



To you, Ukraine

The whole world watched in shock when, a year ago, Russia launched a full-scale invasion, in what turned out to be the biggest war on European soil since the Second World War.

From my apartment in Germany – and from so many others across Europe – a Brazilian mobilization took form to help fellow countrymen living in your territory.

On that same day, we formed an organized group that grew at a dizzying pace and took up space in the news at the same speed at which the enemy advanced.

You called out to the world and asked for help. Countries mobilized to help millions of people displaced from their homes and in search of safety in other parts of your borders or in neighboring countries.

Individuals, NGOs and governments responded to the absurdity of an army that brought panic, death, and trauma creeping across your land.

While the kilometric queues formed at the borders to leave you, we prepared ourselves – without knowing it – to take the opposite path: we were unaware, but only three days after the invasion we would enter your borders where, a year later, our blood and sweat are one with your soil.

We came to help Brazilians, but we stayed for your people.

Ukraine, maybe you don't know, but more than 600,000 of you are part of our country's tangle.

Our history is mixed through literature, history, businesses, and the construction of our society.

You may not see it, Ukraine, but the courage of yours mirrors the courage of ours; the hospitality you offer us reflects the warm welcome of our families; and your houses remind us of our homes.

Ukraine, perhaps you believe that our government's neutrality reflects the position of our society.

But that is why we are writing you this letter. A year ago, you called out to the nations to help you.

We responded, Ukraine. Brazilians came. And we are here.

We laid down our lives to preserve yours. We traded our freedom to fight for yours. We came, Ukraine. We stayed. And we, Brazilians, will be with you on the victory day.

Glory to you, Ukraine, and glory to your heroes.


Clara Magalhães Martins

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