

March 6, 2022

Honorable Republic of Užupis Foreign Minister Tomas Czepaitis,

I send you my thoughts on the Republic of Užupis hosting a Russian-Ukrainian Peace Conference on Thursday, March 31, 2022, which is the day before the Republic's Independence Day, April 1, 2022.

I am very concerned to support all in Russia who dare to urge the end of this unnecessary war. Friday, I called you because of your deep and personal ties to Russia, because of your love of all peoples, and because of your creative leadership of the Republic's Ambassadors. I like your idea of a Peace Conference, I rush to present my ideas, and I ask that you share them with your Ambassadors. I hope they might conceive all manner of art projects that would help Russians, Ukrainians and their neighbors, near and far, to achieve peace.

In this letter, as a peacemaker, I share

1. My personal analysis of the need to support a broad peace movement in Russia and discover ways to inspire Putin to end his war and withdraw all forces from Ukraine;
2. An example how out-of-the-box thinking could end the war promptly;
3. A call to artists to propose and create art projects for the Peace Conference that would help Russians move with the spirit of peace and love and challenge Putin to behave differently;
4. A sample art project by which we might respect the concerns, genuine or not, raised by Putin and his followers, regarding „denazification“.

In all of this, I offer my experience engaging the violent. As you know, in 2008 I and my online laboratory Minčią Sodas were instrumental in preventing genocide in Kenya. We organized the „[Pyramid of Peace](#)“ with 100 peacemakers on the ground and 100 peacemakers online. My guiding principle then and now was Jesus's command, „Love your enemy“. In practice, this means:

„Look at everything from your enemy's point of view“.

Which is to say, when a gang of youth with machetes seize a road, you bring them a football.

Pyramid of Peace

January 1, 2008 to February 29, 2008

Independent thinkers went forth,
embraced enemies
and made peace in Kenya.

A tale of acrobatics,
motorbikes, community theatre,
chess, computers, video,
ideas and heart.

An epic of our Spirit.



Inspire Putin to end his war

This is Putin's war. The quickest way to end it is to inspire him to withdraw all Russian troops as the best means to achieve his goals. For the sake of Ukraine, Russia and humanity, it is vital to imagine his interests and speak to them.

His fellow Russians are the ones who can best communicate to him. It is vital to reach out to Russia's opposition. Unfortunately, Putin has driven them out of the country or into his jails. It is important to reach out more broadly to those who aren't active opponents but want to speak out for peace.

Putin is violent. From my experience engaging gangs in Chicago, it is essential to look at everything from his point of view. In particular: Be straightforward. Act step-by-step. Be vulnerable. Let them win. Let them teach you. Stick to your principles. Have something to share.

The purpose is for the violent to feel in control so that they can do what is best for them, which is likewise what is best for us. Putin's invasion of Ukraine was obviously a profound miscalculation. We need him to find a way out.

What do we know about Putin? He seems to want respect for himself and for his vision of a great Russia with its own sphere of influence. He wants to go down in history as Russia's savior. He speaks of „security guarantees“, „demilitarization“, „denazification“. He warns that NATO is an enemy.

We can show Putin out of Ukraine if he can portray himself as the winner, if he can be understood, if his thinking can have an impact. We need to be both creative and selfless. It is hard to cater to Putin because we know and respect his victims. Yet for the sake of those we love, at this point we need to focus on him.

Learn from President Zelenskyy

Let's remember Volodymyr Zelenskyy's telephone conversation with Donald Trump, which the latter called „the perfect call“. I encourage peacemakers to study the [transcript](#).

President Zelenskyy to President Trump: „I would like to confess to you that I had an opportunity to learn from you. We used quite a few of your skills and knowledge and were able to use it as an example for our elections and yes it is true that these were unique elections. We were in a unique situation that we were able to achieve a unique success. I'm able to tell you the following; the first time, you called me to congratulate me when I won my presidential election, and the second time you are now calling me when my party won the parliamentary election. I think I should run more often so you can call me more often and we can talk over the phone more often.“

President Trump: [laughter] „That's a very good idea. I think your country is very happy about that.“

President Zelenskyy: „Well yes, to tell you the truth, we are trying to work hard because we wanted to drain the swamp here in our country. We brought in many many new people. Not the old politicians, not the typical politicians, because we want to have a new format and a new type of government. You are a great teacher for us and in that. ... Yes you are absolutely right. Not only 100%, but actually 1000%.“

President Zelenskyy performed masterfully. He was absolutely ingratiating and yet he maintained his morality and did not bow to the pressure that the most powerful world leader put upon him to „do us a favor“, tarnish Joe Biden’s son Hunter Biden, take sides in the upcoming US election.

This is the way the Russian people need to talk to President Putin to get Russia out of Ukraine.

Compare this with President Zelenskyy’s recent statement: „Every inch of our Ukrainian land reclaimed by protest and by the humiliation of the occupying forces is a step towards Ukraine’s victory.“

Humiliation of Russians will never get them to leave Ukraine. We shouldn’t fight over inches of land. We need them to walk out of the country with their heads held high. Let us imagine that!

Think outside-of-the-box

Selflessness is the most extreme form of thinking outside of the box.

What can ordinary people do? How can artists lead us? Art suspends reality. Art changes the rules of society. Art brings and holds people together. Art creates wealth as relationships.

Let’s put selfless ideas „on the table“ alongside a „no-fly zone“ and other „bold steps“ the world could take. Here are some thoughts on what might speak to Vladimir Putin so that he could claim victory and magnanimously leave Ukraine.

Imagine if people around the world asked Donald Trump to negotiate Vladimir Putin’s withdrawal from Ukraine. They both share a lot of fans! In many ways, it could be funny, and humor helps us let go of ourselves and think outside-of-the-box.

Imagine if we held a conference with Russians and Ukrainians on „Disappointment with NATO“. This is a theme that brings together both President Vladimir Putin and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Lithuanian anti-Soviet partisans of 1944-1953, the People’s Republic of China, the movement for world peace, those who would divert military spending to fight poverty and climate change, all can share their disappointments.

Or what if we had a conference „Against Guerilla War“? In Lithuania, and in many other countries, we have a lot of experience that guerilla war is a big mistake. We really should be speaking with those who glorify it. Such an honest dialogue can open up the way for Putin to say, „We are leaving to avoid a guerilla war, which is so disgusting, pointless and pathetic.“

We can have a conference „Expanding Russia’s Sphere of Influence“ where we consider positive ways we’d like to acknowledge, embrace and enjoy Russian contributions to world culture. We can draw inspiration from their literature, their space program, their athletics, their spirituality, their mathematicians, their natural wonders, their language, their music, their films, their dissidents, and so on.

We can have a conference „Understanding Putin“ where we delve into life, every word he has said, every sentence he has written, every deed he has done, to seek complete knowledge of him. We can make paintings and statues of Putin, make plays about his life, his crimes, his strengths and weaknesses.

Imagine Pope Francis declaring, „For the sake of world peace, I urge Russia to leave Ukraine unconditionally. If it does so immediately, then I am willing to change the official name of the Vatican to Vladimir. The name Vladimir brings to mind „Power of Peace“ and also the first names of President Putin and President Zelenskyy and their love of peace. Whereas the name „Vatican“ simply refers to a long gone Etruscan settlement. Please leave Ukraine and let me welcome you to Vladimir.“

This would amaze the world. Everybody would have a way out. The Vatican gets a sensible name.

Similarly, imagine the people of Washington D.C. saying, „We want to change the name of our city to Tolstoy, District of Peace. Leo Tolstoy, the great Russian author of „War and Peace“, is the founder of the peace movement which inspired Mohatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. In the 21st century, he reflects our aspirations to be the center of the free world.“ Why does Washington D.C. necessarily have to be named after George Washington, who owned hundreds of slaves, and after Christopher Columbus, who brought misery to the natives of America and Africa?

In Lithuania, we could offer to rename Vilnius as Putinas. We actually have a famous author whose pen name was Putinas, and in Lithuanian, „putinas“ is the name of a bush with large, beautiful flowers, the guelder rose, *Viburnum opulus*. Why not put that „on the table“ as a way to save Ukraine and prevent World War III? Wouldn't we feel great about ourselves?

Personally, I can offer to change my own name from Andrius Jonas Kulikauskas to Andrius Vladimiras Kulikauskas. What's the harm in that? Maybe if a thousand people would make the offer, then it could be part of a peace deal.

We can come up with hundreds of ways to think-outside-the-box and „put them on the table“. Can we be selfless? Is Putin right in his claim that what we truly want is to humiliate Russia?

Call to Artists

I encourage the Ambassadors to work with artists and experiment on projects that help Russia leave Ukraine. Our projects could come together on March 31 in the Republic of Užupis.

Some projects could have video links with Russians, some with Ukrainians, and some with both.

Some could include participation by anonymous artists or activists from Russia.

Some could express Russian views in ways that Putin would not object to.

Some could give voice to Ukrainian artists and activists.

Some could present the horrors that Ukrainians are going through.

Some could empathize with the Russian soldiers and their families.

Some could speak to the inner world of Vladimir Putin.

Some could pray to God.

Some could call on Russian saints.

Some could seek assistance from extraterrestrials or Artificial Intelligence.

Some could offer simple ways to help. I present some links at the end of my letter.

Sample Art Project

Here's a sample art project. I take to hear President Putin's wish to „denazify“. I interpret it more broadly as a willingness to identify and reject the inhumane values that Nazis promoted, and replace them with humane ideals. I present these suggestions as „global bonds“ that would be „redeemable When Russia Leaves Ukraine“.

You can likely come up with a better project. If we have many projects, then I believe that some will succeed in persuading Russia to leave Ukraine.

GLOBAL BOND

REDEEMABLE

WHEN RUSSIA LEAVES UKRAINE



Vladimir Putin

Who brought misery to two continents?



Christopher Columbus

Rename Colombia, District of Columbia, the Columbia River and Columbus, Ohio!

#DENAZIFY

ARTICULATING THE PROPAJANDA

ISSUED BY
Andrius Kulikauskas
www.ms.lt

GLOBAL BOND

REDEEMABLE

WHEN RUSSIA LEAVES UKRAINE



Vladimir Putin

Who ruled Chicago as the boss of a one-party state?



Richard J. Daley

Rename Daley Center, Daley Plaza, Daley College, Daley Library.

#DENAZIFY

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GLOBAL
BOSS

REDEEMABLE

WHEN RUSSIA LEAVES UKRAINE



Vladimir Putin

Whose subordinates murdered 3,000 Jews and 300 Lithuanians in Telsiai District, July 1941?

For the sake of Europe, please admit the truth and remove all honors!



Jonas Noreika

#DENAZIFY

ARTICULATING
PROPAGANDA
T.A.T.A.

ISSUED BY
Andrius Kulikauskas
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GLOBAL
BOSS

REDEEMABLE

WHEN RUSSIA LEAVES UKRAINE



Vladimir Putin

Who lead the Soviet army in murdering Lithuanian and Latvian freedom fighters in 1944-1953?

For Europe's sake, please remove his statues from Armenia and Russia!



Ivan Bagramyan

#DENAZIFY

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GLOBAL BOZD

REDEEMABLE

WHEN RUSSIA LEAVES UKRAINE



Vladimir Putin

Who terrorized Polish, Hungarian, Jewish minorities ?

For Europe's sake, please don't glorify the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists! Thank you.



Stepan Bandera

#DENAZIFY

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GLOBAL BOZD

REDEEMABLE

WHEN RUSSIA LEAVES UKRAINE



Vladimir Putin

Who doesn't even know the Russian alphabet?

Show some respect! Memorize the alphabet.

А, Б, В, Г, Д, Е, Ё, Ж, З, И, Й, К, Л, М, Н, О, П, Р, С, Т, У, Ф, Х, Ц, Ч, Ш, Щ, Ъ, Ы, Ь, Э, Ю, Я

Спасибо! Thank you!



Andrius Kulikauskas

#DENAZIFY

A	F	P	I
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WHEN RUSSIA LEAVES UKRAINE



#DENAZIFY

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Simple Ways to Help

Simple ways to help are great ways to help.

[Global Citizen: 25 Meaningful Ways You Can Help Ukraine](#)

[Human Rights Foundation: How to Support Ukrainians With Donations](#)

[Help Ukraine's Military](#)

Write letters to world leaders to THANK them for their help and to urge them to PLEASE do more.

[United States of America President Joe Biden](#)

[European Union Commission President Ursula von der Leyen](#)

[United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres on Twitter](#)

[Write to Pope Francis](#)

Please help Russia leave Ukraine!

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