

Polish photographer captures war between Russia and Ukraine

Grzędziński has documented armed conflicts in Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries, but in an interview with Lianhe Zaobao, he pointed out that the Russian-Ukrainian war is different from the battles he has photographed before. Despite the disparity in military strength, Ukraine is still tenaciously defending its homeland, which makes Grzędziński sigh: "It's hard for me to put this bravery into words."



Polish war photographer Grzędziński took a photo of a woman trapped in the rubble waiting for rescue after escaping from the bombed restaurant two years ago. (From left) EU Ambassador to Singapore Piórko, Ukrainian Ambassador to Singapore Zelenko, and Polish Ambassador to Singapore Chomicki took a photo in front of this photo at the Russian-Ukrainian War Commemoration on Monday (February 24). (Photo by Kwong Kai Chung)

In June 2023, Polish war photographer Grzędziński was eating in a pizza restaurant in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine when a missile fired by Russia hit the restaurant. After escaping from the rubble, Grzędziński instinctively grabbed his camera to capture the moment of Ukrainians' desperation and survival.

After the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian war, Wojciech Grzędziński traveled to and from the front line many times. Although he escaped death several times, he persevered, hoping that through his lens he would make people think and realize the importance of preventing war.

His work was displayed on Monday (Feb 24) at an event to commemorate the third anniversary of the Russian-Ukrainian war, hosted by the European Union Delegation to Singapore and the Polish Embassy in Singapore, with the support of the Embassy of Ukraine in Singapore.

Grzędziński has documented armed conflicts in Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries, but in an interview with Lianhe Zaobao, he pointed out that the Russian-Ukrainian war is different from the battles he has filmed before. The Russian-Ukrainian war is a hybrid war that combines traditional and unconventional methods of warfare, which makes it more complex and dangerous, and the scale of the battle and the long front line have led to heavy casualties. Despite the disparity in military strength, Ukraine

WORKING TRANSLATION

is still tenaciously defending its homeland, which makes Grzędziński sigh: "It's hard for me to put this bravery into words."

"This country has suffered so much," Grzędziński said. "Imagine walking into a morgue and seeing the bodies of hundreds of civilians, including murdered children. This is the real face of war. It is truly cruel. I have never seen such atrocities on this scale in my life."

"No one wants peace more than Ukraine," said EU Ambassador to Singapore Iwona Piórko in a speech at the commemoration on Monday (Feb 24).

She also stressed that any decision concerning Ukraine and Europe "must involve Ukraine and Europe, otherwise the agreement will fail.

The United States has been in intensive contact with Ukraine and Russia over the past month in an attempt to broker a peace deal, but has not invited the European Union to mediate.

In his speech, Polish Ambassador Tadeusz Chomicki reiterated that Ukraine's security is closely linked to Europe. He said the fate of Ukraine, the stability of Europe, and the principles of international law are facing a major test, and all parties must unwaveringly defend freedom, democracy, and human rights. "Without a secure Ukraine, Europe has no secure future!"

Poland holds this year's rotating presidency of the European Council and has chosen "Security, Europe" as its working theme for this year.

The commemorative event, held at the Golden Mile Tower, featured an exhibition of 12 works by eight Polish photographers and a screening of the film "People" ("Ludzie", which means "people" in Polish). The movie is set against the backdrop of the Russian-Ukrainian war and tells the story of five women who protect themselves and their families. The movie will be released in 33 countries, including the Philippines and Thailand, but there are no plans to release it in Singapore.