



Solidarity Ukraine – issue 49- Number 3 – Trusted third party

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The Institute for Research and Information on Volunteering (iriv) joins the international solidarity in favor of Ukraine attacked by Russia on February 24, 2022. The Covid pandemic has weakened democratic countries. Conspiracy theories and hate speech have exploded. This war in Europe is existential for the European Union. This Newsletter is the 3rd published in 2026 and the 49th since the beginning of the conflict. March is the third month of the year, placed in 2026 under the sign of a renewed fighting spirit for Ukraine after a difficult year 2025 marked by the end of American support. The number 3 is highly symbolic - Holy Trinity for Christians, symbol of mastery and fulfillment with the triangle for Freemasons. In Russia, three-letter initials made generations of opponents tremble (KGB); they continue in

2026 with other letters (FSB, GRU...). In Ukraine, a third Revolution began on the path to freedom - after the Orange Revolution (2004), then the Maidan Revolution (2014), a heroic Resistance has opened since 2022. Europe had to resolve to open a third way, after the American defection. The United States wishes to focus on their hemisphere (two Americas). The speech delivered by the Canadian Prime Minister at the Davos summit in January 2026 renewed the notion of a «trusted third party» that recalls the non-aligned movement of the 1950s. Countries had refused to integrate the two blocs that opposed each other during the Cold War - the Western world (United States and Western Europe) in the face of the Soviet world (USSR and Eastern Europe). There is no longer a bipolar world. In complex international relations, everyone chooses their 'trusted third party'.

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* logo designed by Caritas Canada in February 2022

Number 3, holy trinity and notion of tiers

In the Catholic religion, the number three is highly symbolic. The Holy Trinity is composed of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (1). In the Bible, the apostle Peter betrayed Jesus before the rooster sang three times. After his crucifixion, Jesus died, was buried, and rose again on the third day. In Freemasonry, the triangle (polygonal fig with three sides, three angles and three vertices) «has a strict correspondence with the number 3». The Freemason's goal is "to work for the perfection of the world by building temples of virtues and tombs for vices"; Freemasonry uses the principle of triangulation. Thus "every action is done between three people, three groups or involves three elements: the symbol of the triangle". The three sides express: birth - life - death but also good thinking; good saying and right doing. (2). For the Swiss historian of antiquity Waldermar Deonna (3), the number three is an "absolute superlative", from the "tricornu bull" to the "triphallic Mercury". The three horns of the bull, an animal symbol of virility, are inspired by the tradition of Celtic triads. The tricornu bull belongs to "the series of ternary representations of Celtic and Gallo-Roman art, divine triads, legends, three-gender bulls, tricephals, objects and symbolic ornaments triplets". The professor at the University of Geneva evokes the studies of comparative mythologies, Indo-European, by his French colleague Georges Dumézil who sees in triplicity a memory of the original Indo-Iranian and Indo-European unity, and its "social tripartition".

Under the Ancien Régime (before the French Revolution), society is divided into three classes or orders - the Nobility, the Clergy, and the Third Estate. At the Museum of History of the City of Paris (4), an anonymous caricaturist represented the three orders by three characters - the Clergy in ecclesiastical attire, the Nobility wearing a feathered hat; both are perched on a peasant, the Third Estate, "old and poorly dressed, under their weight." In the French Republic, three institutions are the judges of last resort - the Council of State (for laws), the Court of Auditors (for public finances) and the Constitutional Court (for respect of the fundamental law, the Constitution). For a long time, international relations envisaged a division of the world and spoke of the Third World to describe developing countries. The expression deemed contemptuous repeated the idea of the French Revolution - the countries of the South were crushed by the Western bloc (resources looted) or instrumentalized by the Soviet bloc (numerous guerrillas in Latin America, in Africa, or in Asia financed by the USSR).

In accounting and tax law, a "trusted third party" is a natural or legal person authorized to perform authentication, transmission, and storage legal security operations (chartered accountant). In juvenile law, a trustworthy third party is an adult with whom the minor maintains ties of attachment and trust (a member or not of his/her family). In the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, trust tiers (trusted third party) have changed since January 2025.

Threats in 3 letters in Russia

Under the Soviet Union (USSR), three letters terrorized generations of regime opponents - KGB for Komitet Gossoudarstvennoi Bezopasnosti or State Security Committee. It was replaced under Vladimir Putin's Russia by the FSB, with equally violent methods. Military intelligence (GRU) does not have better press. The practices of some Russian officers engaged on the Ukrainian front since 2022 are just as brutal and inhuman.

The independent Russian media *Viorstka* reported testimonies of soldiers who witnessed the abuses committed by certain superiors against their troops (5). To designate the murder of their own comrades, the Russian military talks about cancellation. The «cancellers» are commanders who carry out this type of execution. These punishments are the result of intimidation or personal reckoning. It is not only for the journalists of *Viorstka* about murders in the strict sense (shootings or tortures leading to death) but about sentencing them to death by sending them to the front they know they will not return- they will be killed, or injured and left for dead without any attempt to rescue by their superiors or comrades. Russian witnesses who agreed to speak despite their fear describe sadistic commanders with scenes worthy of horror movies. Young recruits have their skulls shattered against the walls or the ground, and beaten to death for trivial reasons. Their 'executors' generally have heavy judicial backgrounds. Former inmates are customary to these sadistic practices that are common in Russian prisons. During the riskiest assaults, about ten men are selected to be sent to the front line. They have the choice between these suicide attacks or being shot at the end by the «cancellers». There are other forms of masked killings- using a soldier as live bait in the front line to provoke enemy fire and spot opposing positions. Sometimes Russian commanders use drones against their own soldiers. The reason why these officers prefer to "cancel" their men is so that they do not testify about the ill-treatment and acts of torture imposed on their troops. For the soldiers who had the bad idea of asking questions about their pay; they are locked in pits covered with a grid and filled with water, deprived of drinking and eating. Blackmail is frequent. The 'canceling' commanders racket their own troops - either their men pay them their salaries or they are sent to the front line. The journalists from *Viortska* cite the case of a “cancelling” commander un the 139th battalion. This man called Kourort had a sauna built at the back of the front and bought a second apartment in Donetsk thanks to the racket of his men. He opened stores where he resells the confiscated humanitarian aid to volunteers sent to the front. Protected by two generals, he continues to crack down with impunity. He was even promoted to colonel. The Russian army is grateful to him - he saves the army pensions by declaring that the "canceled" Russian soldiers have deserted, depriving their families of the compensation provided for soldiers who died at the front. Recruitment is increasingly difficult for the Russian army in 2026, which needs 30,000 men per month. A frightening record for the Russian army which closes its eyes on these exactions, three evocative letters: NTD (Nothing to declare).

Freedom in 3 Revolutions in Ukraine

The Orange Revolution (in 2004) and then the Maidan Revolution (in 2014) were marked by Russian interference, and open support provided by the Russian president to pro-Russian candidates and secessionist movements in Crimea and Donbass, armed by the Russian government. President Vladimir V. Putin decided to attack Ukraine a third time on February 24, 2024. The Ukrainians took this third attempt at invasion, and total annexation of their territory, as a final maneuver by an authoritarian, autocratic Russia, hostile to the European Union, pretending to be threatened by NATO, but out of breath.

For the analysts, if the Ukrainian army has defied all predictions, especially those of the Russian nationalists who had predicted a victory in «three weeks», it is thanks to the «democratic» character of the Ukrainian army «where the inventiveness and preservation of human life are valued» (5). Many men occupying strategic positions in the civilian before the war were able to transfer their skills to conduct a just and exemplary fight to defend their attacked country. A former border guard unit was incorporated into the regular army. If the use of drones has been central since the beginning of the war, close combat is also numerous. The Ukrainian military can measure the gap that separates them from the Russian military whose life expectancy on the front is very limited (a few weeks). They discovered in the phones of Russian soldiers killed on the front "posthumous letters". A Ukrainian commander testifies to the despair of Russian recruits who were trapped by false contracts and mistreatment, when they were not threatened with cancellation. If they are injured by drones, they prefer to commit suicide. Yet their only chance of survival is to be taken prisoner by the Ukrainians.

The four years of resistance by the Ukrainian army are also largely explained by the initiative left to everyone within the army. Single soldiers' suggestions are listened to by their officers. The freedom that is left to them, while respecting discipline, is a force recognized by the Ukrainian soldiers. Ukraine is fighting with mostly non-professional troops, coming from civil society. A former construction entrepreneur in Kiev runs a company on the Southern front, specializing in drone warfare. He was appointed commander by a vote within his unit (49 votes out of 51, a plebiscite). For this business leader who became a commander, the skills coming from non-military actors have made it possible to rid the Ukrainian army of bureaucratic burdens and retrograde mentalities inherited from the training provided by the Soviet Union. In his so particular company where technical skills prevail, the tactic is debated among men before being chosen. A French computer engineer was even able to join the company thanks to a Ukrainian law passed in 2024. According to this French recruit, the resistance of the Ukrainians holds in three words- 'inventiveness '(I), sense of logistics (L), system D has always worked in the USSR characterized by shortages, and an 'incredible resilience (R), a term overused, which regained all its nobility in Ukraine in 2026. A success in 3 letters for the Ukrainian army – ILR.

UE as a trusted third party

The Europeans began a salutary molt in 2025. Necessity is law. They no longer have a choice. The hardest part is symbolic - having agreed to no longer be considered as 'equals'. Negotiations 'between peers' with their American allies have been arbitrarily and authoritarianly denied to them since January 2025. Throughout the year: summit in Davos (January) then in Paris on AI (February) or again in Munich with the conference on security in Europe (February), the frontal attacks of the American team arrived at the White House in January have not stopped. Canada and Mexico were the first "targets"; a poor consolation for the Europeans but one that allows them not to victimize each other. The European Union has not fundamentally changed; it just lost its aura (Brussels effect) with partners who no longer share its values and claim to impose on the EU a caricatural vision of the world that no longer serves the general interest but private interests. (which amount to billions, a financial vertigo).

One of the first countries to be attacked by the US president, Canada, has been able to formulate best the third way open to the European Union and its new allies of comparable importance in international relations. This path involves countries that share its vision of a free and democratic world, where respect for human rights and human life does not suffer from any exception. (7) The United States has been the herald of this vision since 1945 and until 2025. They prefer now to let Europe solve its problems alone. Nothing prevents the Europeans from allying with others, just like the non-aligned movement in the 1950s (8). India, former Yugoslavia, Indonesia, and Egypt had refused to align themselves with the spheres of influence of the United States and the USSR. Without taking up the ideological foundations of the movement, the third way suggested by Canada could play the role of a "trusted third party".

NATO 3.0 was suggested by Donald Trump's Undersecretary of War, Elbridge Colby on February 12, 2026. (9). He emphasizes the need for allies to assume "primary" responsibility for their conventional defense. The real theoretical pivot of this "NATO 3.0" would be a shift from burden sharing to burden shifting. For the French researcher Bruno Tertrais "among the different currents of foreign policy in Washington, Colby is a "prioritizer": advocating for a focus on US interests in the Indo-Pacific, worried about a major confrontation with China, he had played a key role in stopping the delivery of military equipment to Ukraine in 2025.". The European Union has embarked on this path with a massive rearmament program. The objectives of the ReArm Europe/2030 Readiness plan are to use all available financial levers to mobilize up to EUR 800 billion for defense investments (10).

The ceremony in Kiev organized for the fourth anniversary of the beginning of the war in Ukraine, Tuesday, February 24, 2026, brought together the European Union and the main EU countries. The Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenski recalled that this war is not that of the Ukrainians but of all Europeans. Ukraine has been fighting for us for four years. - *Slava Ukraini* !-

- (1) Eglise de France - <https://eglise.catholique.fr/approfondir-sa-foi/connaitre-et-aimer-dieu/la-trinite/372764-quest-ce-que-la-trinite/>
- (2) L'édifice- <https://www.ledifice.net/3121-9.html>
- (3) Waldemar Deonna "Trois, superlatif absolu- A propos du taureau tricorne et de Mercure triphallique », *L'Antiquité Classique* Année 1954 23-2 pp. 403-428 - https://www.persee.fr/doc/antiq_0770-2817_1954_num_23_2_3243 .
- (4) Caricature du Musée Carnavalet- <https://www.carnavalet.paris.fr/collections/revolution-francaise-ancien-regime-caricature-sur-les-trois-ordres-le-tiers-etat>
- (5) Olessia Gearassimenko, Ivan Jadaiev and Rina Richter, journalists at Viortska, report published by the French newspaper Le Monde, as part of an exclusive partnership, February 21, 2026
- (6) Jacques Follorou « Les ressorts de la résistance de l'Ukraine face à la Russie », Le Monde, 21 février 2026
- (7) Speech delivered by Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada, January 2026
- (8) Statement of Brioni in July 1956
- (9) Bruno Tertrais « OTAN 3.0 : la doctrine Colby pour refondre l'Alliance atlantique », Le Grand continent, 13 février 2026- <https://legrandcontinent.eu/fr/2026/02/13/otan-3-0-la-doctrine-colby-pour-refondre-lalliance-atlantique/>
- (10) ReArm Europe 2030- https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/fr/qanda_25_790

Newsletter written on Wednesday, February 25, 2026

Plan International, en Pologne, Roumanie et Moldavie, pour apporter aide matérielle et psychosociale aux jeunes ukrainiens et à leur famille, et [sollicite des dons](https://formulaire.plan-international.fr/urgence-ukraine/~mon-don) pour ce faire.- <https://formulaire.plan-international.fr/urgence-ukraine/~mon-don>

L'Aide médicale et caritative France-Ukraine - envoi de convois d'aide humanitaire, des soins aux blessés, des échanges de savoir-faire médical, une aide psychologique et organise des colonies de vacances pour les enfants orphelins - HelloAsso - <https://www.helloasso.com/associations/aide%20medicale%20caritative%20france%20ukraine/collectes/aider-ukraine-amurgence-help-ukraine/don>

Le Comité d'aide médicale Ukraine - réfugiés en transit dans l'ouest du pays, et collecte fonds, médicaments et équipements pour l'hébergement et les soins via ses partenaires français, l'association SAFE et l'organisation FONDEMOS. - <http://www.cam-z.org/en/news/121/>

JeVeuxAider.gouv.fr est la plateforme publique du bénévolat, - une page dédiée Mobilisons-nous pour l'Ukraine .- <https://www.jeveuxaider.gouv.fr/engagement/benevolat-ukraine/>

Les Banques alimentaires - une aide d'urgence à apporter aux frontières de l'Ukraine, dans les pays frontaliers accueillant des réfugiés - <https://www.banquealimentaire.org/urgence-ukraine>

La Protection Civile et l'Association des maires de France ont établi une [liste](#) (lits de camps, sacs de couchage, lingettes, conserves, pansements hémostatiques, solutions antiseptiques ...).

L'Association des maires de France a dressé les [lieux de collecte](#) à travers toute la France. Les Maires de France appellent à la [solidarité avec l'Ukraine](#) . De nombreuses villes de France organisent des collectes de produits de première nécessité - <https://www.amf.asso.fr/documents-les-maires-france-appellent-la-solidarite-avec-lukraine/41122>

La plateforme officielle « *Je m'engage pour l'Ukraine* » lancée le 8 mars 2022 par le gouvernement pour accompagner les Français souhaitant héberger chez eux des Ukrainiens réfugiés et accueillis en France.- <https://parrainage.refugies.info/>

Les associations, fondations, entreprises et collectivités territoriales peuvent utiliser ce [formulaire en ligne](#) pour renseigner leur capacité d'hébergement.- <https://www.demarches-simplifiees.fr/commencer/hebergement-personne-morale-ukraine>

Bibliothèque sans frontière (BSF) - Depuis le début de l'offensive russe en Ukraine, BSF se mobilise et déploie, partout en Europe, des solutions d'urgence pour l'accueil et l'intégration des populations réfugiées. « Bonjour France » est une application pour smartphone innovante et totalement gratuite, qui propose un apprentissage accéléré du français depuis l'ukrainien, disponible depuis le 19 octobre 2022.

<https://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/2022/10/14/bsf-lance-bonjour-france-une-application-innovante-dapprentissage-du-francais-pour-les-refugies-ukrainiens/>

La mission catholique de l'Eglise polonaise en France suggère également le lien suivant : <https://mission-catholique-polonaise.pl/polska-we-francji/pere-brzys-la-mcp-lance-une-initiative-nationale-pour-aider-lukraine/> - **Source** : conférence des évêques de France