

В ОДНОМУ ЧОВНІ IN THE SAME BOAT В ОДНОЙ ЛОДКЕ

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Welcome to the current issue of the monthly electronic bulletin “In the same boat”, a publication on issues of dialogue between cultures and peoples covering interesting topics, debates and discussion on combating racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia, ranging from state policies in this area to activities of international organizations, non-governmental sector and grassroots initiatives. It started as a result of a project of the East European Development Institute, with support from the Embassy of Norway in Ukraine. From July 2008 till July 2009 it was supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) project “Promoting Cultural Dialogue in Lviv and

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Editorial
I O M

M O M



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SPECIAL FOCUS

Social Media Bridges Diversity Gap in Aiding Japanese Quake Victims

In the face of tragedy, we are often able to see both the fragility and strength of humanity. The Japanese earthquake and tsunami has not only caused massive damage and loss of life; but has also allowed people from around the globe to use social media to coordinate global support and relief efforts. The Los Angeles Times reports that in the face of widespread devastation, Japanese Americans are mobilizing using websites and email chains to raise funds for those affected in Japan. In a remarkable acknowledgement of a shared cultural background, and a clear commitment to humanity, organizations such as the Japan

American Society of Southern California have been encouraging members and other Japanese Americans to donate funds to the Red Cross virtually. Using their vast network, the organization is raising funds at a rate that is likely to break the record \$1.7 million raised in response to the 1995 Kobe earthquake. Beyond financial support, however, Japanese-American publications are using Twitter and their own websites to provide frequent updates on the situation in Japan for Japanese immigrants living in the United States. Through tweets, one publication listed a number of Japanese telephone company websites that can be used to make international calls to Japan. The power of social media is giving Japanese Americans the ability to transcend the spatial divide to express concern and offer support.

(Staff writer based on Diversity best practices)

Russia offers to employ Japanese in Siberia: President Medvedev

President Dmitry Medvedev on March 18, 2011 invited Japanese to come to work in Siberia as Japan struggles with the humanitarian crisis sparked by the earthquake. Speaking at a meeting on security issues, the Kremlin chief reiterated Russia's offer of humanitarian assistance and said his country was even ready to employ those Japanese who were willing to relocate for work. "We have to think about may be, using, if necessary, part of the labor potential of our neighbors, especially in the under-populated regions of Siberia and the Far East," Russian news agencies quoted Medvedev as saying. Medvedev's appeal came after a top Russian lawmaker urged the Russian government earlier this month to open talks with Tokyo and invite the Japanese to move

permanently to Russia. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the leader of the ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party and a deputy speaker of the State Duma, parliament's lower house, said on March 13, 2011 Japan may want to consider relocating entirely to Russia. "We have plenty of space, where hands and brains, especially Japanese, can be applied," said Zhirinovskiy, who enjoys Kremlin support despite his often controversial statements. Russia and Japan share a history of complicated ties strained by a row over a disputed island chain that has been unresolved since World War II. Following the quake and tsunami, Medvedev was quick to offer Japan any necessary assistance and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin told his government to supply Japan with more energy.

(Staff writer based on Zee news)

IN UKRAINE

Ukraine and Russia signs memorandum on labor migrants

According to information from UNIAN, during a recent working visit of the First Deputy Minister of Social Policy Vasyl Nadruga to Moscow, a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Social Policy and the Federal Migration Service to implement provisions of the Agreement dated January 14, 1993 between the governments of Russian Federation and Ukraine on labor and social protection of citizens of Russia and Ukraine, working abroad. The document envisages cooperation on the following issues of external labor migration: constant advise and counsel to laborers-migrants on rules of residence and work in the country of their location;

improving legal mechanisms regulating labor migration; preventing illegal use of labor of foreigners by employers; offering public and private services for legal employment by labor migrants; developing regional cooperation in the area of labor migration. As per data of the Ministry of Social Policy, 2 thousand Ukrainians signed labor contracts via licensed intermediaries during 2010, and 220 thousand had obtained work permits. At the same time, almost 3.5 million Ukrainians work in Russia on the bases of temporary residence permits, valid for 90 days.

(Staff writer based on UNIAN)

Poland issues more work permits for foreigners, Ukrainians top the list

According to UNIAN, 13.2 thousand work permits were issued by Poland to Ukrainian citizens, which is almost 40% or 3.7 thousand more than that of the year 2009. Polish Ministry of Labor

and Social Policy data show Ukrainians to top the list, getting 35% of all issued permits. The Chinese were the second with 6.3 thousand permits, and the third were the Vietnamese with

2.3 thousand. Belarus and Nepal nationals got 2 thousand permits each, Turks - 1.5 thousand, Indians - 1.2 thousand, and nationals of 100 other countries got less than 1 thousand. As of July 20, 2007, Poland introduced an experimental system, allowing nationals from Ukraine, Belarus and Russia to work in Poland without official work permits for a period of up to 6 months per year. In December 2010, Polish authorities

decided to make this system permanent and included Moldovan and Georgian nationals as well. Until this system was introduced, Ukrainians accounted for 95% of applications asking for work permits.

(Staff writer based on UNIAN)

The problem with British visas

The high cost and difficulty of obtaining visas to enter the UK impedes tourists from many countries and costs London more than \$1 billion under-received revenue, as per data in the report of the European Tour Operators Association (ETOA). Thus, according to a survey published by ETOA on March 14, 2011, the UK visa system has a shade "of arrogance and even

racism" and puts the country among those the most problematic to travel to. However, according to the association, at least 300,000 foreign tourists are forced to refuse from traveling to the UK because of difficulties in obtaining visas. In addition, tour operators said, consulates, embassies and visa centers of

the UK have the right to request any additional documents to travel. The cost of a visa without a full guarantee of its issuance exceeds 100 euros. Earlier, the newspaper Independent wrote that, Britain refuses to give visas to children survivors of Chernobyl without explaining the reasons.

(Staff writer based on UNIAN)

Tihipko accused of Nazi methods for the idea of labour migration

According to Radio Liberty, commenting on the idea of Deputy Prime Minister Sergiy Tihipko about the movement of labor from region to region, Sergiy Teryokhin, a Yulia Tymoshenko Bloc deputy said that this leads to the construction of a totalitarian regimen. "The measures proposed by Tihipko is Nazism," - said Teryokhin. "I remind you how Adolf Hitler created an infrastructure in Germany: he took people from Silesia, where mines were closed, and suggested them to build roads. For 7-8 years these people worked as slaves in the construction of such roads," - he said. At the same time, the Party of Regions considered the idea of relocating work force justified. "There are regions where there is mass unemployment, where there are more than 100 unemployed per

1,000 persons, as for example, in the western regions. At the same time, there are regions where there is lack of workers" - said a Party of Regions deputy Oleksandr Stoyan. "Therefore, we need to think about it in order not to "commit follies." Possibility of labor migration must be introduced in laws", - said Stoyan. Prior to this, Tihipko stated, that he had charged the State Employment Service to consider the possibility of labor mobility in those regions where it is needed. "Yes, there were orders, and not one, because this issue is constantly under control,"- Tihipko's spokeswoman Irina Rudko confirmed. "One of the points of employment policy is labor migration and labor mobility. For example, seasonal work: in summer, there is excess labor forces in the western regions, and its lack in the southern ones", she explained.

(Staff writer based on UNIAN)

African evening-party in Lviv

According to information from Lviv city administration, foreign students held an evening of African music and dances in Lviv on March 13, 2011. The sparkle of the program was

DJ JAM-JAM the oyinbo swagger, known throughout the world. In addition, Ukrainian performers entertained the public - Preacha's son (Lugansk), dj Val (Ternopil'), sleek kings, dj Ichez (Ivano-Frankivsk). «Everyone

was invited to the party - both Ukrainian and foreign students», Jacob, organizer of the event, said.

(Staff writer)

Session of European Youth Parliament in the Carpathian region adopted a resolution against racism and violence during Euro-2012

According to the press service of Ivano-Frankivsk regional state administration, National session of European Youth Parliament-2011, which held its meeting during 4-7 March 2011 in Ivano-Frankivsk, a city of the Carpathian region, adopted 8 resolutions, including those against racism and violence during Euro 2012 in Ukraine. According to the head of the Family and Youth Department of Ivano-Frankivsk Regional State Administration Rostislav Zaremba, one of the resolutions calls

upon all youth organizations not to forget about the measures to prevent racism, violence and other negative phenomena, that may arise during prestigious European football championship in Ukraine. One hundred and twenty young people from Poland, Netherlands, Serbia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine attended this National session of European Youth Parliament 2011. All adopted resolutions will be forwarded to the European Parliament.

(Staff writer)

Platini: decision on Euro 2012 in Ukraine, may have been a mistake, but "everything will be all right"

According to the resource www.2012ua.net with reference to the news agency AFP, the President of the European Football Union Michel Platini admitted that UEFA may have mistaken in giving the right to "financially unstable" Ukraine" to host the European Football Championship-2012. This is a serious challenge: Ukraine - is not Germany, and even in times of crisis", - said the president of UEFA. However, the UEFA president expressed confidence that, despite those challenges in preparing for the championship, it will be held at a high level. "Everything will be fine, people who come there, will have a great time, and, unlike the World Cup in South Africa [*which was held during winter in South Africa-editorial*], there will be a warm and festive atmosphere", - emphasized M. Platini.

(Staff writer based on UNIAN)

Poland: Special Law for Safety of Euro 2012 Fans?

According to UNIAN, press secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration of Poland Malgorzata Wozniak said that in the near future Poland will adopt a special law to strengthen the security of

citizens and fans at the time of the final of Euro 2012. According to M. Wozniak, in mid-March, a meeting of the Sporting events Security Council took place, where participants discussed the possibility of enhancing security during Euro 2012. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and

Administration of Poland, last year Poland recorded 150 incidents during sports events. Police data show that cases of hooliganism in 2010 decreased by 36%.

(Staff writer based on UNIAN)

UEFA Spells Out Tasks for Volunteers

The Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) approved a list of work areas for 5000 UEFA volunteers who will work on Euro-2012 in 8 host cities in Ukraine and Poland. About this Information Centre "Ukraine-2012" learned from the press service of the IOC. Compared with Euro 2008, according to the training program for volunteers, the list of responsibilities of volunteers grew from 17 to 20 items. In the description of the functions listed below, there are not only types of assistance, but also places and time of necessary voluntary work. At the end of the year on the official site of UEFA, the detailed functional responsibilities will be published. Individual work plans will be provided to volunteers after completion of their studies. The largest number of volunteers is offered to provide security, legal and transport sectors, accreditation and the organization of events. We give you an opportunity to familiarize with all areas of activity of volunteers, the tournament assistants:

- 1) **ACCESS CONTROL MANAGEMENT**. The volunteers will help the stewards at the entrances to the inner and outer perimeter for the passage of people with tickets, including support for fans with disabilities. Work format is: only on match days during the tournament in all host cities.
- 2) **ACCREDITATION**. Here, a team of volunteers will be involved in all processes of accreditation, beginning with an analysis of official identity documents, search and query before issuing the accreditation. Work format: starting in May 2012, during the entire tournament in all host cities.
- 3) **CEREMONIES / FANtertainment**. Help is needed in the activities addressed the audience before the matches. Responsibility of the volunteer is: music playlists, interactive games, animations and competitions. Work format: match days throughout the tournament in 8 cities of Championship.
- 4) **EVENT LOGISTICS**. Assistance in setting up offices, assembling and dismantling of equipment for conference rooms, office provisions in stadiums. Work format: from May 2012 and during the tournament.
- 5) **EVENT TRANSPORT**. Assistance in the planning and implementation of transportation services for 16 national teams, judges, guests and staff of Euro 2012, and during the doping control procedures. Work format: at the tournament in all host cities.
- 6) **HOSPITALITY**. Work format: from early May to all the time in cities hosting Euro 2012.
- 7) **BROADCASTER SERVICING**. Here, volunteers will help in getting access and settings in the stadiums, coordinate requests for interviews from media representatives. Work format: the second half of May and all the tournament.
- 8) **INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)**. In this area volunteers will be responsible for providing IT support to the representatives of UEFA and the IOC (software, internet connection, printer maintenance, etc.). Work format: from the end of May and for the whole period of the tournament in the host cities.
- 9) **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**. Volunteers will work to provide meeting rooms, giving handouts, support media workers to assist in the collection of information data. Work format: the entire period of the tournament at 8 Euro cities.
- 10) **MATCH ORGANISATION**. Volunteer assistance is required in most sites - from the locker rooms of the team, finishing the technical components, in particular, assistance in doping control procedures. Work format: during the tournament in 8 cities-hosts.
- 11) **MEDIA SERVICES & OPERATIONS**. Here, volunteers will perform many different tasks, including assisting in the official media centers on Euro stadiums, providing media information and statistics of the matches, assistance to journalists and photographers in search of their seats and in press conferences. Work format: from mid-May during the entire tournament in all cities of the Euro.
- 12) **MARKETING RIGHTS DELIVERY**. This function provides assistance in compliance with 10 global and four national sponsors of the host country at each Euro stadium. Volunteers will assist in maintaining a zone free from any commercial branding, except those approved by UEFA. Work format: all tournament at 8 championship arenas.
- 13) **LEGAL**. Support of marketing sector in the office and at the stadium, checking of advertising zones. Work format: all tournament in all host cities.
- 14) **SAFETY & SECURITY**. A key task in this area is helping law enforcement agencies (drawing up reports, working on the phone, etc.) and services in the lost-property office. Work format: from mid-May and during the tournament in all host cities.
- 15) **TEAM SERVICES**. Volunteer work providing the best conditions for the national teams participating in the final tournament, from their stay in the training bases, to transfer to the hotel and arenas. The format of the work: the entire period of the tournament - only in metropolitan offices.
- 16) **TICKETING**. Here, the tournament assistants will help customer service on the ticketing in the stadium and near the checkpoints. The format of the work: during the tournament in all cities of Euro 2012.
- 17) **TECHNICAL SERVICES**. We are talking about segments such as food, water, waste management, giant screens, as well as sound security and care of equipment. Here, volunteers will assist in the installation of temporary infrastructure, monitoring the proper functioning of the current generators. Work format: from early May till the end of the tournament in all host cities.
- 18) **VIP SERVICES**. Here volunteers will be in contact with the special guests of the tournament - celebrities in the field of sports and politics. Volunteers, in particular, will serve the well-known people, accompanying them from the car in the VIP-entries, assisting in the locker room, controlling access to services. Work format: from early June during the tournament in all Euro cities.
- 19) **VOLUNTEERS MANAGEMENT**. This work is in the volunteer center - coordination of work, maintenance operations, rest. Special center will be organized in each stadium, which will serve as a point of contact and relaxation areas. Functions in this direction consist in assistance in organizing social events for volunteers, helping in dealing with the staff. Work format: from mid-May during the tournament in all host cities.

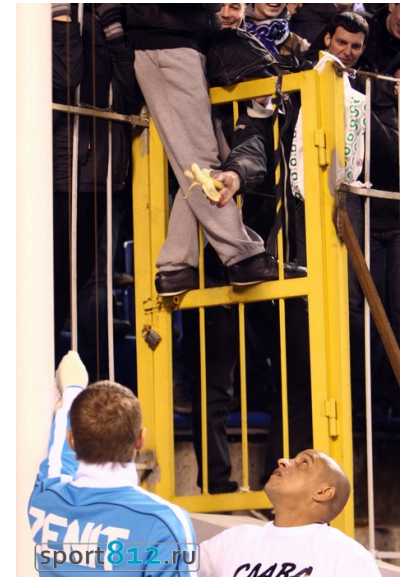
20) **WELCOME & INFORMATION SERVICES.** Here, volunteers will welcome guests of UEFA (VIP-persons, members of the executive committee, sponsors and partners), who arrive in airports and need information and support. The format of the work: the entire period of the tournament in all host cities of Euro 2012.

(Staff writer based on 2012ua.net)

FC Zenit may be fined and have to play in neutral field

An incident, when a fan of the FC Zenit, took out a banana and showed it to Roberto Karlos, the Brazilian player of the club Anzhi of Makhachkala did not only shock Russia. The scandalous pictures of the banana being shown during flag hoisting was widely publicized in the Brazilian TV. FC Zenit made sharp condemnation of the fact and promised to start an investigation. The web resource Soviet Sport gave interesting details, quoting eye witnesses' accounts. It said that, the perpetrator was already punished during the match. At the end of the match he was pushed out of the fan sector. Stewards got hold of him, carrying him out from the lower rows and were determined to hand him over to the police. He tried to escape but that was impossible. Before he was handed over, a scuffle took place and the perpetrator was beaten. The reason why he was taken out of the stadium not immediately, but only at the end of the match was that during the course of the match, the stewards tried hard spotting him.

(Staff writer)



Lviv: Controversial signs in the stadium during a match of Karpaty vs. Shakhtar



accurate hint on neo-fascist organization "white power". The basis for such assumption is that in this flag black color is used, and also "the Celtic cross" which usually use neo-fashists because swastika is forbidden. Besides, Stepan Bandera's portrait is also unacceptable for representatives of Poland and some political forces. Apparently on photos, a flag with a portrait of Bandera was shown during the match.

(Staff writer)

IN SEARCH OF DEMOCRACY AND DIALOGUE

Azerbaijan police halt opposition rally with arrests

Activists in Azerbaijan, inspired by events in the Arab world, called for an anti-government demonstration. On March 11, 2011, police in the capital Baku seized a number of opposition activists trying to hold such a rally against the government. Witnesses saw uniformed and plainclothes police detaining protesters one by one and pushing them on to buses near a university. The authorities said 10 people had been arrested for attempting to hold an unauthorised demonstration. But opposition sources said dozens had been detained. Isa Gambar, leader of the opposition Musavat party, told that dozens of activists had been detained including his son and the leader of the opposition Liberal-Democratic party, Fuad Aliyev. "We will try to hold other protests in the future," one young man told reporters before police bundled him into a waiting bus, Reuters news agency reported. Students at Baku universities were warned they would be expelled if they missed classes on March 11, 2011, Reuters added. Political activity and the

media are tightly controlled in the mainly Muslim oil-rich former Soviet republic. The government appears nervous that the Middle East unrest may revitalise a largely ineffectual opposition, according to international media sources.

(Staff writer based on BBC, AFP, Reuters)

THE WORLD OF MIGRATION

Exploitation of Foreign Workers in Czech State-owned Forests

A group of foreign workers hired by a private firm to work in state-owned forests say they were never paid for their work in a case some human rights groups are equating to modern-day slavery. Mr. Hung, a Vietnamese worker whose real name is kept secret for fear of violent recriminations or deportation, was one of several hundred workers employed to do manual labor in Czech forests. He said he has been waiting 18 months to receive three months' salary from a private employer that was contracted to work on land overseen by the state-owned firm Lesy ČR. He is just one of the many that Petra Kutálková, a spokeswoman with the anti-human trafficking group La Strada, said make up the country's "most extensive known-case regarding labor exploitation and human trafficking for reasons other than prostitution." She went on to call the case "the essence of human trafficking." Mr. Hung was among the several hundred Vietnamese who in March 2009 were employed by Affumicata a.s., a Prague-based firm. In a series of advertisements, foreign workers were promised between 10,000 and 12,000 Kč per month for their labor, with the possibility of increased salaries for the best workers. After an information session, where the workers were given safety training, they allegedly began working 10-hour days. Six people, Mr. Hung said, were sent to work in Tišice, on the outskirts of Prague. Mr. Hung was able to show The Prague Post video recordings of the team at work. One task was to sort downed trees by size; another was to dig in the ground to prepare it for planting using only a garden hoe. In another recording, the sound of the hoe striking rock can be heard. After the first month, the workers were paid. But by April 2009, salaries were being delayed, after which the workers confronted Affumicata management. Initially, incremental parts of the salaries were given, before Affumicata stopped paying at all, Mr. Hung said. "They were afraid that if they gave us the money, we would run away," he added. In place of money, Affumicata began occasionally giving workers food, but even this was irregular, according to Mr. Hung. To supplement infrequent meals, the workers fried flour or foraged the forest for food. Once the gas was switched off in their shared apartments at the end of May, the workers had to leave. Hung and his co-workers believe Affumicata stopped paying the bills. A spokesman for Lesy ČR,

a state-owned firm that tends the country's forests, says they have no agreement with Affumicata, though he did concede one of Lesy's subcontractors may have further subcontracted work. "The law on public tenders does not allow us to dictate employment matters for contracted partners," Lesy ČR spokesman Zbyněk Bobynek said. Bobynek was requested by media to name the firm Lesy had contracted to work on forests in the region to which Mr. Hung referred. After agreeing to provide that information, Bobynek later claimed that the files containing the information were on a computer that was no longer accessible as it was "under repair." "All we want to and can say we said," Bobynek then said. Translator Nguyen Kim Phung was present at the same informational meeting Mr. Hung attended. He translated management directives from Czech into Vietnamese. He says he became aware of the harsh conditions only after friends complained of not being paid. Nguyen says he too had to approach Affumicata for his own late wages. In addition, Nguyen said a later review of the work contracts found that many said the company was providing education services, not hiring workers for employment. The workers were given and signed the agreements on the way to work sites or even on the work sites themselves, he said. Some of the contracts even required workers to pay Affumicata for providing education, rather than for the company to compensate them for their labor. "Affumicata abused the goodwill of many Vietnamese people - and Czechs too," Nguyen said. David Mrkos, a former chairman of Affumicata, has a different version of events. "The Vietnamese were working as part of a re-qualification course," he said, while maintaining that they knew this in advance. As for the unpaid wages, he claims that the men did very little work and were more than compensated for their efforts with food. When the Vietnamese workers started leaving because of the lack of pay, Affumicata hired workers from other countries like Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and Ukraine. One group of Romanian workers employed in the spring of 2010 were driven back to Romania after several months without pay, said Marek Čaněk, a political scientist at Charles

University specializing in labor migration. Bedřich Vagner, owner of the Zlatý Lev hotel in Kutná Hora, which provided accommodation for these men "for several months," said Affumicata still owes him 400,000 Kč. Allegations have surfaced about a second group of Romanian workers who were allegedly mistreated in autumn 2010, this time employed by the firm Wood Servis Praha s.r.s. - a firm without a listed phone number that despite its name is registered at a Brno address. The director of both Wood Servis Praha and Affumicata is Jindřich Martinák. Mrkos denied any knowledge of the Romanian workers and the unpaid hotel bills. Martinák could not be reached for comment. According to Matouš Jíra, a lawyer representing some of the men who are seeking back-wages in this case, this second group of Romanian workers was abandoned in the forests of south Bohemia. They walked to Tábor, about 80 kilometers south of Prague. There, they were arrested by local police and transported to Prague, where Jíra met them in November 2010. "Affumicata did not fulfill any of

their obligations: in the matters of wages for the workers, paying for the food or the accommodation," said Jíra, who is working with another lawyer, Štěpánka Miková, on the case. Jíra said they filed a criminal complaint against Affumicata in summer 2010, on which he is still waiting for action. Thus far, he said, police have questioned only one of the workers. The State Police did not respond to requests for comment as of press time. Jíra added that the most important information for pursuing these lost wages is the information that shows where the money trail leads, saying this is information only the police can uncover. So far, Jíra said, they either haven't or are unwilling to do so. "[The success of this case] depends on who was paid by the state, that is by Lesy ČR, the state-owned company who received this money for work in the forest," Jíra said. "We shall track the path of money. Where that ends, we can ask them to pay what is owed."

(Staff writer based on Prague Post)

International Women's Day Centenary: Call to End Exploitation & Abuse of Undocumented Migrant Women in Europe

On this significant anniversary, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants brings together the voices of more than 100 migrant women, NGOs, trade unions, and governmental officials from across Europe to highlight how undocumented migrant women working in Europe's households are often denied the most basic protections from exploitation and abuse with the release of its report - [Violence and Exploitation of Undocumented Migrant Women: Building Strategies to End Impunity](#). While maintaining Europe's homes and caring for its most vulnerable members of society, such as children and the elderly, undocumented migrant domestic workers risk long working hours, non-payment of wages, and the confiscation of their passports. "Our policies deny them a way out and our laws criminalise them if they flee", reports Eve Geddie, who is leading PICUM's work on undocumented women. "In Europe, employers are granted complete control of their domestic workers' legal status, but as private homes are largely exempt from workplace inspections, little attempt is made to check for cases of exploitation and abuse". **Olga**, an undocumented migrant worker from Ukraine, found herself in situation of exploitation, working for a celebrity in Poland. "Now when I think of it, I cannot believe I survived. I couldn't go out. They confiscated my passport. No contacts with friends and family. I was hardly allowed to eat. Each week all I was given was one loaf of wholemeal bread and a pack of margarine. I woke

up at 6 am and worked until 12 pm. When the lady came home from work, it did not matter how late it was, I was supposed to open the door of her car, take her things, bring them to the kitchen, put things on their places, untie her shoelaces, help her undress." Undocumented migrant domestic workers in exploitative situations often have no way out. Workers can easily become undocumented with little chance to re-regularise their situation and in the worst cases, employers purposely cause their workers to become irregular so they are easier to manipulate. **Without a transparent set of rights for domestic workers, private homes become for undocumented migrant women among the most dangerous places to work in Europe.** The [report illustrates the extremely worrying situation across the EU](#), where national laws and policies openly discriminate against undocumented migrant women:

- Many EU countries lack a definition of "domestic work" or "workplace" which has been described as a "black hole in legislation" by advocates.
- In Belgium and the United Kingdom, labour inspectors require a police warrant before entering a private home, meaning that exploitative employers are essentially protected from such control.
- In Spain, labour law forbids the firing of a woman due to her pregnancy, but this legal provision does not apply to domestic workers, an estimated 60% of whom are migrant women.

-- Diplomatic immunity presents a significant challenge as diplomats can invoke their immunity to avoid prosecution for exploitation of domestic workers.

2011 marks both the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day and the 100th Session of the International Labour Conference of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Linking this focus on women's rights and labour rights, migrant domestic workers around the world have called for an international day of mobilisation to

raise support for the development of an international standard in the ILO to guarantee decent work for domestic workers.

In order to address the often hidden and undervalued nature of domestic work, it is essential that Member States support the drafting process of the International Labour Organisation's Convention and Recommendation on Decent Work for Domestic Workers by affirming the right of migrant domestic workers to fair pay and conditions regardless of their administrative status.

(Staff writer based on PICUM)

REPORTS OF INCIDENTS & LETTERS TO THE EDITORIAL

Frequent Attacks on Foreigners in Kyiv: nationals of three countries are among the affected

After a widely publicized appeal of the Amnesty International, informing about beating and humiliating treatment of asylum seekers from Afghanistan by the border guards of Ukraine in Boryspil international airport in Kyiv, more recent cases of attacks on foreigners came to the notice of our editorial. This time the perpetrators were young aggressive men. Durign mid-March 2011, a student from one of the Middle East Arab states was attacked on Velyka Vasilkivska street at the center. On March 24, 2011, at the heart of Ukraine's capital, on Khreshchatik Street, young men attacked two businessmen (Zubair Chowgle from India and

another person from Pakistan), who came to Ukraine to attend a conference. Without any motive of extorting money of valuables, the perpetrators just beat up the two men and disappeared. The survivors were hospitalized. Investigation is underway. On the bases of information received from our own sources, characteristic peculiarities of the attacks and external features, our editorial assumes these cases to be racially motivated. So, it requests all foreigners to be alert and inform of all such cases without delay to embassies, communities, law enforcement bodies, as well as human rights organizations.

(Staff writer)

Palestinian engineer vanishes from a Ukrainian train in the middle of the night

As per information from Associated Press, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees confirmed fears that a Palestinian is being held in prison by the Israeli secret service, most likely after being kidnapped nearly three weeks ago. Dirar Abu Sisi, 42, went missing "under unknown circumstances" in the early hours of February 19 after boarding a train in the eastern city of Kharkiv bound for the capital Kyiv, according to Viktoria Kushnir, a spokeswoman for the Interior Ministry. He was in Ukraine applying for citizenship. Maksim Butkevych, spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Ukraine, said Abu Sisi has been in custody in Israel since shortly after his disappearance. The UN agency suspects Israeli and perhaps Ukrainian security forces had a hand in his disappearance and imprisonment in Israel. "We don't know details of his trip from Ukraine to Israel _ let's put it this way," said Butkevych. "But unfortunately, what happened looks like a violent abduction and not a legal extradition or any other legal action on the part of authorities." Both the Israeli and Ukrainian Foreign Ministries declined to comment on the UN allegations. Abu Sisi's Ukrainian wife, Veronika, 32, alleges the Israeli secret service Mossad carried out the abduction in order to sabotage a key electric power plant in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip where he worked as a senior manager. "I don't suspect it, I am sure of it," Abu Sisi told the AP in a telephone interview. "My husband was the heart of the only electric station in Gaza, or rather its brain. It's a strategic object and they wanted to disable it. "She denied speculation that her husband may be wanted by Israel as a known Hamas sympathizer, saying he had never engaged in politics or any violent groups. In Gaza, fellow engineers and neighbors described Abu Sisi as a Hamas supporter, pointing to his senior position. He served as the deputy head of the electric power station and posts are traditionally staffed by Hamas loyalists. Abu Sisi, a Jordan native and father of six, was in Ukraine trying to apply for

citizenship after spending 12 years in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli group HaMoked, which defends the rights of Palestinians, says Abu Sisi has been held in an Israeli prison since Feb 19. He is being kept in the Shikma detention center outside the coastal city of Ashkelon, the group said. Israel's prison service said it had no information on the case. The internal security service, the Shin Bet, declined comment, citing a gag order. Veronika Abu Sisi said her husband told her over the phone about a week after his alleged kidnapping that he was in Israel. His lawyer later told her that he was in custody in an Israeli prison and that he had been kidnapped from Ukraine. Reached by the Associated Press, the lawyer declined comment, citing the gag order. Veronika Abu Sisi said the family decided to return to Ukraine after life in the Gaza Strip became unsafe for their three daughters and three sons and her husband flew to Ukraine to apply for citizenship in January. In mid-February, after submitting all the paperwork, he was told by Ukrainian authorities to report to a government agency in Kharkiv, which was processing his case. After he turned up, government workers briefly seized his passport, then gave it back to him, saying it was a routine check, Abu Sisi said. Relieved, the engineer on February 18 boarded a 10:55 p.m. overnight train to Kyiv to meet his brother who was flying in from Amsterdam, but the reunion never took place. Veronika Abu Sisi said she was told by Ukrainian police officials that two unknown men boarded her husband's train car near the central Ukrainian city of Poltava several hours after departure and escorted him out. "I am in shock," said Abu Sisi's wife, a violin teacher, who converted to Islam to marry her husband, who had come to Ukraine to study as part of an exchange program. "I don't know what to tell my kids about where their father is - he wasn't killed by a bomb, he disappeared from a train in a democratic country!"

(Staff writer based on AP)

PERSONALITIES

Kreizberg, Upholding Music for Diversity, passes away



"Music allows us to really find our inner self, to be free to search for those things that we normally don't have the opportunity or the time to search for. It opens up many, many doors within us. It opens the doors to our soul, to our feelings, to humanity as a whole, " said Yakov Kreizberg, whose untimely demise on March 15, 2011, the world learnt with great sadness. Born in St Petersburg, Yakov Kreizberg studied the art of conducting privately with the legendary Ilya A. Musin, before emigrating to the United States in 1976. There he was awarded conducting fellowships at Tanglewood with Bernstein, Ozawa and Leinsdorf, and at the Los Angeles Philharmonic Institute with Michael Tilson Thomas. In 1986 he won first prize in the Leopold Stokowski Conducting Competition in New York. He was known among the musicians for his charismatic leadership, artistic passion and warm sincerity. Kreizberg led the Jeuness Musicales World Orchestra (JMWO) in the late 90's and at the turn of this century as Music Director & Chief Conductor. As a person championing the cause of diversity, he inspired thousands of young musicians; always there to provide guidance and direction - so important for a young professional's musical development. In demand across the globe, the Austrian-American conductor Yakov Kreizberg has conducted most of the major orchestras throughout Europe, North America and Asia. Before his death, he held the posts

of Artistic and Music Director of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo and Chief Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Netherlands Philharmonic and Netherlands Chamber orchestras. He had previously held the posts of Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, Principal Guest Conductor of the Wiener Symphoniker and Generalmusikdirektor of the Komische Oper Berlin.

(Staff writer)

DIVERSITY - IS A FRESH OUTLOOK ON LIFE...

Gender equality: Myth or Reality?

This year, on March 8 - time. What has changed in these intercultural space? International Women's Day was 100 years, how does today's women These issues were raised at a celebrated for the hundredth look like in the modern round-table meeting on the

eve of the centenary, on March 4, on the initiative of the African Center. The Visual Culture Center located in the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy premises held a free discussion about how women changed during the last century in different countries and whether she achieved equal rights with men. African Center invited representatives of the diplomatic community, civic and cultural leaders, Ukrainian and foreign university students. The first question to discuss was that of women's representation in the parliaments of different countries. The Ukrainian parliament today, has only 8% women MPs. No women are there as Minister in the government today. It's no surprise, bearing in mind a recent expression by Prime Minister Mr. Azarov: "The government reform - is none of women's business"! It is interesting to compare the situation in Ukraine and in African countries regarding the presence of women in power. As Amina Kasai, wife of the Ambassador of Nigeria described - African countries are very different from each other, especially in the East of Sahara! There are near 300 ethnic groups on the continent, each protecting and promoting their cultural traditions. And in each country one may come across disproportion in favour of men. For example, in some countries women are not allowed to eat chicken, and the best food is cooked just for men! In many African countries, polygamy prevails among men,

with grave consequences for women. While divorced African woman obediently waits for destiny, a just-divorced man, immediately finds a temporary replacement - and it is considered normal. Even then, over the past 100 years, according to Ms. Kasai, women have achieved a lot. There are many organizations that support women's movement against discrimination and fight for their rights. In Liberia, on the south-western coast of the continent, Ellen Johnson-Serlif became president, winning 59.4 percent votes, and before that she was a finance minister. By the way, the name of the Republic sounds like: "Land of freedom." an independent state whose motto remains - «The love of liberty brought us here». Amina Kasai stressed the important role of UN in the fight for the rights



of women and children in Africa. Among the latest achievements are that 45% of the South African parliament today consists of women - almost half! "I am very happy for Africa", - said Teresa Lopen - African Center member at the meeting - «20 years ago I left Africa for Ukraine! I can say from experience that women in Africa, Europe, Asia - are very different from one another, and this difference is caused by culture of relevance of women. One more question was discussed - women

and business. What are the achievements in this field today? In the list of richest people in the world the percentage of women - is 10, only 1% of them - have earned their capital by themselves. The world's richest woman with a 3.9 billion USD - is from China. The most interesting is the choice of trends in business by men and women! A commonly acknowledged fact is that the men mostly focused on accumulation of capital, and women invest big money on something useful and having social impact, or on beautiful things. At the conclusion of the roundtable, one of the business woman present, telling her story of success, said: "Ukrainian woman has as much rights as she wants to have!" It was found that most Ukrainian women present agreed with her and recalled some Ukrainian proverbs like: "As Dad would say - on mom's will it'll be ..."

The Round Table was supported by Embassies of the United States, South Africa, Nigeria, UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova), initiatives of FARE", Association NEVER AGAIN, the International NGO "Reformation", Analytical Center "Open Policy" civil campaign "New Citizen".

(Staff writer)

... OPENNESS TO IDEAS...

Eric Vakiv: "I had no idols or role models before me..."



He was born black and does not know his parents, who have left him in a maternity

hospital ... orphanage, then boarding school, where from childhood he had to rebuff the sneers, because of his skin color was different from others. He

defended himself; sometimes in violent fights... thus with test of strength started Eric's life. He had very little to possess, while a small boy. But very early he felt a desire to dance. Good people were found and taught him this art. Eric still remembers his first teachers with gratitude. Choreography classes were almost the only consolation in his orphan life. But at the same time - these dance classes became the cause of ridicule among orphanage children. To them dancing was not right for males. But there were also good days! One day Eric read online about a Dancing competition - "Everybody Dance "and got to hundreds of best performers who traveled to Yalta and had practical dance classes from specialists for 2 weeks! But in the first class he felt dizzy, couldn't stand the pressure, like other participants could... the reason was found - a recent head wound he received during a brutal street fight... Unfortunately, the lessons had to stop. And what makes him so different, -

is his incredible smile, so sincere and frank! And it is still surprising, because, after numerous insults and hate attacks he is not angry and has not lost faith in people.

"The most important thing that I value in people - is that even in difficult situations they remain human beings"

For the first time I saw his live dance performance on a two-day art event "Art of Living Together", recently held in Kyiv Center for Contemporary Art M-17. The Art-event was organized by International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Ukraine and was a real feast of multiculturalism. It was also represented by well-known Ukrainian artist Akbar Hursani, a refugee from Afghanistan, already living in Ukraine for 20 years. Opening the event, IOM Chief Manfred Profazi said: "The event is entitled "The art of living together" because we believe that society is developing through a culture of openness. Therefore we do not just celebrate the values of diversity, we also notice the difficulties faced by people today in this country where skin color distinguishes them from the majority. "After seeing Eric's dance, a short film about his life, I've got a lot of thoughts... about his life without parental care, his great talent and expression in the art of dance which would be perhaps develop more ... how he, a citizen of Ukraine - survives in a society where racism and xenophobia unfortunately still exist ... All these issues and the story of Eric Vakiv - a usual 22-year old young man (as he calls himself) is revealed in the interview.

When you first felt the desire to dance and who at that time was an idol for you in the art of dance?

There were no idols in my life, and the interest to dance I felt after the movie "Proscenium". Three wonderful people helped me to reach my goal: the winner of the All-Union competition of performers in Moscow - Shabarshina Galina Ivanovna, Mitrofanov Valery and Kaigorodov Dmitry Yevgenovych choreographic college "Kiyanochka" director. I am very indebted to these people for their patience, work and desire to help.

I heard that your dance lessons were not perceived well by children in the boarding school. How you managed to overcome their negative attitudes, to confront ridicule, and move on to the goal?

Yes, they treated me badly because of the dancing. Thanks to my guardian angel - Galina Ivanovna, I was able to overcome it. To be honest - I dropped dance lessons, but she came for me to boarding school and took to her lessons, to give a start in life. Thanks to her for that.

How did you get the contest "Everybody Dance" in 2009, and how did you prepare for it?

On the project "Everybody Dance 2" I didn't think of going. It was an ordinary morning when I woke up at a friend's apartment and went to the Internet. I was looking for offers on the shooting in commercials and films, and came to the site of STB, there was a casting "Everybody Dance". I decided to try. Everything happened very quickly, the preparation was only a week. I've got a good statement, thanks to Eugeny Kot - finalists of the first season. So I got a place on the best 100 dancers in Ukraine.

You said that you changed your attitude towards people who treated you with enmity because of skin color. What has changed - how do you react now on racism manifestations?

Enmity ... I will say this: In every country there are idiots that you have to fight, who start conflicts and wars ... a lot of them. And I asked myself the question: if they are worth paying attention to, to waste your nerves? I think - no. I have other priorities in life. When I was a kid - I was fighting, got to the hospital ... was cut, and shot ... But as they say, all that did not kill us, - has made us stronger.

You're very young, about 21-22? What are your dreams?

I'm 22, and I am an average person. Some may say that I was born in the wrong place at the wrong time, but I do not think so. I love my country. And I'm ready to do everything to make it good. I still have another year of study. After graduating I'll not get the shelter or a roof over the head ... My dreams are - to have a place to live, get on my feet and have a family. And I'd like to have kids, not less than three...

I saw your performance and I can say that noticed your ability to be expressive and laconic in dance. I would like to see the development of your talent! What would you say?

Yes, I want to continue to develop in this area, but, it costs money, which I do not have. I often wake up

with the question "What will I eat today? » What to say about my development ...

What do you appreciate in other people?

I always treat people the way I'd like them to treat me. I always believe them, although sometimes it will have consequences. The most important thing that I value in people - is that even in difficult situations they remain human beings.

(Staff writer)

... SOME EVENTS TO REMEMBER...

Ukraine is preparing for Euro 2012 Who will come to the rescue?

On June 8, 2012 - the long-awaited Championship - Euro-2012 will start in Ukraine. Government officials of the host cities report on the preparedness for the event, announcing the data on building new stadiums, hotels and traffic infrastructure. But what concerns the readiness for direct dialogue with the guests, who will come to Championship - there is something to reflect! The football fans should be convenient and comfortable in communication in the host cities. If they do not speak either Russian or Ukrainian languages, who will come to help them? And what happens when this foreign guest will ask a patrol police officer to show him the way, because he can't find it in his map? Or if, for example, he fell ill and run to the hospital - who can understand him there? We cannot solve the problem without the help of volunteers! The Ukrainian-Volunteer Center 2012 has already started to recruit students. As you know, the Championship will be held in Kyiv, Lviv, Donetsk and Kharkiv. However, the exact number of volunteers needed for each city - is not known. You can only watch as the number gradually increases. For example, Kyiv government has already announced the need for 6000 volunteers. In Donetsk the need is for 4000 volunteers, Lviv plans to involve 941 volunteers and in Kharkiv - 1500. For potential volunteers of Euro 2012, Kyiv launched in late January a "Speaking club for volunteers-2012, getting ready to meet guests. On March 1, the same language courses for volunteer were opened in Donetsk... Languages would be learning, and no doubt about the professionalism of teachers are there. But speaking one language - does not guarantee successful communication! The NGOs who always are the first to show concern with

such problems are also involved. Recently, a course named «Football: the language of understanding. Xenophobia is offside» took place in Kyiv, which held a one-week training by Center for Media Reform, with support from the British Embassy in Ukraine and State Committee on Nationalities and Religions. They united their efforts to acquaint the Ministry of the Interior staff, officials from the various departments, as well as journalists and NGO representatives from Euro 2012 host cities with the whole complex issue of human rights in the context of "ours" - "theirs". The training focused on policy against verbal and physical aggression and the possibilities to increase the inter-ethnic understanding in society. Journalists, media representatives, who will cover not only the same game, but also events around - received an immeasurable amount of knowledge in the workshop! The training course was prepared by a team of specialists: A British Expert, Tim Smith, (he has extensive experience in reporting on BBC radio in over 30 countries and is the project manager for "Euro 2012: with an open heart to every guest") Lilia Poberezhets - experienced media trainer, who worked many years for BBC, Lyudmila Humeniuk - Center for Media Reform Director and other experts. Training seminar from professionals is so effective, because in a short time you can take lots of valuable tools for further work. Thus the training gave a brief formula of success for reporters giving them more deep understanding of the issues. It reads: «Communication - getting the throw, information - giving out. In order to prepare for Euro 2012 on a high level, the mission of leaders and civil society activists is to educate people in order to prevent conflicts, aggression and hate speech.» One should understand that aggressive behavior, xenophobia and racism - means getting the goal to your own gates, and preventive work is very important here.

(Staff writer)



STUDENTS MEET "LIVING BOOKS"

Pupils' and students' communication during the "Diversity Initiative" - Living Library event recalls a trip to various parts of the world simultaneously ... In such meetings, anyone who wants, can ask any question to people of different ethnic backgrounds, different professions, faith and different cultural traditions. In a 10 minute informal conversation with every guest 10 - students receive substantial information about how people of different nationalities and professions live in Ukraine and abroad, get to know what is in common and what is different from their traditions. The communication takes place in a way that each guest, where students have the opportunity to learn directly about everything that interests them. I can honestly say that the questions were very different - from the individual recipes and problems of discrimination up to and despite the different age of features of national cuisines. And free conversation. The model, based on a Danish Living Library Diversity Initiative NGO's concept, was adapted and developed by IOM in Ukraine in 2009-2009. Since then - the event was held in different parts of Ukraine with great success. So this time the "Living Library" was held in Kyiv. Students from schools and high schools were invited by IOM to meet with "living books" from Guinea, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Poland, Jordan and other places. Among the guests were Roma and Jewish representatives as well. So it was an opportunity to learn about the history of these peoples and their own experience.

- "And if there is a common domestic quarrel in the family - who first comes to reconciliation?" - unexpected question was asked. The reply followed immediately:
- "Who hurriedly manages to be the first!"

The first book in the library at our table was - Sesay Mohammed. He arrived from Sierra Leone to Ukraine over 20 years ago, married a Ukrainian, and now lives in Borispol in their own house. Sesay has a wonderful large family, three sons, who speak both Ukrainian and English. He is a Muslim, therefore adheres to all rules that govern his faith. At the same time - he respects the Ukrainian traditions pertaining to his wife's faith. So it turns out that he celebrates Ramadan and Ukrainian Christmas, sometimes together with neighbors - his friends.

- "And if there is a common domestic quarrel in the family - who first comes to reconciliation?" - unexpected question was asked. The reply followed immediately:

- "Who hurriedly manages to be the first!"

Ten minutes passed - and blitz poll ended. And the next question from Kyiv students already was to Tarek Sarkhan from Jordan.

- "Do you love Ukrainian borshch, tell us?"

- "Yes, I cook it myself."

Tarek is 36, he is a Muslim and he also has been living in Ukraine for a long time, working in the "Islamic Center". His wife Olena adopted the Muslim faith on her own decision and now she is raising four children. The students learned from Terek about Petra - Jordan's ancient city, which is one of the seven wonders of the world together with the Great Wall in China, Colosseum in Rome and Egyptian pyramids at Giza! In memory of the meeting Terek wrote the short wish in Arabic to each member of the group. It came out a beautiful lace that easily brings you to the world of ancient tales of Aladdin and his magic lamp. ...Kapitolina Kondur - a young 26 years old Roma girl - spoke about her childhood and school years in Izmail, near

Odessa. She was asked about what was her attitude in school there. It turned out - that children treated her completely normally. However, there was one teacher who managed to assess her performances as "grade 2" (very poor), even if small Kapa gave brilliant responses to the lesson ... just - without explanation. Kapitolina became a psychologist, graduated from Shevchenko Kyiv National University. Among the Roma traditions - she first recalled - "Respect the elders" ...The first question to Sebele Mokoka - First Secretary Embassy of South Africa in Ukraine - sounded from Anton, student of Kyiv Humanitarian Lyceum :

- What do you think about the effect of the World Cup - 2010 on South Africa? "

- There were a lot of benefits, and one of the biggest was, - that through direct meetings and communicating with people during the championship, stereotypes and prejudices about South Africa were overcome, which are spread often by the media. Racism, in my opinion, - is everywhere. But previously it existed in South Africa on the national level of legislation, and now, thankfully, - this time has passed. Just half an hour of communication with the Living Library readers was very effective. Students of Kyiv schools had become interested in the history and traditions of each country from different social and ethnic contexts. But I



think if there would be more time for reading - unexpected answers.
there would be a lot of interesting questions and

(Staff writer)

... CORRECT ANSWERS (highlighted in yellow) TO PUZZLE ON DISCRIMINATION ... PROVIDED BY ROBE ASHENAFI, OUR REGULAR READER

1. Question

When did the UN General Assembly adopt the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)?

Answer:

- December 18, 1979.
- March 8, 1966
- March 8, 1857

2. Question

How many countries have ratified this convention up to now?

Answer:

- 186 countries
- 98 countries
- 54 countries

3. Question

What is meant by “discrimination based on religious affiliation”?

Answer:

- means any distinction based on religion or belief
- the exclusion or restriction based on religion
- exclusion, restriction or preference based on religion or belief and has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition of the right to enjoy fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality of rights.

4. Question

Which country has adopted a controversial "anti-sect" law, declared the 173 religious minorities dangerous to national security, the law includes special provisions to dismiss them for unacceptable behavior.

Answer: • France • China • Russia

DIVERSITY HOLIDAYS

March 13 - April 15 is Deaf History Month. This observance celebrates key events in deaf history, including the founding of Gallaudet University and the American School for the Deaf.

March 17 is St. Patrick's Day, a holiday started in Ireland to recognize St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland who brought Christianity to the country in the early days of the faith.

March 19 - 20 is Holi, a Hindu and South Asian spring religious festival observed in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, along with other countries that have large Hindu and Sikh populations. It is celebrated by people throwing colored powder and water at each other. Bonfires are lit the day before in the memory of the miraculous escape that young Prahlad accomplished when Demoness Holika carried him into the fire.

March 20 is Purim, a Jewish celebration that marks the time when the Jewish community living in Persia was saved from genocide. According to the Book of Esther, King Ahasuerus's political advisor planned to have all the Jews killed; however, his plot was foiled when Esther, one of the king's wives, revealed her Jewish identity. On Purim, Jewish people give out charity and share food with friends.



Performance of traditional music & dance by an ensemble from Rajasthan (India) at Holi celebration in Kyiv, March 20, 2011

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