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MARATHON OF SOLIDARITY

POLISH-UKRAINIAN BROTHERHOOD IN THE WORLD OF SPORT



Photograph by Leszek Szymański / PAP

Providing shelter to athletes fleeing the war, welcoming entire sports clubs, waving encouraging banners and arranging spectacular card displays in stadiums – this is how the Polish sports world has been standing shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine opposing the enemy. Practically every single day since 24 February 2022, members of the sports community have given evidence of their solidarity with the Ukrainians and their opposition to the crimes committed by the Russians.

“The Polish Government strongly condemns Russia’s unprecedented and brutal armed attack on Ukraine,” wrote Kamil Bortniczuk, Minister of Sport and Tourism, in his letters to the authorities of international sports federations immediately after the outbreak of the war.



Honorary Patronage
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Andrzej Duda



Ministerstwo
Sportu i Turystyki

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Producer

Welcome!

On 24 February 2022, Russia attacked independent Ukraine. Our Ukrainian brothers have been steadily resisting the aggressor heroically for many months, while trying to save at least crumbs of normality for themselves, in part through sport. The war has ruined the lives of many Ukrainian sportsmen and sportswomen, and many talented athletes have had to pay the ultimate price. Every day, Poles – including representatives of the world of sport – give further proof of their solidarity with the Ukrainians and their disapproval of the crimes committed by the Russians.

Since the beginning of the war, the Ministry of Sport and Tourism has taken decisive action to show our solidarity with the fighting Ukraine and our disagreement with the criminal Russian policy. We have continually stressed that relations with Russia in the area of sport is not possible. Pressure from Poland and then also from many countries in Europe and other continents has contributed to the elimination of Russian athletes and teams from international competition. This proves that the diplomatic pressure makes sense.

I note with concern every idea that appears in the public space to lift the ban on Russian athletes from international competitions. As hosts of Krakow - Małopolska 2023 3rd European Games, we refuse to allow athletes performing under the Russian flag to take part in the Olympic qualifiers to be held as part of the European Games. A country waging a brutal war blatantly violates the Olympic ideals and has no right to be a member of the peaceful international community or to take part in the biggest sporting celebration. That is why we are ready to lead a coalition of countries opposing the reinstatement of Russian athletes in international competitions.

This makes any gesture of solidarity with the Ukrainians all the more important. Many positive examples of Polish-Ukrainian brotherhood in the world of sport are presented in the exhibition to which this catalogue is attached. You are invited to read and visit the places where the charts are displayed. The stories presented are the best proof that sport brings nations together and is a great tool for integration. Polish athletes, clubs and sports associations continually demonstrate great empathy, a willingness to cooperate and to help selflessly. I thank them for nobly representing Poland and making it famous all over the world, now also as allies of the Ukrainians fighting against the aggressor. I am grateful to the creators of the exhibition for their willingness to collect and present to us the moving stories of the Ukrainian athletes.

The war in Ukraine is still ongoing. I am convinced that in these challenging times, the spirit of fair play and traditional Polish hospitality shall ensure that we witness further great sporting emotions, but also beautiful gestures showing what is most important: respect for other people, friendship, readiness to make sacrifices and help in the most difficult moments. Everyone is invited to take part in the “marathon of solidarity”!

Kamil Bortniczuk
Minister of Sport and Tourism



CALL FOR DECISIVE ACTION

As early as 23 February 2022, Kamil Bortniczuk launched a diplomatic offensive, addressing sports ministers from the whole European Union.

"We can see a clear escalation of tension (...) and the invasion of the armed forces of the Russian Federation on the Ukrainian territory. We need decisive action from all EU countries," he stressed in his letter to the ministers.

The next step was a letter from Minister Bortniczuk, sent on 24 February to the authorities of international sports federations, with a call for solidarity with Ukraine and the exclusion of Russia as an organiser of international sports events.

"I call upon the sports movement to take decisive action to demonstrate full solidarity with Ukraine and express opposition to Russian policy," the minister wrote.

Kamil Bortniczuk addressed the authorities of the largest organisations (e.g. FIFA and UEFA). The call has been successful, with Russia being banned from hosting sports events.



Photograph by Łukasz Matel / Kurier Poranny / Gazeta Współczesna / Polska Press / East News



Kamil Bortniczuk and Vadym Hutcajt during the signing ceremony of the "Programme of Cooperation in the Field of Physical Culture and Sports for 2023-2024".

Photograph by Paweł Wodzyński / East News

EXCLUSION OF THE AGGRESSOR AND COOPERATION WITH UKRAINE

Minister Bortniczuk's diplomatic efforts resulted in two joint statements of the sports ministers of the European Union and non-European countries on the elimination of Russia from global competition. The Minister participated in numerous international meetings, including with his UK and Czech Republic counterparts Nigel Huddleston and Petr Gazdík.

"Pressure from Poland and the Czech Republic, among others, contributed to FIFA and UEFA's decision to disqualify Russia from all games. This shows that pressure makes sense," stressed Kamil Bortniczuk.

In June 2022, a team was set up under the Minister of Sport to prepare recommendations on the participation of players from Russia and Belarus in sports competition in Poland.

In autumn 2022, Minister Kamil Bortniczuk, together with Vadym Hutcajt, Ukrainian Minister of Youth and Sports, signed the "Programme of Cooperation in Physical Culture and Sports for 2023-2024."



Photograph by Andrzej Iwańczuk / Reporter / East News

Men's Volleyball World Championship taken over from Russia, final match between Poland and Italy, Katowice, 11 September 2022.

WE STAND SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

With Russia banned from hosting sporting events due to its aggression against Ukraine, Poland took over the Men's Volleyball World Cup, the Women's Épée World Cup, the U-17 European Junior Weightlifting Championships, the Senior Women's and Men's Rugby 7 Championships, the European Shooting Championships.

"Together with all Polish sports associations, we stood shoulder to shoulder in taking action to exclude Russia from international games. I would like to thank all representatives of Polish sport for welcoming Ukrainian athletes and allowing them to train professionally," said Minister Bortniczuk.

HELPLINE FOR ATHLETES FROM UKRAINE

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Thanks to the Ministry of Sport and Tourism, a helpline has been set up for athletes from Ukraine. It provides support in finding accommodation and facilities to continue training.

When it all started, I was at home in Kiev. I remember my mum waking me up and telling me that we had to pack all our things so that, in case of danger, we could quickly run away from the rockets. I remember my younger brother crying with fear.

I went down to a shelter more than once. The longest I sat in it was five hours. There was water, no toilet and not much light. Just a floor, a bench and a chair. Everyone was sitting, looking at each other. In March, we went to Cherkasy, to my grandmother's and grandfather's place. It was quieter and safer there. But when Dad saw a rocket flying past the window, he decided he had to take us to Poland. I didn't want that very much. I didn't want to be separated from my Dad or to leave my house and school.

In Poland, I enrolled in a sports high school and artistic gymnastics classes at the Youth Palace in Warsaw. I started learning the language on my own. I want to become a coach in the future, so I have to choose a course of study related to sport. I will definitely stay here, in Warsaw. I don't want to move to another city and start all over again.

My friends and coaches always help me. I know I can count on them. I would like to thank them very much for all this. Most Poles are friendly and understand Ukrainians.

**Mariia Sarazhyna, 16,
a gymnast from Ukraine**



Source: the athlete's own archive

Mariia Sarazhyna

I CAN COUNT ON THE HELP OF MY POLISH COLLEAGUES AND COACH



Agnieszka Radwańska and Iga Świątek at a charity event in Kraków.

Photograph by Adam Nurkiewicz / Forum

FRIENDS FOR UKRAINE

Iga Świątek and Agnieszka Radwańska, the two best Polish tennis players, met in July 2022 in Kraków to raise funds for children affected by the war in Ukraine.

The charity tournament “Iga Świątek and Friends for Ukraine” started with a mixed doubles – Iga Świątek played in a duet with 17-year-old tennis player from Poland, Martyn Pawelski, while Agnieszka Radwańska was accompanied by Ukrainian Segiy Stakhovsky. Świątek and Pawelski won.

The most important match played between Iga Świątek and Agnieszka Radwańska. Radwańska won 6:4.

The legendary Ukrainian footballer Andriy Shevchenko was the special guest of the tournament. The matches were refereed by Ukraine’s top tennis player, multiple WTA tournament winner, Elina Svitolina.

During the matches and charity auctions, approximately PLN 2.5 million was raised.

Arkadiusz Grochot, Iga Świątek and Friends for Ukraine. An extraordinary event in Kraków, https://www.rm24.pl/regiony/krakow/news-iga-swiatek-i-przyjciele-dla-ukrainy-niewyk-wydarzenie-w,nId,6174942#crp_state=1 (accessed: 30 January 2023).

I’m very happy to be part of this event, where we can help many children.

Agnieszka Radwańska

Poland has always been important to me because as a kid I lived near the country’s border. I feel almost at home here.

Sergiy Stakhovsky

I’m grateful to the Polish people for their help. It is amazing support. This event is also a great sign of solidarity among sports people.

Andriy Shevchenko

I think we have done a great job of helping together through tennis and we have shown the great social power of sport.

Iga Świątek

THIS IS A GREAT ACT OF SOLIDARITY WITH MY COMPATRIOTS

Before the war, Oleksiy Bykov developed his sporting talent in the city that became a symbol of heroic resistance put up by the Ukrainian soldiers after 24 February. For three months (until May 2022), the Russians laid siege to Mariupol, disregarding ceasefire conditions and promises to create humanitarian corridors. Estimates put the number of civilians killed at over 20,000. Nearly 90% of the city was bombed. The Russians were intent upon seizing Mariupol because it would enable them to gain a land corridor to Crimea. On 30 September 2022, they achieved their goal.

“For my family, the war started much earlier, already in 2014,” Oleksiy Bykov recalls. “We were living in the Donetsk region at the time. After the fighting broke out, we had to leave our house. I was 16 years old and thought we would find peace. But that didn’t happen. The conflict with Russia was intensifying all the time. Eventually it came to the point where the war engulfed the whole country.”

Many athletes have been able to continue training thanks to the help of Polish teams.

Clubs in Poland have provided Ukrainian athletes with everything they need. This is a great act of solidarity with my compatriots. Our professional plans become less important at the moment. The most important thing is for peace to come to Ukraine.

Oleksiy Bykov, 24, a former FK Mariupol football player.



Oleksiy Bykov

Photograph by Andrzej Banaś / boomlab.pl



Fans at the charity match between Legia Warszawa and Dynamo Kyiv

Photograph by Leszek Szymański / PAP

MATCH FOR PEACE

With nearly 14,000 spectators, a blue and yellow card display and loud chanting “Ukraine! Ukraine!”, this match was a moving gesture of solidarity with the neighbours at war. On 12 April 2022, Legia Warszawa played a charity match against Dynamo Kyiv at the Łazienkowska Stadium. The Ukrainian team delighted its fans and won against Legia 3:1.

The match in Warsaw was the first in a series of “matches for peace” during which Dynamo played against the best clubs in Europe. The aim of the matches was to draw the world’s attention to the situation of the Ukrainians and their aspirations for freedom and peace. During the event, Ukrainian artists performed together with children who had found refuge in Poland after the outbreak of war.

More than one million zlotys were collected during the match and in the accompanying charity collections and auctions! The funds were provided to the Embassy of Ukraine in the Republic of Poland, which donated them to internal refugees in Ukraine.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK EVERY POLISH PERSON FOR THEIR HUMANITY

I said goodbye to my little daughter as always: “Well, hello, give your mum a kiss goodbye”. When leaving Ukraine in mid-February, I was sure I would be back home in ten days. I was going to Kraków for the winter camp of the junior kayaking slalom team.

On Thursday, 24 February, I was woken up by my phone vibrating. I wondered who could have been calling me at six in the morning....

I decided that I had to evacuate my daughter from Ukraine as soon as possible. The journey took three days. I will never forget the chaos at the border, the sight of thousands of terrified

faces at the train stations. I was determined, prepared for any inconvenience.

One cannot describe the help of the Polish sports community in words. For three months our entire team lived for free in a sports facility on Kolna Street in Kraków. I am infinitely grateful to Mr Zbigniew Miązek for giving us shelter, food and the opportunity to train. Polish people supported us in any possible way. I would like to thank every Pole for their humanity.

Viktoria Dobrotworska, a kayaker from Vinnitsa, multiple Ukrainian champion and European vice-champion in the U23 category



Viktoria Dobrotworska on the slalom course on the Kraków kayaking track

Photograph by Sebastian Krok



Source: Korona Kielce

Young footballers of Metalist Kharkiv with their mothers and sisters.

FORGETTING THE WAR THROUGH SPORT

A group of 29 teenage players, their mothers and sisters have found refuge in Poland thanks to the support of Korona Kielce. It all started with Serhiy Pylypchuk, who was a Korona player from 2013 to 2017. After ending his career as a player, he coached the U16 team of Metalist 1925 Kharkiv. On the day the war broke out, Pylypchuk and his team were at a competition in Vinnitsa. They had nowhere to return to...

Help came from the Kielce club, which organised transport to Poland for the footballers and their families. On site, the Ukrainians were provided with accommodation, food and regular care. The players can continue training at the Korona Kielce Academy.

"We're doing our best so that they feel good, can train and, thanks to sport, stop thinking constantly about their friends and compatriots fighting in the country," said Paweł Golański, Korona's sporting director.

Korona provided free activities for all Ukrainian children staying in Kielce. A collection of donations for refugees was organised in the fan shop.

POLISH PEOPLE ARE OUR GREATEST ALLIES

Two years earlier, Russian soldiers were also close to the Ukrainian border and did not attack. We thought it would be the same now: they would stay for some time and talk, but nothing bad would come of it. We were a bit scared, but no one really thought that war would break out.

We have no choice but to show resistance to the Russians. Now we cannot give up. I think the war will go on for a long time. But, in the end, we have to win. I donate a lot of the money I earn to our army. Russia says it wants peace. But in 2014 there was war, peace, and then Russia attacked again. It would be the same now. Peace for a year or two, and then Russia would attack again. They have to lose, otherwise it will never end. Too many of my compatriots have already died in this war.

I'm very grateful to Polish people for their attitude and their help to my people. They are our greatest allies among all the countries supporting Ukraine. We will remember this for the rest of our lives.

Danilo Mocherniuk, a weightlifter from Ukraine



Danilo Mocherniuk

Photograph by Marcin Łobaczewski



Natalia Safroniuk

Fot. Marcin Łobaczewski

I FELT LIKE A LITTLE SISTER AMONG THE POLISH ATHLETES

The first time I was scared was when I saw a military plane overhead. I had a panic attack. I was standing there and couldn't move. I was running out of air. After a while, this became something normal for me. It turns out that you can get used to anything. Even the most horrible atrocities, even war...

I didn't think about training. It was dangerous in the country; the roads were mined. I got an offer to go to Poland. My coach told me that I could join a team in Toruń. Everything happened so fast. I had one night to make a decision, think everything through and pack my belongings. My parents said: don't think, just go. I took only the most essential things.

I'm very grateful to the Polish girls because they helped me with everything and supported me all the way through. They taught me a lot of new things about cycling. They made me feel comfortable, as if I were their little sister. They helped me find my bearings in a foreign city. I could always count on them, ask them for help. Polish people have done a lot for the Ukrainians.

Natalia Safroniuk, a 18-year-old road cyclist from Ukraine

VOLLEYBALL UNITES NATIONS

Following Russia's attack on Ukraine, the Barkom-Kazhany club has been no longer able to play in their city. Thanks to the "Volleyball Unites Nations" programme, the team has joined PlusLiga for the 2022/2023 season. It can host its rivals in the Hutnik hall in Kraków and show the fortitude of the Ukrainian people.

Supported by coaches from the Małopolska region, the trainers and players of Barkom-Kazhany organise volleyball classes for children and young people from Poland and Ukraine in Kraków. There are also physical activities with elements of volleyball for adults.

"Both we as a club and the whole of Ukraine are very grateful. We will learn volleyball from you because Poland is a champion in volleyball, and we will develop this sport in Ukraine," said Oleg Baran, President of the Barkom-Kazhany Lviv club.

"I keep my fingers crossed for the Barkom-Kazhany team to perform well because every victory will be very important for us. There has never been such a reconciliation as today. Polish people are wonderful," stressed the mayor of Lviv, Andriy Sadovy.

There are plans to establish a club of supporters of Barkom-Kazhany Lviv, which will organise, for instance, tifo displays for the Lviv club's matches in Kraków and fans' trips to matches outside the capital of the Małopolska region.

Photograph by Łukasz Gagulski / PAP



The players of Barkom-Kazhany Lviv celebrating during the match of the 15th round of the PlusLiga volleyball league against PSG Stal Nysa

Dmytro Ihnatenko



Photograph by Andrzej Banas

EVEN WHEN ROCKETS ARE FLYING, PEOPLE DON'T LOSE HEART

All the facts suggested that the war would break out. But nobody wanted to believe it. And then the planes appeared over Kiev, the army entered and the bombing started.

I'm very proud of my Ukrainian team. At the world championships, my colleagues showed their fighting spirit. Each of them knew that it was wartime and he was supposed to show that what was happening out there could not prevent him from training. Everyone is doing their job.

Even when there is no light, no heating and rockets are flying over your head, people don't lose heart. They don't sit down, they don't cry, they don't say we're done for. When in danger, they go down to the underground and start singing and dancing. They are cheering each other up. Huge credit for this should go to the president. After he won had the elections, some people were finding fault with his past as a comedian. And then he comes to the front line, with active military hostilities going on, talks to the soldiers and supports them. When offered an evacuation, he said he didn't need a lift, but weapons. He sets an example with his attitude that one must be brave and courageous.

Polish people have shown a lot of kindness to the Ukrainians. We have received a great deal of help, which is a sign of unprecedented solidarity, and we are grateful for this.

Dmytro Ihnatenko, 19, Ukrainian kick-boxing champion

THE SPIRIT OF FAIR PLAY AND HOSPITALITY

Following the outbreak of war, the women's handball league in Ukraine was suspended. The Galychanka Lviv women's team turned to Polish people for help. The players, champions of Ukraine, wanted to keep their team and, show the world with their play that their nation was not giving up. The authorities of the Handball Association in Poland and the PGNiG Women's Superleague, as well as the Polish clubs, decided to expand the match timetable and admit the Ukrainian players to the PGNiG Superleague in the 2022/2023 season.

The players from Lviv play their matches at the Education and Recreation Centre in Marki, near Warsaw. Since the 2014/2015 season, Galychanka has won seven consecutive Ukrainian championship titles.

Russian aggression against Ukraine continues, and today in Poland we are showing that the way to development and a better future lies in dialogue and integration. I am convinced that in these challenging times the spirit of fair play and traditional Polish hospitality will make us witness great sporting emotions and beautiful interpersonal gestures," said Kamil Bortniczuk, Minister of Sport and Tourism.

Photograph by Przemek Gąbka / 400mm.pl / NEWSPIX.PL



Female handball players of Galychanka Lviv



From left: Piotr Należyty, President of Superleague, Kamil Bortniczuk, Minister of Sport and Tourism, Henry Szczepański, President of the Handball Association in Poland, Maksym Muzyczko, First Secretary of the Ukrainian Embassy in Poland, and Roman Fedyszyn, President of Galychanka Lviv, at a press conference in Marki, near Warsaw, on the team of Ukrainian champions, Galychanka Lviv, joining the PGNiG joining the Women's Superleague, 26 July 2022.

Photograph by Leszek Szymański / PAP

**WE HAVE
SHOWN
BROTHERHOOD.
WE WILL
CONTINUE
TO HELP**

Over the past year, we have given proof of the extraordinary strength of Polish-Ukrainian brotherhood in the world of sport. In the first phase of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, Polish people provided shelter to refugees from Ukraine and arranged transport, food and clothing. Today, we are at a different stage. What we need now is integration, so that Ukrainian people feel united with Polish society. Sport is an excellent tool to bring nations and generations together.

I am proud of the attitude of athletes, unions and clubs who have shown their willingness to provide help and openness to welcome players and entire teams from Ukraine since 24 February 2022. These are beautiful examples of brotherhood!

The marathon of solidarity between the Polish sporting community and Ukraine continues. We have been well aware from the beginning that this will be a long process, and we have been ready for it. We will support the Ukrainians and put pressure on Russia for as long as necessary.

Kamil Bortniczuk, Minister for Sport and Tourism

EXCLUDING THE RUSSIANS FROM THE GAMES IS IN OUR NATIONAL INTEREST

“Until the barbaric war in Ukraine is over, no Russian or Belarusian athlete should take part in any international competition – including the Olympic Games. The Polish Olympic Committee has been and will continue to be in solidarity with Ukraine, the Ukrainian people and its athletes. (...) This is not only important for the Polish Olympic Committee and athletes, but it is also for our national interest.

The oppressor and the victim cannot compete in the same sporting arena. The Polish Olympic Committee (PKOl) has undertaken a number of support activities addressed to Ukrainian athletes, including arranging the joint participation of the Polish and Ukrainian National Teams in the 15th European Youth Olympic Winter Festival in Vuokatti 2022. We will continue to express this solidarity and condemn war.

Andrzej Kraśnicki, President of the Polish Olympic Committee

Photograph by Szymon Sikora / Polish Olympic Committee



**Andrzej Kraśnicki,
President of the Polish
Olympic Committee, and
the Polish and Ukrainian
teams at the 15th
European Youth Olympic
Winter Festival in Vuokatti**



Photograph by Mykola Synelnykov

Photograph by Mykola Synelnykov

LET US PROTECT SPORTS FROM THE INFLUENCE OF THE TERRORIST STATE

"It is obvious that any neutral flag for Russian athletes is stained with blood," wrote Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy in response to the IOC statement of 25 January. It implies that Russians would be allowed to take part in the 2024 Summer Games in Paris and the 2026 Winter Games in Milan. The only sanction imposed on Russian athletes would be the absence of the national colours, anthem and flag.

"No athlete should be prevented from competing simply because of their passport," stated the IOC Management Board along with President Thomas Bach.

"I invite Mr Bach to Bachmut to see for himself that neutrality does not exist," responded Volodymyr Zelenskyy firmly.

He stressed that war and Olympic values are contradictions. *Russia must stop aggression and terror, Only then will it be possible to talk about Russian participation in the Olympic Games. We shall do everything in our power to ensure that the world protects sport from any influence of a terrorist state.* The Ukrainian president's social media post included pictures of athletes posing in front of facilities destroyed by Russia.

POLISH CHAMPIONS: THERE IS NO PLACE FOR RUSSIANS IN MAJOR EVENTS



Fot. Kuba Atys / Agencja Wyborcza.pl

I just cannot believe that a decision to allow Russians and Belarusians into the Olympic Games in Paris is possible. For me, this is absolutely outrageous. If I could, I would use an even stronger word.

Due to Russia's barbaric aggression, many Ukrainian athletes will be excluded from the Olympic Games. How are they supposed to train, to prepare themselves, when their country is at war, their cities are bombed, or they themselves are serving in the army?

I have seen pictures of my Ukrainian colleagues with whom I used to compete in rowing. In uniforms and with rifles, defending their homeland. Russian athletes are training peacefully at home, while Ukrainian athletes cannot do so because the facilities they once used have been bombed or are being used by the army. How are the Ukrainians supposed to prepare for the Olympic Games in peace?

Adam Korol, a rower, Olympic champion from Beijing (2008), four-time world champion, former minister of sport and tourism (in 2015)

Grzegorz Wojnarowski, Polish Olympic champion on the IOC's position on Russians and Belarusians. "Absolutely outrageous", <https://sportowefakty.wp.pl/igrzyska-olimpijskie/1042330/polski-mistrz-olimpijski-o-stanowisku-mkol-ws-rosjan-i-bialorusinow-absolutnie-s> (accessed: 30 January 2023).



Fot. Tedi / NEWSPIX.PL

So what if there are no flags and anthems? These athletes still represent criminals. We need collective responsibility. You can't give them the green light because situations like those during the Australian Open will be inevitable. You could see Russian fanatics around the stadiums and people in the stands wearing shirts with the 'Z' logo. The IOC made the wrong decision. It is outrageous. It is incompatible with the idea of 'fair play'.

There is no place for Russians and Belarusians in major sports events. This is unacceptable. Olena Buriak (Ukrainian rower - editor's note), whom I invited into my house at the beginning of the war, returned home to her husband. She could not stand it mentally. Athletes prefer to be in a bad place with their family than in a safe place without anyone close to them. On Wednesday, Paweł Szurmiej, two-time Olympian, was shot because he did not have time to evacuate. It is a miracle that he hasn't died. How can you think about competing in such situations?

Agnieszka Kobus-Zawojcka, rower, Olympic vice-champion in Tokyo (2020), Olympic bronze medallist in Rio de Janeiro (2016), world champion

Filip Kołodziejcki, Games. Mariusz Zagórski: nie ma możliwości na start Rosjan i Białorusinów. We will not yield! <https://sport.tvp.pl/65893199/igrzyska-mariusz-zagorski-nie-ma-mozliwosci-na-start-rosjan-i-bialorusinow-nie-ugniemy-sie> (accessed: 30 January 2023).



Charity match between Lechia Gdańsk and Shakhtar Donetsk

Photograph by Martyna Niećko / Agencja Wyborcza.pl

Athletes in Ukraine have not forgotten the help they have received from Polish people since the outbreak of war. They show their gratitude at every opportunity.

"Thank you, Poland! We will never forget your support during such a hard time for our country," Shakhtar Donetsk players wrote on their social media profile

"We will never forget your sensitivity and fraternal support for millions of our women and children, whom you have invited into your families with open hearts, helping everyone!" the players and the trainer of the Ukrainian national football team emphasised in their statement. They also thanked for Poland's efforts to exclude Russia from international sports competition:

This set an example to the entire football community and determined the attitude of the world's sports organisations. Poland's decisiveness is an example for the whole world to follow!

THANK YOU, POLAND. WE WILL NEVER FORGET!



Photograph by Karina Krystosiak / REPORTER / East News



Photograph by Beata Zawrzel / REPORTER / East News



Photograph by Beata Zawrzel / REPORTER / East News

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More about the project: www.sportdlaukrainy.pl