



# UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

21<sup>st</sup> Century

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Producer: Christian Borys  
Script version: Final  
Duration: 9'27"

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## UKRAINE: TELEVISIONING DEMOCRACY

### Intro

In 2014 Ukraine's government was ousted by protestors calling for greater transparency and less corruption. Since then armed conflict has killed ten thousand and displaced millions – but hopes for a more open society have not gone away.

### VIDEO

FIGHTER JET OVERHEAD

TANYA ON CAM

HELICOPTER FLY BY

TANKS FIRING ROUNDS

### AUDIO

TANYA: (In Russian)

*"In the morning we were awakened by the sound of a fighter jet, by the sound of shots"*

*"After that came an assault of a military unit, not far from our house." (16")*

### NARRATION

In 2014, Tanya fled her home in the city of

Luhansk, in Eastern Ukraine, when a rapidly escalating conflict gripped the country. (9”)

IDP’s LINING UP

TANYA: (In Russian)

*“There were people in uniform in the yard. Of course, I started to panic, but I tried not to show it to my children.*

*We decided to evacuate our children to a safe place. We packed all the essential things, documents and left.” (21”)*

UKRAINIAN FLAG WAVING ON BUILDING

NARRATION

She safely settled her family nearly 300km away in the city of Chuhuiv also in Eastern Ukraine.

PEOPLE CROSSING STREET

(7”)

MEN BEATING OIL DRUMS

Violence erupted shortly after a revolution in Ukraine ousted a President who was seen by many as a symbol of the longstanding corruption that had plagued the country’s development.

PROTESTORS THROWING OBJECTS AT RIOT POLICE

Some hoped for a new democratic dawn, others feared a descent into disorder and chaos. (19”)

PEOPLE WALKING PAST BRIDGE

And support for the revolution was far lower in eastern Ukraine where Tanya is from. (5”)

PEOPLE WATCHING REVOLUTION ON MAIN SQUARE

CROWD OF PEOPLE

Although most Eastern Ukrainians were unhappy with corruption...many like Tanya, feel torn over

TANYA IN HER OFFICE

the repercussions of the recent revolution –which is known as the Maidan Revolution, based on the public square in Kiev where protests took place. (14”)

TANYA ON CAM

TANYA: (In Russian)

*“Personally, I feel that if Maidan hadn’t happened, I would still be living peacefully in my house, in my quiet town. My family would not have fallen apart.” (18”)*

TANYA IN HER NEW HOMETOWN

NARRATION

Despite the difficult situation Tanya finds herself in, she still has hope for the future – she’s received training modelled on a United Nations democracy project and has now found work with her new home’s city council. (13”)

TANYA WALKING INTO TOWN COUNCIL

Her town council, and others like it across Ukraine, received support from the UN Democracy Fund to help bring about reform in the country and give greater voice to its citizens. (11”)

OUTSIDE COUNCIL BUILDING

Many of those councils, like this one in Rivne in Western Ukraine, are enthusiastic supporters of reform. (6”)

OKSANA WALKS THROUGH COUNCIL

Oksana Furmanets, an official at Rivne’s council,

BUILDING

is personally firmly in favour of the Maidan revolution. (7")

OKSANA ON CAM

OKSANA FURMANETS (In Ukrainian)

*"Maidan 2013-2014 was the formation of Ukraine. In my opinion, there was no independent Ukraine before 2014.*

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*"This wasn't just a change of the political structure it was a change of the mental state of Ukraine." (15")*

OKSANA PRESIDES OVER COUNCIL SESSION

NARRATION

It's 10am on a Thursday morning and Oksana Furmanets is supervising a session of the regional council in Rivne. (8")

REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING COUNCIL SESSION

Public representatives from the surrounding region have flocked to the city today to vote on a bundle of new proposals with far reaching effects. (8")

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She says the support they've received through the UN Democracy Fund has helped transform the council. (6")

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*see that this is a normal process that other local councils use to manage their own affairs.”*

*“A strategy is being built where each participant is given the opportunity to express his or her opinion and to justify it.” (30”)*

STREET CAR AND SQUARE IN LVIV

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The project was the brainchild of the West Ukrainian Resource Centre an organization led by Petro Lazarchuk, which is headquartered in the city of Lviv in Western Ukraine. (10”)

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*“Our project aims to increase the transparency of local councils in Ukraine. And the project also aims to increase the participation of citizens in decision-making at the local level.*

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*The approach we propose is for people to take responsibility for their actions. We want them to take responsibility for the officials they vote for, So they aren't indifferent to what the officials do.” (30”)*

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This perceived lack of transparency fueled the initial anger against ousted President Yanukovich's regime when he cancelled a long awaited cooperation agreement with the European Union.

REPRESENTATIVES  
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Ukrainians have long felt that they have no control over their politicians, but the democracy project is helping to shift attitudes. (20")

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*"There are a large number of people in local authorities, who grew up, then began their professional career and political activity during the time of the Soviet Union."*

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*"Officials are not used to the fact that their activities can be public, that they can be monitored, that they can be controlled." (25")*

CAMERA SYSTEM

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The democracy programme introduced councils from across Ukraine to a new tool which would allow their constituents to watch over all political proceedings.

FOOTAGE FROM  
RECORDING OF COUNCIL  
SESSION

The innovation is the online streaming of all council sessions, a standard practice in western democracies, but absent in the local councils of Ukraine. (18")

OKSANA ADDRESSING REPRESENTATIVES

Oksana says it's been a great catalyst for transparency and citizen engagement. (4")

SERHII ENTERS THE BUILDING

Serhii Delidon, a young activist from the nearby village of Zorya, was so inspired by the UN Democracy project, that he began taping his village council sessions himself. (10")

VILLAGE ENTRANCE SIGN

...the videos he posts to youtube have a large and appreciative audience. (5")

SERHII AT HIS HOME COMPUTER

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*"The first sessions, for example, on 12 December, have a lot of views. That is, during the day this video was watched up to 2 thousand people. For our village with a population of 11,000 – that makes 20-25% who watched. That is the peaks are about 1500 - 1800 views per day. So, these are serious numbers. And most importantly, it is not only local viewers. It is viewed in the region and even other countries. (30")*

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*"Generally video recording starts like this. I come early before the start of a session, set up a tripod and pull out the camera from a backpack. I shoot in a few key directions. That is, the main direction - it is here, facing the chairman, the executive*

*committee. The second direction - a parliamentary body, which occupies the central part of the hall. And the third part - a podium, where speakers make their reports.” (28”)*

SERHII INSIDE THE  
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM

NARRATION

But if Serhi is one day no longer able to film the sessions, his work won't live on.

OKSANA AND SERHII  
SITTING DOWN TO TALK

That's why Serhii has traveled from his village to meet with Oksana today, and seek advice on how to make sure his village council legally mandates online streaming. (14”)

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*“In fact, the process of legalizing online broadcasting takes a period of two sessions. During the first session you prepare a statute for online streaming and then conduct the most extensive possible discussion.” (16”)*

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Today, Serhii gets some encouraging news when a village council member throws her support behind his project. (6”)

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As activists like Serhii try to build a new political system, for Tanya, the focus has been on building a new life.

TANYA WALKING

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With the help of her new colleagues and with input from democracy training, she sees better prospects for herself and her family. (28”)

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