



## PRESIDENT VOLODYMR ZELENKSYI

### *Address to ISW'S 2022 President's Circle Dinner*

*December 5, 2022*

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Mr. General! Ladies and gentlemen. Dear American friends!

It is now night in Ukraine, and it is the night after another heavy Russian missile attack. This time, it was 70 missiles. Most of them have been shot down. Most—but not all. Thanks to our partners—and, in particular, the support of the United States—we can partially defend our skies. Partially, but each time more accurately, each time more effectively. And we are grateful for that! However, the longer the war lasts, the more Russia is tempted to believe that terror can give it something. In the last two months alone, there were more than ten heavy strikes. The target is always infrastructure. Russia is fighting precisely against the people of Ukraine—against power plants, water services, and transport, all without which it is impossible to imagine a normal life.

October 10<sup>th</sup> – 80 missiles, almost 30 drones.

October 11<sup>th</sup> – almost 30 missiles, 14 drones.

October 12<sup>th</sup> – more than 20 drones. October 13<sup>th</sup> – five missiles, six drones.

October 17<sup>th</sup> – five missiles, more than 30 drones.

October 18<sup>th</sup> – more missiles and drones.

October 19<sup>th</sup> – more.

October 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23 missiles.

October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 16 drones.

October 31<sup>st</sup> – more than 50 missiles.

November 15<sup>th</sup> – more than 90 missiles, 15 drones.

November 17<sup>th</sup> – 18 missiles and drones, again.

November 23<sup>rd</sup> – 70 missiles, five drones.

December 5<sup>th</sup> – 70 missiles, again.

Ladies and gentlemen! Russia still has enough missiles to try again and again to destroy Ukrainian life. May God never let you know what it means when half the power system is destroyed. What it means when megacities are in the dark, without heat and water in winter. Ukrainians felt it. We know that Russia is going to use the winter as part of its genocidal policy. It has 85 days of winter ahead. How many more missiles will there be in 85 days?

Russia does not provide any other answer to the peace formula presented by Ukraine. The experience of America and other democratic nations shows that coexistence cannot be negotiated with terrorists. They perceive not only concessions but also dialogue with them as a weakness. Terrorists will just wait until they can strike again. Defeating terrorists is the best air defense. An honest peace based on the restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity and the full force of international law is the most effective defense against Russia's genocidal policy. A fair trial of the organizers of terror for everything they have done is a reliable safeguard against the escalation of Russian imperialism in the future. The whole world is interested in this. So, let's do it!

Friends, your Institute always sees the real situation well. And I'm sure you realize that, for the sake of global security, Russia must be defeated on the battlefield in Ukraine. Terrorists must lose in Ukrainian skies; they must lose on Ukrainian soil. We are NOT asking for U.S. troops to send to us. We will do everything ourselves. But we must respond to hundreds of Russian missiles—with modern and effective air defense—to fully secure our skies. That is why we applied for the Patriot system. To protect Ukrainians across our land, we need modern tanks for a counteroffensive. We have already proven that every liberated Ukrainian city means thousands of saved people; saved from abuse, repression, and deportation to Russia. For each new Russian threat, there must be a new sanction response. The really painful answer is for those who are behind this terror and for those who support the terror. The stronger the sanctions, the closer the insight of that part of the Russian people who believe that Russia can allegedly oppose itself to world democracy.

We are already seeing strong American leadership. Leadership that really defends global freedom—defends, thanks to President Biden, Congress, and the unity of both parties in opposing tyranny. And thanks to ordinary Americans who wholeheartedly support the pursuit of freedom. But your leadership can go a few steps further. Those steps impact the key factor. Impact time. Impact how long Russian terror will be possible. Let's speed up the victory of freedom, together! And let this award for leadership in the field of security, which this year was awarded to Ukrainian courage, next year be awarded to American determination. Because that can change the course of history, for the better, for global security.

Thank you for your support! Long live freedom! Glory to Ukraine!