



“We Shall Not Surrender”
Transcript of the Statement
by Major Svyatoslav Palamar (Kalyna),
the Deputy Commander of Ukraine’s Azov Regiment,
at the Kyiv Security Forum

Live from Azovstal, 13 May 2022

Well, thank you very much indeed. I’m very grateful to all and it is honor for me to represent the best soldiers, the best sergeants and officers of Ukraine. And I would like to thank the people of the United States of America, I would like to thank the military and political leadership of this great country for all the support they give to Ukraine and Ukrainian Army.

In a nutshell the situation which we have in the Azovstal we have encountered a great force on the 24th of February. The enemy represented by the Russian Federation attacked the Ukrainian territory. Over this time, we were facing the enemy that was having more armaments, more manpower. That was around 14 000 military men who attacked us. This is a huge number of military armaments. These are aircrafts, vessels, ships, aircrafts of strategic and tactical air force, these are MLRS and a huge number of shells and bombs we’ve encountered over all this time.

Our garrison managed to destroy some 6000 of the enemy forces, including one general. This is around 78 tanks and more than 100 of armored vehicles. These are confirmed data. We also have unconfirmed data. So we shall not be paying very much attention to that.

We are facing the 150 division, the 68 tank regiment. The 83 brigade of the airborne forces. The 346 GRU brigade (Chief Intelligence Office), special forces. The 22 GRU special forces brigade. The 9th marine regiment of the “DNR”. The 810th Black Sea Fleet brigade. The 155th Pacific Fleet marine brigade. These are Wagner mercenaries and also hired guns from other territories of the Russian Federation and the Caucasus.

I would also like to emphasize at this opportunity that we having been facing such an overwhelming number of enemies, we have been lacking air defense systems that could help us destroy aircraft. We do not have anti-ship cruise missiles that could allow us to sink ships.

But our boys and girls are doing their utmost and we continue to defend ourselves and we shall not surrender. Indeed, from the 1st of March we have been already encircled. We retreated fighting and from the end of March we continue to fight at the Azovstal.

The situation is difficult. The enemy is cynical; the enemy does not abide by any international conventions. Neither Geneva Convention, nor anything else. Knowing that there is a huge number of wounded soldiers – around 600 – at Azovstal, the enemy continues to shell and bomb us, including the military hospital that we have. This is the breach of all international norms and conventions.

The enemy is also doing everything in terms of propaganda. We in the Azov regiment are the military servicemen of Ukraine of various nationalities: there are Jews among us, Greeks among us, Belarusians, Gagauz people. These are all Ukrainian citizens. We do not have hired guns among us. We have different faiths and religions, we are multinational. So this Russian propaganda is working against us. And this is what is kind of adding oil to the fire.

What is going to happen next. We will defend the Azovstal until we have any opportunity to do so. Indeed, we do face problems with water, with food, with ammunition, with medications but we continue to stand strong and we shall be keeping our defenses and we carry out an order from our higher political command. So we shall continue to fight.

Today with the assistance of artillery and the aircrafts the enemy continues to bomb and shell us, but we continue to defend our premises.

Having this opportunity, I would like to address all representatives of this conference and tell you that we thank you for all your support. I would like to say that such high representatives of such proud people as the United States of America, I would like you to hear me out. First and foremost, please assist us in evacuation of our wounded soldiers, of our wounded brothers. If there is any opportunity, please use it to assist us in the extraction process of our garrison. These boys and girls being encircled have given their utmost to crush, to hold such a huge number of enemy and if we fail to do so, these hordes of the enemy will go elsewhere and capture other territories of Ukraine. And the frontline would look very much different from what it does now. I would also like to emphasize again that the enemy does not abide to any conventions or doesn't share any values. They just want to ruin all of the civilized world. And by protecting Azovstal and by protecting Mariupol we are defending all the civilized world values. And all the values that we managed to protect with so much effort and to win over Nazism and Communism.

I would like to thank that in both World Wars and in the current aggression of Russia against Ukraine the United States stand shoulder to shoulder with us and assist us. Thank you!