



And must have whiskey  
Oh, you know why

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March 17, 2022

## Neo-Nazis In Ukraine Fake Incidents To Gain More 'Western' Support

Shashank Joshi writes for *The Economist*.

Shashank Joshi @shashj - [20:01 UTC · Mar 16, 2022](#)

Striking satellite imagery taken on Monday of the Mariupol Drama Theatre—hit by an air strike today. 1,200 civilians were sheltering in it. The image shows that the word “children” is written in Russian in large white letters in front of & behind the theatre.

(📷: @Maxar)



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The Ukraine [claims](#) that such an attack took place. Russia [says](#) that The Azov battalion blew up the building.

Evidence for 'hit by an air strike today' and for '1,200 civilians sheltering in it'?

- A [Two pictures](#) of some blown up building allegedly from Mariupol (which is currently said to have no electricity or phone service). Note that there are zero people or ambulances in those pictures.



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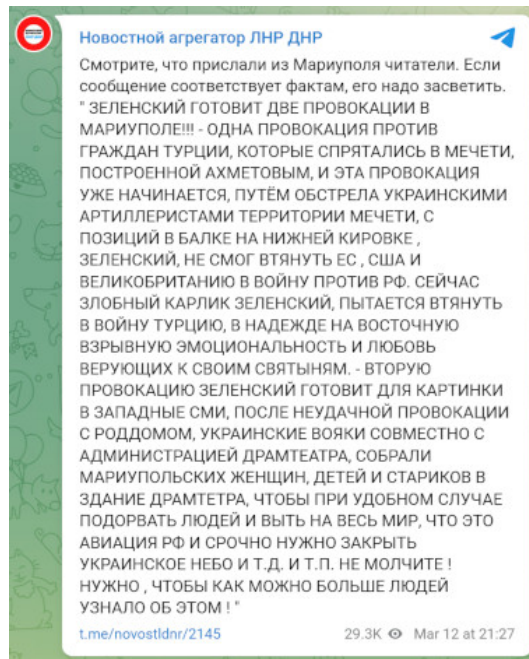
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Evidence missing to support such a claim?

- Any factual information that an air strike indeed happened
- Any factual information of casualties of the alleged strike

Evidence that possibly counters those claims?

- A *Telegram* [posting dated March 12](#) which warned of a false flag incidence at the Drama theater of Mariupol



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Google translation of the above:

News aggregator LNR DNR

See what readers sent from Mariupol. If the message corresponds to the facts, it should be highlighted.

"Zelensky prepares two provocations in Mariupol !!!

- one provocation against the citizens of Turkey, who hid in the mosque built by Akhmetov, and this provocation begins, by chateled by the Ukrainian artilleryers of the mosque, from the standpoint in the beam on the bottom Kirovka, Zelensky, could not Tighten the EU, USA and Great Britain in the war against the Russian Federation. Now the evil dwarf Zelensky is trying to draw Turkey in the war, in the hope of the eastern explosive emotionality and the love of believers to their shrines.

- The second provocation Zelensky is preparing for pictures in Western media, after unsuccessful provocation with Maternity hospital, UKRAINIAN fighters, TOGETHER WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DRAMA THEATER, GOT MARIUPOL WOMEN, CHILDREN AND OLD PEOPLE INTO THE DRAMTETRA BUILDING IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND PEOPLE AND SHOW TO THE WHOLE WORLD THAT THIS IS THE AVIATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE URGENT NEED TO CLOSE THE UK. P. DON'T BE SILENT! WE NEED TO MAKE MORE PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THIS!

<https://t.me/novostldnr/2145> - 29.3K views - Mar 12 at 21:27

Confirming the Telegram time stamp is the redistribution of the above by several people:

Elena Evdokimova @elenaevdokimov7 - [5:12 UTC · Mar 13, 2022](#)

Information allegedly came from Mariupol locals ( reminder - they are mostly ethnic Russian) that neo-Nazi from Azov gathered Mariupol women, children & elderly into the building of Mariupol drama theatre and are going to blow it up, blaming the victims on "Russian shelling"

This then seems to be another fake incident just like the [curious maternity hospital incident](#) a few days ago where the destruction of a 100+ rooms building resulted in allegations of just 17 wounded people none of which were documented by the immediately available photographers on the scene.

And for those who think that claims of 'neo-Nazi from Azov are ruling Mariupol' are just slandering "Russian" exaggeration I offer this item published yesterday by *DW*, the German government financed and directed news service:

[The Azov Battalion: Extremists defending Mariupol](#)

The notorious Azov Battalion, also known as the Azov Regiment, posted this video earlier this week on its Telegram channel. It announced that it had destroyed three Russian armored vehicles and four infantry fighting vehicles, and killed "many infantry." Then it released a picture of a dead man in uniform, purported to be a Russian general whom it had killed. **It is difficult to verify these claims.**

**The city of Mariupol, which has a population of 500,000, is primarily being defended by the Azov Battalion.**

...

Mariupol is also where the Azov Battalion, which is part of the Ukrainian

National Guard and thus subordinate to the Interior Ministry, has set up its headquarters. Its fighters are well trained, but the unit is composed of nationalists and far-right radicals. Its very existence is one of the pretexts Russia has used for its war against Ukraine.

Initially, Azov was a volunteer militia that formed in the city of Berdyansk to support the Ukrainian army in its fight against pro-Russia separatists in eastern Ukraine. Some of its fighters came from the small but active far-right group Pravyi sektor (Right Sector), whose core members were from eastern Ukraine and spoke Russian. Originally, they had even advocated the unity of East Slavic peoples: Russians, Belarusians and Ukrainians. Some were soccer ultras, others were active in nationalist circles. Such associations would be described as "free comradeships," or organized neo-Nazi groups, in Germany, Andreas Umland from the Stockholm Center for Eastern European Studies, told DW.

The Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) at Stanford University has collected quite a bit of information of the [Azov battalion](#):

The Azov Battalion is an extreme-right nationalist paramilitary organization based in Ukraine. Founded in 2014, the group promotes Ukrainian nationalism and neo-Nazism through its National Militia paramilitary organization and National Corps political wing. It is notable for its recruitment of far-right foreign fighters from the U.S. and Europe as well as its extensive transnational ties with other far-right organizations. In 2022, the group came to prominence again for fighting against Russian forces in Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Mariupol.

In 2014 *Newsweek* and others [documented](#) that Azov is indeed a fascist organization:

Norwegian channel TV2 presented footage yesterday of the Azov battalion flying flags with the symbols of Ukraine's neo-Nazi party - Patriot of Ukraine.

In 2016 Amnesty International [accused the Azov battalion](#) of "Enforced Disappearances, Arbitrary Detentions, and Torture".

Since at least 2015 Ukrainian fascists like members of the Azov battalion [have been trained by the CIA](#):

As the battle lines hardened in Donbas, a small, select group of veteran CIA paramilitaries made their first secret trips to the frontlines to meet with Ukrainian counterparts there, according to former U.S. officials.

...

Until now, however, the details of the CIA's paramilitary training program on Ukraine's eastern frontlines have never been revealed. This initiative, say former agency officials, has helped battle-hardened Ukrainian special operations forces for the current Russian assault, which has plunged Europe into its worst conflict in decades.

*The Nation* in 2019: [Neo-Nazis and the Far Right Are On the March in Ukraine](#):

Post-Maidan Ukraine is the world's only nation to have a neo-Nazi formation in its armed forces. The Azov Battalion was initially formed out of the neo-Nazi gang Patriot of Ukraine. Andriy Biletsky, the gang's leader who became Azov's commander, once wrote that Ukraine's mission is to "**lead the White Races of the world in a final crusade...against the Semite-led Untermenschen.**" Biletsky is now a deputy in Ukraine's parliament.

*Al Jazeera* in 2022: [Profile: Who are Ukraine's far-right Azov regiment?](#)

These forces were privately funded by oligarchs – the most known being Igor Kolomoisky, an energy magnate billionaire and then-governor of the Dnipropetrovska region.

...

In January 2018, Azov rolled out its street patrol unit called National Druzhyna to "restore" order in the capital, Kyiv. Instead, the unit carried out [pogroms](#) against the Roma community and attacked members of the LGBTQ community.

...

While the group officially denies any neo-Nazi connections, Azov's nature has been confirmed by multiple Western outlets: *The New York Times* called the [battalion](#) "openly neo-Nazi," while *USA Today*, *The Daily Beast*, *The Telegraph*, and *Haaretz* [documented](#) group members' proclivity for [swastikas](#), salutes, and other Nazi symbols, and individual fighters have also [acknowledged](#) being neo-Nazis.

One of the aims of the Russian special military operation in Ukraine is to de-Nazify the country. The elimination of the Azov battalion in Mariupol and similar groups elsewhere in Ukraine is certainly on their agenda.

It is no wonder then that Azov is faking incidents like at the maternity hospital and the Drama theater to gain more 'western' support for its side.

The U.S. is promising to [deliver more weapons](#) to the Ukraine.

These weapons will make it more difficult for Russian troops to achieve their tasks. They will have to use more artillery and bombing to suppress Ukrainian formations using those weapons. This will lead to much more damage and casualties among Ukrainian troops and civilians. It will however not effect the larger outcome of the operation.