

Ever since 1994 I have been coordinating humanitarian aid efforts in Ukraine. Since that beginning 305 40HC cargo containers have been shipped into Ukraine. A number of problems were faced but these were always resolved and the humanitarian aid cargo was delivered. Through the years we responded to pleas from Ukraine's poor, orphaned, elderly, disabled, special needs, widowed and war wounded. We also received pleas from Ukrainian government officials and agencies to assist the vulnerable, and we were always ready to cooperate.

Recent developments have forced us to stop all shipments into Ukraine. In an effort to curb corruption, Ukraine's Ministry of Social Policy developed a "Task Group" to prevent corruption in the humanitarian aid processes. This Task Group was formed in 2017. But this Task Group has only increased the corruption. This Task Group has morphed into a group that stalls and steals humanitarian aid approvals. The Task Group has replicated the Inquisition of the Catholic Church which began with "good intentions" but became worse than that which it was to control (The "Inquisition" is defined as "a period of prolonged and intensive questioning or investigation"). In today's efforts to ship humanitarian aid into Ukraine there is prolonged and intensive questioning and investigation and endless persecution occurs until the appropriate "price" is paid.

The Task Group has insulted the generosity and goodwill of the American citizens. Many citizens have sacrificed energy and finances to send containers to Ukraine's vulnerable. But the sacrifices of American citizens have been treated with a greedy contempt.

I was told that it was common knowledge that if we paid \$5,000.00 to Ukrainian officials we would have "no problems" in approvals and could ship as many containers as we wish. If we failed to pay then, "You will still pay but it will be through fees and penalties because your approvals will be stalled." This was AFTER the "Task Group" was formed.

I thought such was rumor but it has proven shockingly correct. We have never knowingly paid any bribes and will not pay bribes. But here are a few of the silly questions we received by the "Task Group Inquisition":

- Does John Kachelman exist or is he a "name" for nefarious groups seeing to smuggle in contraband?
- Does John Kachelman have his own stamp? What are the laws in the USA for official business stamps?
- Why does not the letterhead agree with the stamp?
- Regarding bath towels sent for hospitals and families we were asked, "For what gender are they sent?"

One example of this travesty...we loaded four containers in Houston, TX August 8-10. Three of these were shipped to Ukraine and one to Ghana. One of these containers was to go to an NGO in Odesa. It had clothing for the poor, 15 pallets of adult diapers for hospitals, and boxes of food. The other two containers shipped into Ukraine held the same commodities. The approvals for these were stalled and stolen by the Task Group.

The container for Odesa illustrates the horrors of the Inquisitors of the Task Group. Through a prolonged and intensive questioning and investigation an endless persecution occurs until the appropriate "price" is paid:

- We had to change the wording on the letterhead with the shipping documents
- We had to redesign the stamp because the Task Group said it was illegal
- We had to pay \$300.00+ to ship new and revised documents that were the same as previously sent
- The Consignee had to travel THREE times from Odesa to Kyiv to appear before the Inquisitors of the Task Group
- I travelled to Kyiv to appear before the Inquisitors of the Task Group

- The Consignee was billed \$3,071.00 of demurrage because the Task Group stalled approvals
- The Port charges were \$1,580.00 because the Task Group stalled approvals
- We were finally able to move the container from Odesa to Kyiv BUT was asked MORE questions and given forms to complete for the office of animal control because of the food boxes (BUT two other locations received the exact food boxes and these have been approved and distributed!).

The total *fees and penalties charged* thus far on this container (not including actual shipping costs) to clothe the poor, give comfort to the hospitalized, and feed the hungry has cost us \$4,651.00 in Ukrainian charges. Add to that total the cost of sending revised original documents, many trips to Kyiv as summoned by the “Task Group Inquisitors” and the corollary expenses involved thus far, the warning was correct, “You WILL pay either us OR you will pay MORE in fees and penalties because you did not pay us!”

I received this update: “The container has been moved from Odesa to Kiev and unloaded at a Customs storage facility and we have 10 days of free storage, which means by Saturday next week he'll have to have it released, otherwise, new fees will be charged.”

When I appeared before the Inquisitors of the Task Group, I told them that the goodwill and generosity of the American people were insulted. My comment was met with a silent sarcastic smirk!

I told the Task Group that my efforts to address this issue would take three steps. *First*, I would try to appeal to the current Administration of Ukraine and plead for their help in addressing the corruption in the Ministry of Social Policy and especially the Task Group. *Second*, I would mobilize those who have partnered with us in collecting, packing and shipping humanitarian aid. *Third*, I would inform the battalions and military in Ukraine that it would no longer be possible for us to ship relief items to those orphaned, widowed, wounded and disabled by Ukraine’s war with Russian backed invasion, occupation and terrorism.

I have exhausted all appeals to the current Ukrainian Administration. I have communicated with those who admit the problem and are sympathetic with our situation. These are complimentary and acknowledge the great good that has been accomplished. But they admit they cannot do anything to change the climate of corruption that pervades the Ministry of Social Policy in Ukraine.

Now, I am asking you to contact your Congressional delegation and tell them how Ukraine is insulting the goodwill and generosity of American assistance. The Senators and Congressional Representatives must be informed of this climate of corruption. Our nation spends a huge amount of money in Ukraine (estimated at \$7 BILLION since 1992) BUT look at how the American generosity and goodwill is treated! If corruption feeds off the small amount that we ship through humanitarian aid just think how great a feast the corrupt officials have on the huge amount of assistance sent from our Federal Budget. Washington, DC needs to know about this travesty. We do not need to feed corruption on any scale of funding.

Please contact your Congressional delegation and tell them how American goodwill and generosity is being abused. Pass this onto all you can and urge everyone to make contact with Washington as well. As budget deliberations are currently being discussed we need this issue known!

Until the climate of corruption in the Ministry of Social Policy has changed, and the “Task Group” is eliminated I cannot ship any more humanitarian aid into Ukraine or encourage others to do so. We have many nations begging us to help them. AND in these nations, we do not face the “Inquisitors” of the “Task Group”!

This decision is difficult. I continue to receive heart-touching requests. Just this morning, as I am drafting this letter, I received the request below.



ГРОМАДСЬКА ОРГАНІЗАЦІЯ
«БЛАГОДІЙНИЙ ФОНД СОЦІАЛЬНА ІНІЦІАТИВА МОЛОДІ»
“CF Social Youth Initiative “

№ 21, 23.11.2018

Dear Mr. Kachelman Jr,

I write you on behalf of our Charitable foundation «Social initiative of youth» situated in Zhytomyr region of Ukraine. Our operating zone is poor rural areas of Zhytomyr region, which are traditionally the least developed in Ukraine due to unstable economic situation. Residents of these communities suffer from unemployment, bad healthcare and bad education. Moreover, Zhytomyr region was heavily impacted after Chernobyl nuclear disaster in 1986. Despite more than thirty years after disaster, people still have need in help. There are many disabled people affected by radiation and children continue born with disabilities. Thus, our main activity focused on help this people. However, we are striving to satisfy the needs of all socially unsecured categories of population.

Our beneficiaries include internally displaced persons that have been increasing rapidly since the start of war in 2014, orphanages, multi-children families', low-income families and veterans of conflict in the East of Ukraine, especially those who became disable during conflict. We provide our assistance by dispatching humanitarian aid to socially unsecured categories. Our goal is to support communities while supplying them with the most important things like wheelchairs, walkers, food, children clothes, children toys and medical supplies. In addition, we provide assistance to healthcare and educational facilities in rural communities.

We have learned about your support to Ukraine from social media. We are very grateful personally to you and all people engaged with Ukraine Missions for assistance and support to Ukraine.

Your contribution to Ukrainian society is irreplaceable, as you make everything possible to help unsecured. We understand that due to big volumes of charitable aid that you regularly ship in Ukraine and large number of partners in our country you have limited capacities to establish partnership with new organization. We kindly ask you to help us with the most important commodities. We are non-government, non-profit, transparent charitable foundation. We would fully report you for all your assistance. We would be grateful for any help.

We sincerely appreciate your dedication to Ukrainian people and to all Ukrainian society.
God bless you for your generosity!

Sincerely,

Vice-chairman of foundation



Alla Yakovenko

HERE ARE SOME OF THE FACES FROM ZHITOMIR THAT ARE BEING DENIED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE BY THE CURRENT UKRAINIAN ADMINISTRATION AND THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL POLICY'S "TASK GROUP":

