

**Open World Program Ukraine, April 3-13, 2024**

 **Rule of Law: Processing War Crimes**

**Delegates’ Bios**

**Stanislav Cherednyk, Deputy Head, Center for Research of Captured and Advanced Weapons and Military Equipment, Ministry of Defense**

Mr. Cherednyk has significant experience in information-analytical activities and strategic planning. His Center conducts research on the armament and military equipment of the armed forces of the Russian Federation, fragments of enemy air attacks, and works to identify cases demonstrating the use of prohibited weaponry. His Center tracks air attacks and artillery strikes on civilian infrastructure in cities and villages, which constitute violations of international humanitarian law and fall under the category of war crimes. Under his leadership, a database on the use of prohibited means of warfare during armed aggression against Ukraine has been created and is constantly updated. The results of this work have been highlighted during informational briefings for representatives of military-diplomatic Missions that work in Ukraine.

**Inna Zavorotko, Deputy Head, International Law Department, Department of Legal Support, Ministry of Defense**

Lt. Colonel Inna Zavorotko is the Deputy is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of norms of international humanitarian law within the Ministry of Defense. For this purpose, she actively participates in the training of Ukrainian Armed Forces personnel, international events, and scientific conferences dedicated to international law and the role of the Ukraine’s military in documenting war crimes. Ms. Zavorotko holds a doctoral degree in international law and is highly motivated to acquire new knowledge, as well as business and communication skills. The experience she will gain during this program will be valuable for effectively carrying out the tasks of the Department within the Ministry of Defense.

**Vitalii Saschuk, Head, Second Division of Procedural Management of Pre-Trial Investigation and Prosecution, Department for Combatting Crimes, General Prosecutor’s Office**

Mr. Sashchuk's main tasks include ensuring the effective procedural management of pre-trial investigations, resolving legal issues during criminal proceedings, overseeing compliance with laws during investigative actions, participating in judicial proceedings, and supporting public prosecution by regional prosecutor's offices in criminal proceedings related to war crimes and crimes of aggression. Mr. Saschuk has provided procedural guidance in criminal proceedings related to the involvement of mercenaries from 33 countries in the armed conflict in Ukraine, and the identification of places of illegal detention (torture chambers) conducted by Russia. Participation in the program will enable Mr. Saschuk to learn about the organization of war crimes investigations in the United States, the tools and technologies used for crime detection, and how investigations of war crimes are conducted. The acquired knowledge, networking, and contacts developed will be valuable for his work during investigating war crimes in Ukraine and ensuring the rule of law during war crimes investigations. During the program, Mr. Sashchuk will be able to inform others about how investigations of war crimes are conducted in Ukraine, the most significant crimes committed to date, and the results of national investigations into war crimes.

**Mykola Mazur, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Ukraine**

Justice Mazur sits on the Cassation Criminal Court of the Supreme Court. He graduated from the Luhansk Academy of Internal Affairs with a degree in Law. In 2010, he obtained a scientific degree of Candidate of Legal Sciences, and in 2011, he was awarded the title of Associate Professor. Since the beginning of the full-scale invasion, he has been involved in issues of international humanitarian law and international criminal law, particularly concerning criminal liability for war and other international crimes. He also is engaged in the development of a training course on compensation for damage caused by Russian aggression against Ukraine. The knowledge gained during the familiarization visit will be used to enhance the capacity of the Ukrainian judicial system to handle complex cases of war crimes.

**Olena Balzhyk, Judge, Izmail City Court. Odesa Region**

Judge Balzhyk sits on the Izmail City Court in the Odesa region. She is also a Lecturer at the National School of Judges. Since 2019, she has completed several training programs for judges as part of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union on the application of international humanitarian law in Ukraine in the context of the armed conflict. She is currently a member of the High Council of Justice working group on the reform of procedural legislation, the judiciary, and the status of judges, as well as the parliamentary working group on reforming procedural legislation, the judicial system, and the status of judges under martial law. Knowledge gained during the visit will contribute to building the capacity of Ukrainian courts to administer justice and improve national legislation in this area.

   **The Delegation is accompanied by Uliana Pashynna, Legal Advisor, USAID Justice for All Activity**