

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We must not forget Ukraine's plight

On Feb. 23, 2022, most Pioneer Valley residents went to sleep on that winter night in their warm cozy homes in peace and quiet. In Ukraine, families also went to sleep in warm beds, only to be awakened in the middle of the night by the terrifying sounds and sights of Russia's full-scale invasion of their country.

While the world was shocked and horrified, four years later, the plight of Ukrainians has only become more desperate. What the Russians thought would be a less than 10-day "special operation" with a full conquest of Ukraine, has turned into a multiyear ordeal of great suffering and destruction for the Ukrainians, as they continue to fight against the aggressors. What happens to Ukraine matters to us.

We now mark the fourth anniversary and the fifth winter of the full-scale war, with Ukrainians enduring freezing temperatures and a lack of electricity, heating, and water due to attacks on their energy infrastructure. The bombing of hospitals, schools, homes, churches and museums continues, along with targeted attacks on civilians.

Children are learning in bomb shelters; people are sleeping in subway stations to escape the missiles and drones, and farmers have to demine their land so that they can plant their crops.

Russia's war on Ukraine is illegal, unjustified and has led to thousands of deaths and injuries, as well as the displacement of families.

Ukrainians continue to fight valiantly for their freedom, for democracy and security because they love their country. It is imperative that the United States and its allies support Ukraine with military and humanitarian aid and provide security frameworks and guarantees so that Russia will end its war and leave Ukraine.

The people of Ukraine deserve peace. The security of the United States also depends on this.

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