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Gaining support for the release of Mariupol's defenders: Visit to Washington with the Heart of Azovstal initiative



An interactive cultural exhibition and panel discussion, Partners on the Frontline: Ukraine-U.S. Fight for Peace, Justice, Global Security and Cultural Resilience, recently took place in Washington, D.C. This event was organised by System Capital Management in collaboration with the Meridian International Center.

The discussion featured notable panelists including Natalia Yemchenko from the supervisory board of Heart of Azovstal, Mariupol defender Yuliia "Taira" Paievska, the founder of GogolFest Vladyslav Troitskyi, the Pulitzer Prize winning photojournalist Yevheniy Maloletka, as well as James K. Glassman, Chairman & CEO at Glassman Enterprises, LLC.

Yuliia "Taira" Paievska, a paramedic, shared her harrowing experiences of captivity, highlighting the urgent need for the release of Mariupol's defenders.

The event was also attended by honorary guests Dmytro Morozov, a Mariupol defender, and Anna Zaytseva, the wife of an imprisoned defender.

Amidst global media presence, they reiterated their call to the international community to intensify efforts for the liberation of the City of Mariupol's brave defenders.

“Ukraine is valiantly defending the pillars of democracy and freedom for the global community in its current struggle. Now, more than ever, unity is paramount. This spirit of solidarity has been the lifeline for the residents of Mariupol. In the face of adversity, civilians and military personnel, adults and children alike, were bonded by a shared determination to persevere and prevail. This resolve was exemplified by the defenders of Mariupol, who withstood an 86-day siege and are now, 18 months later, continuing their struggle for survival in Russian captivity. We call upon the international community to extend their support in liberating both the military and civilian captives, including the thousands of children who have been forcibly deported. Achieving this task is only possible through collective effort and unwavering support from our allied nations,”
stated Anna Zaytseva.

The Heart of Azovstal, an integral part of Rinat Akhmetov's Steel Front initiative, is engaging international partners to secure the release of all defenders of Mariupol.