.

The National IFAP Committee of Ukraine calls upon UNESCO to support Ukraine's book industry which is in danger caused by Russian aggression.

Also, we draw the attention of UNESCO and IFAP's Members States to the Statement of Vivat CEO Yuliia Orlova regarding the Importance of Factor-Druk for the Ukrainian and European Publishing Industry, which is attached.