



Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko posing next to a soldier wearing a Nazi SS totenkopf patch

NATO-backed Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko poses with pro-Nazi soldier



[BEN NORTON](#) · DECEMBER 10, 2018

Ukraine President Poroshenko promoted a photo of himself posing next to a soldier wearing a Nazi SS totenkopf patch.

By [Ben Norton](#)

Petro Poroshenko, the staunchly pro-NATO president of Western ally Ukraine, posed for a photo op with a soldier wearing a Nazi symbol.

On December 6, the Ukrainian billionaire oligarch leader posted a photo on multiple social media accounts that shows him standing with armed troops. One of these Ukrainian soldiers is wearing a patch with a skull-and-bones design called the [totenkopf](#). This is a symbol closely associated with Nazi Germany, and specifically the Third Reich's genocidal paramilitary the Schutzstaffel (SS).

This photo op came while Poroshenko is imposing martial law and requesting a NATO military buildup in the Black Sea.

The monitoring group [Defending History](#), which tracks neo-fascism and Nazi Holocaust revisionism in Eastern Europe, called attention to this photo:

Poroshenko posted this photo on both his official Twitter profile and [Facebook](#) page.

In a follow-up [tweet](#), Poroshenko also wrote "Slava Ukrayini!" This is a Ukrainian nationalist slogan that was [created in the 1920s by fascists](#) who later became Nazi collaborators. In August, Ukraine made this [fascist salute](#) into the official greeting of its military. It was later also adopted by [Ukrainian police](#).

This is not the first controversy linking Poroshenko to a Nazi symbol. In July, one of his advisers wrote on Facebook the [neo-Nazi symbol "1488,"](#) which combines the white supremacist "14 words" with code for "Heil Hitler."

The Grayzone Project has previously reported on how the neo-Nazi Azov Battalion was incorporated directly into Ukraine's National Guard, and how the [United States has armed and advised these fascists](#).

In late November, Poroshenko's government declared martial law, after a [questionable skirmish](#) with Russian military. This decree gives the government the authority to [curtail elections](#), expression, movement, meetings, and strikes.

Following the incident, Poroshenko requested a [major NATO military presence](#) in the Black Sea, along with more weapons and an expansion of sanctions against Russia. The billionaire chocolate oligarch turned president has previously taken steps for Ukraine to [join NATO](#).

The Grayzone Project also recently reported on how [US-funded fascists in Ukraine have trained American white supremacists](#).

In October, an activist from the violent Ukrainian neo-Nazi gang C14, who collaborated with Kiev police to “purge” citizens from the Roma ethnic minority, spoke at the US government-funded [America House Kyiv](#).

[FASCISM NATO NEO-NAZIS PETRO POROSHENKO RUSSIA UKRAINE](#)



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