1/21 In deze gastsoep gaan we het hebben over de Oekraïense mediapersoonlijkheid Diana Panchenko. Ze heeft een groot bereik op YouTube en meldde zich recent ook op twitter. Op beide verspreidt ze Russische propaganda waardoor ze in Oekraïne vooral te boek staat als overloper.



2/21 Panchenko zag in 1988 het levenslicht in de provincie Mykolaev, zuid Oekraïne. Ze studeert media en later ook rechten in Kyiv. Na haar afstuderen gaat ze werken voor nieuwssite en het regionale KyivTV. gazeta.ua

Biography:

Diana Vitalievna Panchenko, an odious Ukrainian journalist and television anchorwoman, was born May 21, 1988, in Nikolaev. Ukrainian journalist, television anchorwoman. Later she lived in Pavlograd, Dnepropetrovsk region. In 2010, she graduated from the Kiev Polytechnic Institute with a degree in publishing and editing, and in 2018 she graduated from the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kiev with a degree in law. In 2010, she worked briefly as a correspondent for Gazeta v Ukrainski. From 2010 to 2015, she was a correspondent and presenter at TRK Kiev.

Diana Panchenko became widely popular in 2015, when she became a presenter on the TV channel NewsOne. She was the host of the programs "Tema", "Confrontation", "Fifth Corner" and "Svoi". In 2020 she was included in the rating "The most influential women of Ukraine according to readers of the website Focus.



3/21 In 2018 wordt Panchenko het gezicht van NewsOne. Daar verspreidt ze regelmatig Russische desinformatie zoals: "De oorlog in de Donbass in 2014 was een burgeroorlog geëscaleerd door de overheid." In 2021 wordt de zender verbannen op basis van terrorismebestrijding.



In February 202I, a special operation was carried out, the purpose of which was to neutralize Medvedchuk. The sanctions concerned the TV channels II2 Ukraine, NewsOne, ZIK and their owner, Medvedchuk's associate, Kozak. According to Zelensky, the TV channels conducted anti-Ukrainian propaganda and interfered with the process of the country's integration into the European Union. The channels were banned from broadcasting. The decision to ban them was made at an urgently convened National Security and Defense Council. The President's Office then explained that II2 Ukraine, NewsOne, ZiK are used, in their opinion, as "tools of foreign propaganda in Ukraine." Mykhailo Podolyak, adviser to the head of the Office, added that the channel worked for the "occupiers". They also said that "there are questions" about the financing of TV channels.

However, a year and a half before the closure of the channels, Zelensky said that he knew from which country they received funding, and the head of the Security Service of Ukraine, Ivan Bakanov, said that "an anti-Ukrainian information campaign was being carried out through the channel by the aggressor state."

The sanctions also affected Medvedchuk personally, who, together with his wife, was included in the list of the SBU investigation into the financing of terrorism. On March II, 202I, the SBU and the Tax Service conducted a special operation at the facilities of the Glusco gas station network, which are also associated with the Medvedchuk family.

Three sources in the entourage of the Russian president confirmed that it was this story with the destruction of Medvedchuk's information resource and the fact that they began to "nightmare" him, that was the last straw in Putin's decision to prepare for a military operation. The Kremlin decided not to resort to the tools of "soft power" anymore.

4/21 Panchenko richt vervolgens met wat anderen FirstNewsChannelNews op om de sancties van de overheid te omzeilen. Achter de schermen zijn het grotere spelers die aan de touwtjes trekken. De zender wordt na 30 minuten uitzenden door de Zelenskyy regering uit de lucht gehaald.

On February 23, Ukraine's Minister of Culture and Information Policy Oleksandr Tkachenko reported that journalists from the sanctioned TV channels 112 Ukraine, NewsOne, and ZIK had established "Novyny" LLC, registered at the same address as 112 Ukraine. The LLC's title coincides with the name of the blocked media group controlled by Viktor Medvedchuk, one of the leaders of the pro-Russian Opposition Platform — For Life (OPFL) party.

On February 26, "Mediaholdyng Novyny" LLC launched a new TV channel called First Independent (Pershyi Nezalezhnyi). However, it was blocked from satellite broadcasting by Ukraine's Security Service within an hour. The LLC's statutory capital constitutes only 100 hryvnias, raising doubts about its ability to finance a non-profit enterprise.

We take look here at the content which First Independent shared within the period of February 26-March 9. While its journalists claim their channel is independent, our analysis reveals that it has the same hosts, guests, narratives and management as the blocked channels it replaced. All of this links First Independent to the Novyny media group (112 Ukraine, NewsOne, and ZIK) and its de-facto beneficiary Viktor Medvedchuk.



5/21 Panchenko was te zien op TV zenders die toebehoren aan Taras Kozak, een zetbaas van Viktor Medvechuk. Het pro Russische geluid is geen toeval. De aantrekkelijke presentatrice is een bruikbare pion in het whitewashen van Kremlinstandpunten.

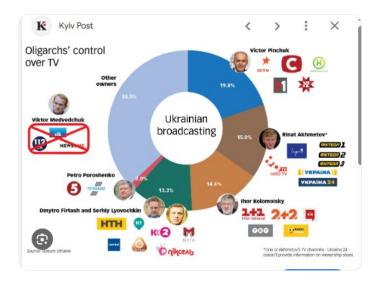
After 2014, Medvedchuk, as the friendliest politician to Moscow, began to organize negotiations of a trilateral group i, as well as the exchange of prisoners. At the end of Petro Poroshenko's rule, Medvedchuk's associate Taras Kozak acquired three news channels, which later became a stumbling block between Medvedchuk, who was called the real owner of the TV channels in Ukraine, and Zelensky.

The channel reflected the pro-Russian views of its owners, according to media expert Otar Dovzhenko, the propaganda on them looked like "statements like that no one attacked Ukraine, a civil war continues here, in which Ukraine is to blame, you just need to take and start making friends with Russia, Crimea left on its own, because we did not like it, an armed coup took place on the Maidan." At the same time, these TV channels consistently criticized Zelensky's policy, focusing on rising prices for housing and communal services and social problems. Zelensky's rating began to fall, and the Opposition Platform for Life party, whose political council was headed by Medvedchuk, on the contrary, began to grow. In October 2020, the party took first place in regional elections in six regions, beating Zelensky's Servant of the People party. Zelensky will remember this event even after the start of the war: in his first interview with Russian journalists, at the end of March 22, during the battles for Mariupol, he spoke at length about how Medvedchuk won in the regions.



6/21 Het Russische Vertska maakt een analyse over de oorzaken van de invasie. Het verbannen van de zenders is volgens ingewijden de druppel voor Poetin. Medvechuk die

miljarden heeft gekregen voor brainwashingscampagnes bezweert Poetin dat de bevolking op hand van Rusland is.



Be that as it may, the warm bath that Putin was counting on turned into a cold shower. "Putin, who came down from the mountain to accept the surrender of Ukraine, in fact found himself in the role of an abandoned bride," Alexander Kharebin, one of those who developed Zelensky's foreign policy strategy as part of his campaign headquarters, assesses this visit in a conversation with Vyorstka. - Putin's arrival in Paris was a colossal mistake of the Russian president, who overestimated the unpreparedness of Zelensky and his team. From the great tsar of all Russia, Putin has turned almost into a laughing stock." Zelensky helped him in this: right during Putin's speech at a press conference, when the Russian president said that a document on strict compliance with the Minsk agreements had been adopted, Zelensky smiled and shook his head, and when Putin started talking about the special status, he was completely amused and even covered his mouth with his hand so as not to laugh. "It was unexpected for everyone and for the first time so obvious," Ukrainian adviser Kharebin tells Verstka. - Putin actually received a public slap in the face. And it may have been a traumatic experience." From the expression on the face of the Russian president, it was clear that he could hardly withstand the joint press conference, he did not even look in the direction of Zelensky and often checked the papers. Since then, Zelensky and Putin have never met, and Surkov resigned from the post of curator of Ukraine and Donbass two months later. After the failure in Paris, Moscow relied on soft power. And Viktor Medvedchuk became a key confidant of the Kremlin.

7/21 Poetin hecht waarde aan de woorden van Medvechuk wat later een ernstige misrekening blijkt. Na de invasie vlucht Medvechuk maar hij wordt gevangen genomen. Om Medvechuks importantie aan te tonen, Rusland ruilt later 215 AZOV strijders voor hem en 55 Russische gevangenen.



Putin's decision was influenced by Medvedchuk himself, who regularly told the Russian president about the great support for him personally and pro-Russian sentiments in Ukraine. "He told fairy tales, spent this money that he was paid to organize political resistance, and did not believe that anyone would ever check," recalls a source close to the presidential administration. "He talked about the loyalty of the territory, stupidly misleading Putin."

The Kremlin did not question Medvedchuk's words. "Instead of drawing conclusions about the adequacy of the information received, analyzing and seeing the obvious picture that they are not welcome here, resentment and anger clouded their eyes," Ukrainian political adviser Kharebin shrugs. However, Medvedchuk could not have imagined that Putin would use his data to make a decision on a light special operation, the purpose of which was a quick change of power in Kyiv, says a source familiar with him. Putin was seriously counting on the support of the population throughout the country, which he was told about by a trusted godfather. "For Medvedchuk, the decision to go to war turned out to be the most catastrophic scenario," a person from Putin's entourage testifies.

8/21 Terug naar Panchenko die kort na de invasie op Telegram toch een opvallende uithaal maakt naar Poetin (hedendaagse Hitler) en Rusland (nieuwe Noord-Korea). Het zijn opvallend kritische bewoordingen voor iemand die anders altijd als advocaat van de Russische wereld optrad.

"Russia lost on February 24, having signed a sentence for itself and its adherents"

The current adept of war and Russian propaganda, Diana Panchenko, wrote back in April last year that she had always dreamed of broadcasting from Ukrainian Donetsk, and Russia, having broken into Ukraine, only sloned a sentence for itself and its adherents.

In another of her publications for the same April, she expressed herself like this.

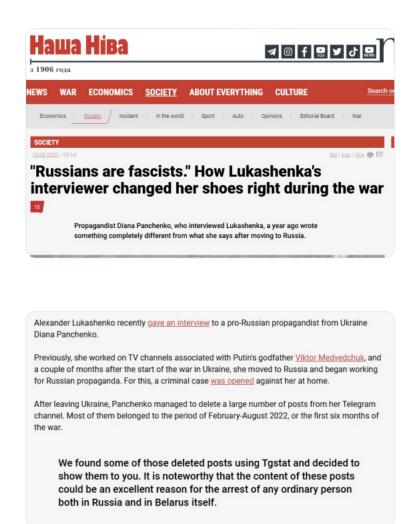
"Once upon a time, children played war between ours and the Nazis. Now, instead of fascists, there are Russians. Once synonymous with the word "isolation" was North Korea, and today it is Russia. Once the personification of evil was Hitler and now it is Putin.

The tragedy is that in its self-destruction, Russia is killing our people. The best of us die in battle with the dragon.

I have always said that I dream of holding a broadcast in our, Ukrainian Donetsk. But I was wrong. Russia is a country that understands only strength. She lost," Diana Panchenko wrote in her deleted publications back in the first months of the war in Ukraine.

9/21 In december 2022 vlucht ze naar Donetsk. De Russische site NashaNiva valt op dat Panchenko al haar 'strafbare' uitlatingen over Poetin en de zijnen verwijderd heeft.

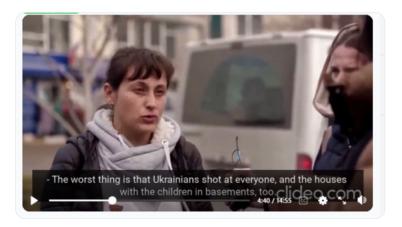
Panchenko, die de Russen eerder facisten noemde, papegaait nu trouw de Kremlinpropaganda.



10/21 Dat mag ze als eerste doen met een reportage over het geteisterde Mariopol. Het doel wordt al snel duidelijk, elke geïnterviewde geeft de Oekraïense regering de schuld van de malaise. Het is een duidelijk gestuurd verhaal dat haaks staat op de docu "20 Days in Mariupol".







11/21 Door de reportage komt ze ook op de radar van de SBU te staan. Het heulen met de vijand op Telegram en haar eerdere werk voor Medvechuk leiden tot een onderzoek. In Oktober 2023 formuleert de veiligheidsdienst een oordeel: landverraad (waar levenslang op staat).

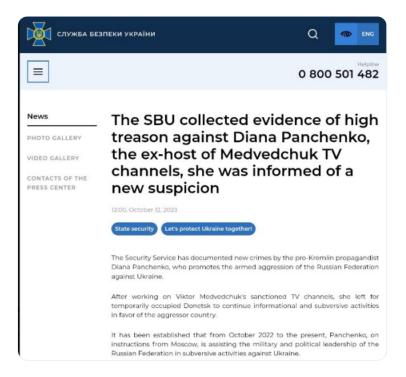
The Security Service of Ukraine (SSU) has launched a pre-trial investigation into Diana Panchenko, the former host of the TV channels of Putin's godfather Viktor Medvedchuk, NewsOne, 112 Ukraine and ZIK, because of her trip to occupied Donetsk and Mariupol to film a "propaganda report".

Source: Yaroslav Yurchyshyn, MP from the Holos faction and First Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Anti-Corruption Policy, on social media

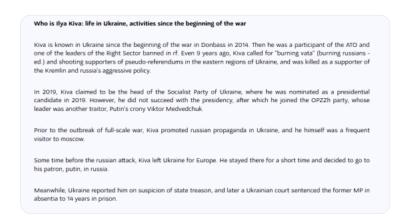
Details: According to him, in December, he submitted parliamentary appeals to the Security Service of Ukraine and the Prosecutor General's Office regarding Panchenko's material, which violates Ukraine's national security and justifies Russian aggression. Now the answer has come.

Quote: "Ruscist Diana Panchenko has already received her gift — open criminal proceedings. Yo-ho-ho, as they say.

Well, friends, the year 2023 is starting to bring results. In December, Diana Panchenko, the former host of pro-Moscow Medvedchuk's TV channels, arrived in the territories occupied by the ruscists in eastern Ukraine. Where she filmed a propaganda report from Mariupol and Donetsk.



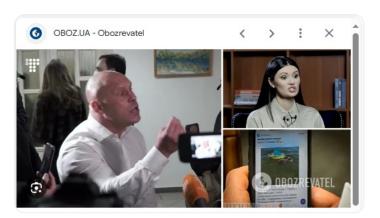
12/21 Dat de SBU tot wat in staat is bewijst wel de liquidatie op Ilya Kyva in Moskou. De voormalig Oekraïens presidentskandidaat van 2018 liep net zoals Panchenko over naar het Russische kamp. Saillant detail, volgens geruchten waren Kyva en Panchenko ooit een koppel.



The personal life of the liquidated Putin's henchman turned out to be much more interesting than one might expect. OBOZ.UA learned from reliable sources that Illia Kyva had a relationship with propagandist **Diana Panchenko**, who worked for Viktor Medvedchuk's TV channels.

According to the insider, the supporters of the "Russian world" **met** in 2021. For the most part, these were intimate meetings. For sexual pleasures with the propagandist, Illia Kyva rented an apartment in Kyiv by the hour.





13/21 Panchenko mag ook Belarussisch president Alexander Lukashenko interviewen. De dictator veegt zonder weerklank zijn straatje schoon. 'Oekraïne begon de oorlogvoering met sancties tegen ons' Ook vrindje Poetin wordt verdedigd...



"No, Putin has not gone mad. With regard the imperial ambitions, I have not seen them either. But I have this idea that the leaders of large states always have this sense of confidence. That's how I see it. This also applies to the United States of America. Isn't it so? There's no way to measure their ambitions and the things they are doing. Russia is a huge empire, what can I say? Of course, this leaves its mark on the character of a person. But it's all empty words, fiction that Putin has imperial ambitions. Especially now," Aleksandr Lukashenko replied.

Speaking about some feelings of the Russian President, the Belarusian leader noted that no matter how close they are, Vladimir Putin is still the head of one state, and he is the head of another. "The human heart is a mystery, as our people say. I can't go into detail. But he is taking these events hard. It is not an easy situation. As a person he is absolutely sensible, experienced, analyzes everything, tries to look ahead, calculates. His life experience was such. He is practically a military man. He had a job where he had to calculate a lot in advance. He really works everything out. But he never, I'm sure, ever had these designs to go and enslave Ukraine first, then Belarus, then others. This is nonsense," the head of state said.

14/21 ..natuurlijk heeft Poetin geen imperiale ambities. Lukashenko geeft Zelenskyy vervolgens ook de schuld van de oorlog en het laten klappen van de Minsk-akkoorden.





"The exercise was over. Russian troops began to withdraw from the territory of Belarus. Hardware was being loaded. The troops were actually from the Far East. They were withdrawing," the head of state recalled.

Belarus had always been very good in relation to Ukraine, which cannot be said about Ukraine in relation to Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko stressed. "We are accused of contributing to the start of the war here. No, the warfare was already underway. You started it. The Ukrainians started this warfare against Belarus. Economic warfare first of all. You have declared a blockade on us in the southern direction. You closed the sky to our planes even before the Europeans did. You did not let our goods through. You arrested thousands of wagons with mineral fertilizers that we loaded here in the port of Odessa." the President said.

In this regard, the President recalled his conversation with Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky in the first days of the war.

"We talked for a long time. He was huffing and puffing... I said: "You know, Volodya, we will not argue on the phone. But remember: the war is in your country. Sooner or later people will ask you why you let the war happen on your land, why you did not prevent it no matter how difficult it was," Aleksandr Lukashenko said. "The war was avoidable. I was between you and Russia all the time and saw this opportunity. The most striking illustration is the meeting of the Normandy Four. The agreement was reached. Let's implement it since we agreed. Why didn't you?"

In an interview Aleksandr Lukashenko said that he and Russian President Vladimir Putin had not discussed the possibility of such a development before the start of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine. Nevertheless, the Russian leader voiced a request to his Belarusian ally a few days prior to 24 February 2022.

15/21 Op haar twitterprofiel voert Panchenko 'gesanctioneerd door Zelenskyy' als een soort geuzentitel. Op haar streams noemt ze hem o.a. drugverslaafd, incompetent een profiteur en corrupt. Het doel is duidelijk; elke steun voor de president ondermijnen.



16/21 Toen Zelenskyy door Time Magazine werd uitgeroepen tot Person of the Year 2022 kon Panchenko niet anders dan cynisch reageren. "Hitler en Stalin zouden dat ook zijn". Volgens Panchenko "Wordt Zelenskyy binnen Oekraïne sowieso maar door 15% van de bevolking gesteund."

Following the February 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine Panchenko fled Ukraine.^[1] She claimed that Ukraine had provoked Russia into a full-scale war.^[1] Panchenko blamed the Ukrainian authorities for all the consequences of the war. She compared President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy election as Time Person of the Year with giving this honour to Hitler and Stalin.^[1] And alleged thefts of Western aid.^[1]



17/21 Bij haar komst op twitter geeft Panchenko een hele analyse over het ontstaan van de oorlog, die er toch vooral gefinancierd is door het Westen. Panchenko zegt vrede voor te staan maar elke Russische verantwoordelijkheid voor de oorlog wordt genegeerd.





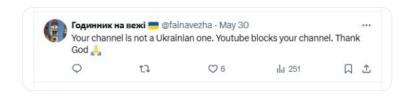
18/21 Hoe moeten we de rol van Panchenko zien? Ze koos oktober 2022 definitief voor het andere kamp. Ze wiste haar sporen uit en werd een 'Uncle Tom' van het Russische regime. Panchenko is kritiekloos op het Kremlin maar zal een uithaal naar de Oekraïense leiding niet nalaten.

The term "Uncle Tom" is used as an epithet for an excessively subservient person, particularly when that person perceives his or her own lower-class status based on race. It is similarly used to negatively describe people who betray their own group by participating in its oppression, whether willingly or not.





19/21 Panchenko schermt regelmatig met haar 'populariteit' en miljoenen volgers op YouTube als bevestiging van haar gelijk. We moeten daarbij niet uitsluiten dat Kremlinbots haar helpen. Belangrijker, in Oekraïne is haar YouTube kanaal verbannen.







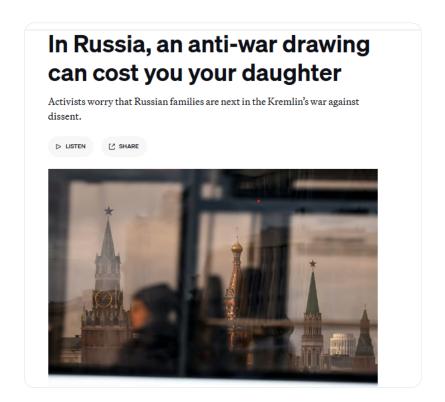
20/21 Panchenko verschilt van andere propagandisten, zo heeft ze geen Russische vlaggetjes op haar profiel. Ze claimt een bezorgde Oekraïense te zijn die van haar land houdt. Het is een

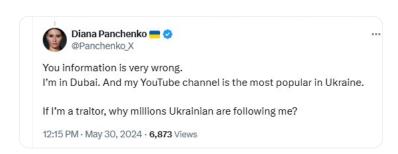
nieuwe en effectieve invalshoek voor het Kremlin: "Als de Oekraïners Zelensky al niet steunen"



21/21 VOETNOOT 1 Voor dit onderzoek spraken we ook met iemand die Panchenko vanuit haar studententijd kende. Ze wordt omschreven als een ijverige studente die geliefd was bij docenten, haar Russische sympathie kwam ook toen al aan de oppervlakte.

22/22 VOETNOOT 2 Panchenko koos voor Rusland maar haar oude Telegram berichten over Russische fascisten zijn ook daar strafbaar. Ze kan het Kremlin dus niet tegen de haren strijken. In Rusland is een kindertekening al voldoende voor gevangenisstraf. Zit ze daarom nu in Dubai?





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