



Kyiv Pride March 2024

monitoring of a peaceful assembly
and a counter-assembly



center for civil
liberties
центр громадянських
свобод



public monitoring

The OZON public monitoring group carries out independent public control over law enforcement agencies, courts, and local self-government activities in various regions of Ukraine. The initiative brings together different people regardless of legal knowledge or special experience.

OZON is an initiative of the Center for Civil Liberties, a Ukrainian human rights organization that promotes reforms in the field of the rule of law, adapts legislation in accordance with human rights standards, documents war crimes during Russian armed aggression, and teaches human rights and democracy. In 2022, the Center for Civil Liberties received the Nobel Peace Prize.

OZON monitors operate on a volunteer basis and, during monitoring, observe the principle of impartiality and equidistance from the participants of the action or the parties to the court session.



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Introduction

On June 16, 2024, 7 groups of observers monitored the Kyiv Pride March and the counter-assemblage, the March of Tradition, along the entire route of the assembly and counter-assemblage. Fifteen volunteers coordinated and implemented the observation.

The material for writing this report was the direct results of observation, photos, and videos from monitoring, the results of monitoring social networks, and communication with organizers and law enforcement agencies.

Ensuring the freedom of peaceful assembly is a rather difficult and critical state task. The current security situation adds particular complexity: as of June 16, 2024, the Russian Federation's full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine has been ongoing for the third year. Considering this, Ukraine is under martial law, introduced by Presidential Decree No. 64/2022. Among other things, this decree provides for possible restrictions on the rights and freedoms of citizens, including Article 39 of the Constitution of Ukraine on the freedom of peaceful assembly.

Therefore, Article 8 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Legal Regime of Martial Law" adds additional regulation, according to which the military command and military-civilian administrations can introduce certain restrictions and bans on holding peaceful assemblies for a certain period for security reasons (note: it is about the general prohibition of all peaceful assemblies for a certain period, and not about the possibility of banning a specific peaceful assembly).

The conditions in which the planning and protection of peaceful assemblies and counter-assemblies took place were more complex.

This report will guide the reader on how local authorities and law enforcement agencies fulfilled the positive duty to protect the assembly and promote this freedom.

This report results from an observation carried out by the OZON Public Monitoring Group, based on Ukrainian legislation and best practices detailed in the OSCE ODIHR's "Guidelines on Freedom of Peaceful Assembly" and "Human Rights Handbook on Policing Assemblies" guides.



Date:

June 16, 2024

Duration of monitoring by public observers:

8:50 AM – 10:19 AM

Route:

Down Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street from the Kyiv History Museum (Bohdan Khmelnytsky 7 Street) until the Lesya Ukrainka National Drama Theater (Bohdan Khmelnytsky 5 Street). The approximate distance of the March: 100 meters.

The number of participants in the Kyiv Pride march:

280 (with a margin of error of 30 people).

Special transport:

- 12 cars of the National Police of Ukraine
- 2 patrol police vans
- 8 police vans
- 6 police buses
- 2 National Guard buses

Healthcare:

- Ukrainian Red Cross Society – 6 people.

Duration of assembly:

8:50 AM – 10:10 AM

Theme:

As noted on Kyiv Pride's social media, the march is held with the following demands: ensuring protection from hate crimes by passing bill 5488; passing bill 9103 on civil partnerships; providing weapons and appropriate resources for military victory.

Weather conditions:

Rain

The number of National Police (NPU) representatives and National Guard (NGU) service members (excluding reserve groups):

~ 245

- Main Directorate of NPU: ~ 158.
- Dialogue Police: ~ 26.
- Special Purpose Police: ~ 2.
- Patrol Police: ~ 3
- National Guard of Ukraine (NGU): ~ 4.
- Forensic experts: ~ 2.
- Unidentified police units: ~ 50.

Slogans and Chants:

"Together for equality and victory!"
"Rebel, love, give equal rights!"
"Rebel, love, don't give up your rights!"
"Arm Ukraine now!"
"9103!"
"5488!"
"Russia is a terrorist state!"
"Make russia Pay!"
"Human rights above all!"
"Kyiv! Kyiv! Kyiv! — Pride! Pride! Pride!"
"Be yourself, we're with you!"
"Freedom for life, throw hatred away!"
"Glory to Ukraine! — Glory to the heroes!"
"Putin is a dickhead!"
"Down with discrimination!"

Posters:

"Now is not the time for your 'not the time'"
"FREE AZOVSTAL DEFENDERS"
"#homophobia is russia"
"#5488 and #9103 is the time!"
"Ukraine in NATO — peace in Europe for everyone"
"love has no boundaries"
"we are their voices (military LGBT)"
"arm Ukraine, make pride in Mariupol possible (on a blue-yellow flag)"
"He gave his life defending the country and had the appearance better than your wife"
"The police should not discriminate. The police must protect"
"Don't ignore No. 5488!"
"As long as they protect our freedom, their rights must be protected!"
"UNZR immutable code"
"Make Kyiv Queer Again"
"Everyone jerks off as he wants"
"Arm Ukraine with HIMARS to protect Kharkiv Region»"
"Queer in every yard"
"Genders are different, rights are equal"
"Ukrainian country has equal laws"
"Harry Potter taught us nobody deserves to live in a closet"



Flags:

Ukrainian flag — 6
NATO flag — 1
EU flag — 1
Pride flag — at least 5 large
and over 10 small.

Media:

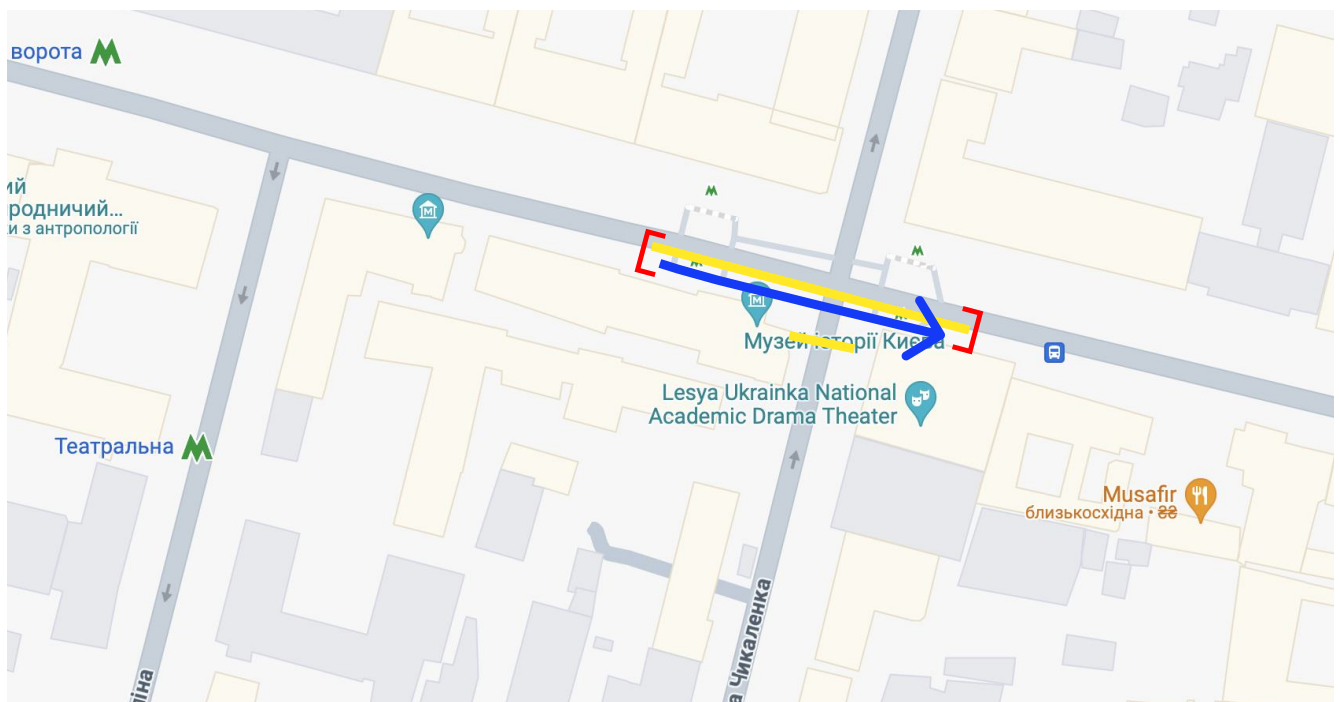
STB, TSN, 1+1, Suspilne Novyny,
Suspilne Kultura, DW, BBC, Kyiv 24
News, Inter, Reuters, Belsat, Pryamyi
Radio Svoboda, Novyny Live

Existence of decision on the restriction of freedom of peaceful assembly:

There were no decisions to prohibit or
restrict the peaceful assembly and no
attempts to obtain such decisions.



Street closure scheme and placement of security frames during the Kyiv Pride march in 2024:



General Description of the Peaceful Assembly Events

The Kyiv Pride march was announced by the NGO "Kyiv Pride" on social media on April 3 as an event to take place in June. After contacting Kyiv Pride via email, the OZON public monitoring group received partial information about the event 2 days before the march (on Friday, June 14), and details regarding the route and duration around 7 a.m. on June 16, the day of the march.

Organizers informed us that the participants' assembly would start at 9:00 a.m. on June 16 near the Teatralna metro station. The assembly was to last half an hour, and the march was to begin at 9:30 a.m. and last until 10:00 a.m. Initially, it was communicated that the movement would take place in a circular manner at the location, but later, it was added that the decision on the march route would be made on the spot.

It is important to note that participation in the Kyiv Pride march was possible only through pre-registration, and organizers stated that "only registered people who pass the check will know the place and route of the event."

At 8:45 a.m., OZON volunteers approached the location from Khreshchatyk Street, where they began to notice groups of police officers positioned nearby. At 8:50 a.m., OZON volunteers underwent a surface check at the police border, which blocked the pedestrian part of Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street, and began monitoring.

Police representatives used metal sectional fencing to block approaches to the march location from both sides of Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street. The surface check was carried out by police officers using a handheld metal detector device.

From 9:00 a.m. to 9:44 a.m., participants gathered and formed a column. March organizers and volunteers coordinated people using loudspeakers and a speaker system paired with a radio microphone for communication with the assembly participants. Organizers also distributed pride flags. Kyiv Pride volunteers wore yellow vests with the inscription "VOLUNTEER."

Before the march began, various speakers addressed the participants, including:

At 9:17 a.m., a representative from the organization united LGBT military personnel.

At 9:19 a.m., Viktor Pylypenko, head of the NGO "Military LGBTQ+" and a serviceman of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

At 9:24 a.m., a minute of silence was held in memory of the fallen heroes of the war.

At 9:25 a.m., Member of Parliament Dmytro Hurin expressed his support for the Kyiv Pride participants and bill 9103, as well as gratitude to the soldiers.

It is important to note that part of the column consisted of deputies and diplomats, representatives of UKRAINEPRIDE, KharkivPride, and Rizni.Rivni organizations.

At 09:37 a.m., international partners spoke, including the ambassador of the United Kingdom and the ambassador of Sweden.

At 09:41 a.m., the police reserve began to leave the buses, but around 09:45, the reserve officers started to return to the buses, likely because there was no identified need for their presence.

At 09:44 a.m., the column began moving from the Kyiv History Museum down Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street. During the march, participants chanted slogans and chants.

After the march movement ended at 09:54, organizers and volunteers urged participants to go to the Teatralna metro station. The police used sectional barriers to prevent participants from leaving the location except through the metro. Dialogue police also directed everyone to the metro using a loudspeaker.

OZON noted that some participants were allowed to leave through the police cordon, and several individuals were let through the gaps between buses blocking the approach from Yevhen Chykalenko Street. According to a representative of the dialogue police, diplomats, and the press were allowed through the cordon, while other participants were asked to use the metro and remove all symbols for safety reasons.

At 10:12 a.m., the police began removing the cordon and sectional metal barriers near the Lesya Ukrainka Theater.

At 10:15 a.m., police and National Guard representatives began assembling and boarding buses and moving towards Independence Square.

At 10:19 a.m., OZON monitors finished observing Kyiv Pride. Some OZON volunteers joined the monitoring of the counter-assembly.

Brief Description of Law Enforcement Actions

When the OZON public monitoring group approached the march location (Teatralna metro station), several groups of police officers were standing at the approach to the street from the Khreshchatyk side.

Groups of police officers were also located on the other side of Yevhen Chykalenko Street and Tereshchenkivska Street.

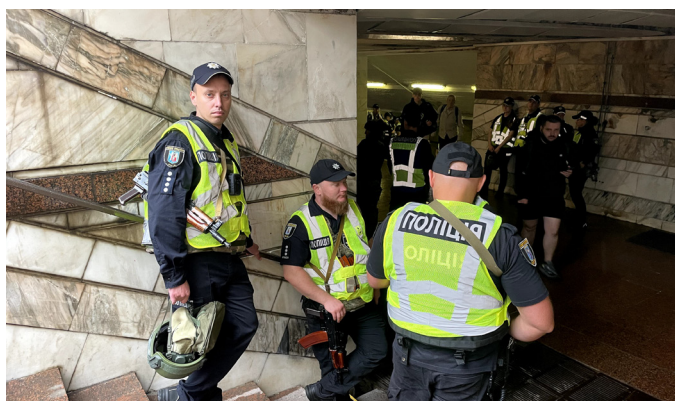
As of 8:50, the march location from 5 Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street to 7 Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street was cordoned off by police buses, with police officers standing in the gaps between them.

Important Note:

The march took place on the sidewalk of Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street. Traffic flow on Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street was not blocked or restricted.

As shown in the diagram, the police organized two passages for participants: one at the lower end near the entrance to the Lesya Ukrainka Theater and the other at the upper end near the Kyiv History Museum. Metal sectional barriers were used for this purpose. Police conducted surface checks using a special handheld metal detector at the passages. Observers did not report any violations during the surface checks at the two entrances.

Since the sidewalk where the march took place contained two exits from the underground passage and the Teatralna metro station, police groups were stationed at each exit of the passage, and dozens of police officers were on duty inside the underground passage itself.



"Police inside the metro"



"Police cordon inside the metro"

The police formed a perimeter inside the underground passage, conducted surface checks for participants approaching from the metro station, and guided random pedestrians. Officers directed people to the opposite side of Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street and provided instructions on further routes as needed. Representatives of the dialogue police and officers from the Main Directorate of the National Police were stationed around the march venue perimeter.

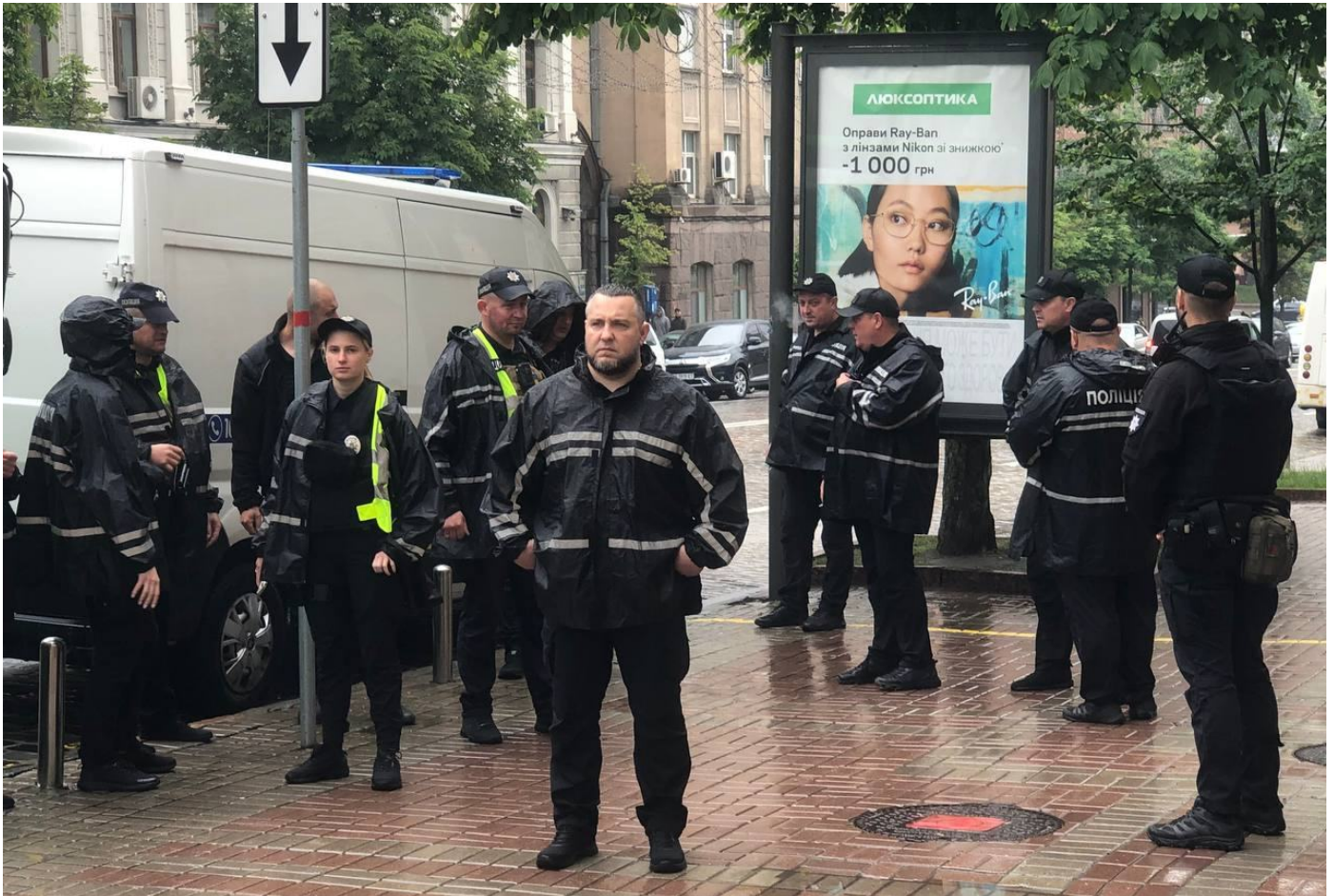
It is important to note that police reserve units from the National Guard and the Main Directorate of the National Police in Kyiv and the Kyiv region were present in buses and minibuses that served as barriers at the march venue.

At 09:55, after the march concluded, dialogue police joined organizers and called on participants to proceed to the Teatralna metro station to leave the Kyiv Pride march area safely.

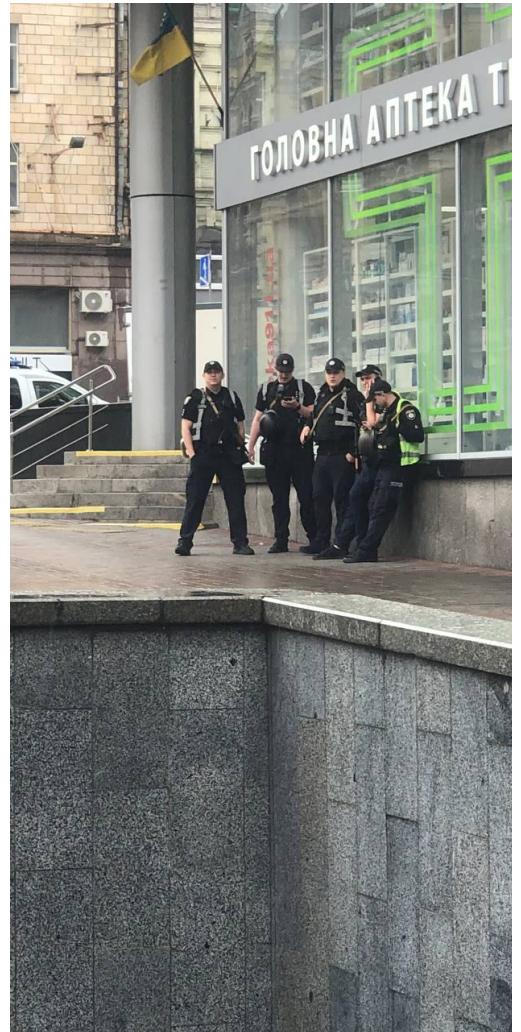
Important:

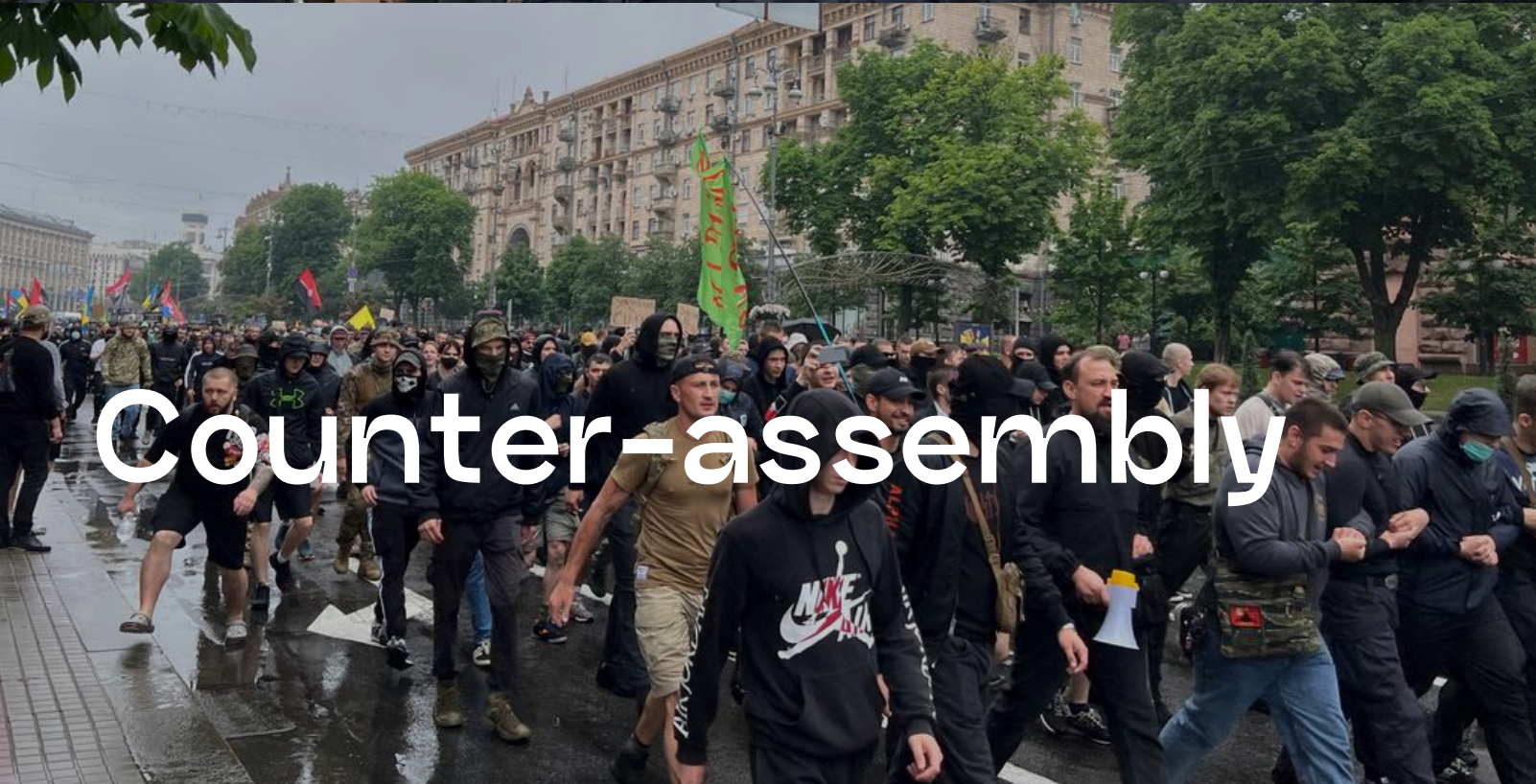
At this time, a counter-demonstration, March of Tradition, formed a column near the stairs of the underground passage at the intersection of Architect Horodetskyi Street and Khreshchatyk (from the side of the conservatory), and a police cordon blocked its path.

At 10:12, the police removed the sectional barriers, and at 10:15, the police, along with the National Guard reserve in buses, left the area towards Maidan Nezalezhnosti.



"Police officers in raincoats that cover their personal identification"





Date:

June 16, 2024

Duration of assembly:

9:00 AM – 12:09 AM

Duration of monitoring by public observers:

8:52 AM – 12:11 AM

Route:

Maidan Nezalezhnosti – Khreshchatyk Street – Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street – Volodymirska Street – Volodymirsky Passage – Mykhailivska Street – Maidan Nezalezhnosti

Theme:

Standing up for the rights of traditional families; advocacy for the irrelevance of Kyiv Pride during the war; also, as noted in the announcement of counter-assembly in UUHS (Ukrainian Union of Hetman Statesmen) telegram channel: "we should take part in counteraction against the disease, which threatens our National security and undermines values, which are important to all of us: God, family, country "

The number of participants in the Tradition march:

359 (with a margin of error of 30 people)

Weather conditions:

Rain

Special transport:

- 6 police bus
- 1 armored police bus
- 6 police cars

The number of National Police (NPU) representatives and National Guard (NGU) service members (excluding reserve groups):

~61

Healthcare:

- 1 ambulance

- Tactical and Operational Response (TOR): **~31**
- Dialogue Police: **~15.**
- Later (around 10:00 AM) NPU reinforcement, which previously was present at Kyiv Pride arrived **~100.**

Slogans and Chants:

"Glory to Ukraine – Glory to Heroes"
"Glory to the nation – death to the enemies"
"Ukraine – above all"
"Free people have weapons"
"LGBT community – after the russian warship"
"Faggots to Moscow"
"Gay's ass on the branch"
"Glory to Jesus Christ"
"Glory to God forever"
"Ave Maria! Deus Vult!"
"Tradition! Family! Order!"
"Putin – Huilo la-la-la-la"
"There is no end to the cossack bloodline"
"Glory to Kievan Rus, molorossia can suck"
"One united unified Ukraine"
"Putin – khuilo"
"Fight – and you will win, God is helping us"
"For the heroes of ukrainian nation three times: Glory! Glory! Glory!"
"Good night left side"
"For the warriors of Azov dead and unborn three times: Glory! Glory! Glory!"
"Death to LGBT"
"Death to the faggots"
"Pray, love, don't give up family"

Posters:

"Father, mother, children – flowers of Ukraine"
"Human rights – family rights"
"ATTENTION! God will judge you for your sins. REPENT! Believe in JESUS CHRIST, AND YOU WILL BE SAVED"
"Why should I tolerate those who disrespect soldiers"
"LGBT is a sin, the punishment for sin is death"
"Closer Club and LGBT – Ukraine's disgrace"
"There are only two genders: a man and a woman"
"LGBT is irrelevant now"
"Don't allow your child to become a victim of the homosexuals"
"Ukraine for traditional values"
"Hetman Royalism"
"Go back to your USSR, LGBT – Kremlin's hand"
"Go back to your Piter, LGBT – Kremlin's hand"
"Disorders should be treated, not tolerated"
"I didn't see this left-wind bullshit on the frontline"
"Homosexualism is curable"
"Gay prides on blood – shame on Ministry of Internal Affairs"
"Law for families – Ukraine for families"
"Right human – right family"
"DEUS VULT"



Flags:

Ukrainian flag — 4
Right Youth — 6
Right Sector — 2
Red-black flag — 2
Korchynskyi Brotherhood flag — 2
UUHS (Ukrainian Union of Hetman Statesmen) flag — 1

Media:

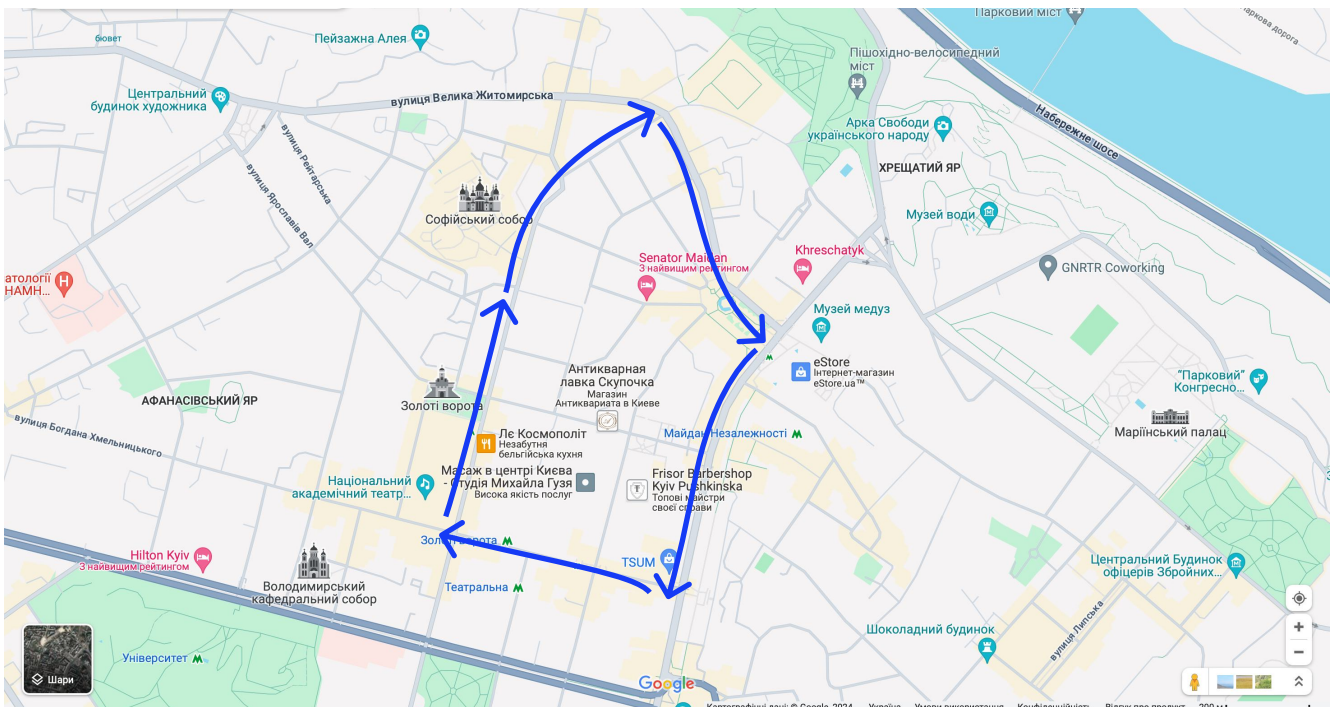
Kyiv24 News, independent photographers

Existence of decision on the restriction of freedom of peaceful assembly:

There were no decisions to prohibit or restrict the peaceful assembly, and no attempts to obtain such decisions.



Street closure scheme during Tradition march:



General Description of the Counter-Assembly Events:

On June 15, at 2:08 p.m., on the Telegram page of the blogger Denys Koshelnik "KOSHELNIK_TV" there was an announcement about the action (quote): "INDEPENDENCE SQUARE Tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. on June 16, 2024 (Sunday), an assembly will take place to defend the rights of Traditional Families!!!".

Later, on June 15 at 8:39 p.m., an announcement of the March of Tradition appeared on the UUHS (Ukrainian Union of Hetmans-Statesmen) telegram page with a mention of other participating organizations. The event announcement was also distributed on other Telegram channels, in particular, the "Prava Molod" page. It was announced that on June 16 at 09:00 a.m., a counter-action will take place on Maidan Nezalezhnosti.

On June 16, at 8:52 a.m., the OZON public monitoring group began monitoring.

As of that time, there were no participants in the counter-meeting on the Maidan, and patrols and other types of police were seen in the radius of the action at a distance of 50 m, 4-6 people each.

The participants of the action began to approach closer to 9:00 in the morning and stood near the steps of the conservatory.

At 09:14 a.m., one of the organizers communicated with the dialogue police regarding the march movement. At that time, about 70 people were recorded on the Maidan, the absolute majority of them were men.

Among the participants of the meeting: were representatives of Right Youth, Right Sector, and UUHS, as well as a group of people who introduced themselves as "Christians." Many participants in the counter-assembly group had their faces covered with balaclavas.

At 09:25 a.m., several police groups joined, mainly Tactical Operational Response (TOR) (about 30 policemen).

At 09:26 a.m., one of the organizers addressed the assembly: "We promise a peaceful course if our fellow police officers work in accordance with the current legislation."

Meanwhile, police reinforcements continued to arrive gradually. 5 police busses and 5 cars were recorded at the scene.

The participants of the action on the stairs were preparing for the march, shouting slogans.

At 09:47 a.m., the participants moved from the stairs and formed a column near the underground passage near the temporary military memorial "Flag".

At 09:54 a.m., the participants continued to form a column, and a police border blocked their movement in front of them, blocking the movement of the participants, a police border was formed.

During that time and until 10:14, the participants chanted slogans, and the organizers and the police continued communication regarding the movement of the March. OZON recorded an episode of communication: the police continued calm dialogue despite the aggressive communication of the participants of the action (one of them approached the police several times and asked with a raised voice why they could not start moving). They demanded that the column be moved.

It is important to note that the previous notification about the "March of Tradition" action did not contain information about the route, so the police did not plan possible temporary traffic restrictions on the streets.

Between 10:18 a.m. and 10:20 a.m., there is physical pressure on the police border by a column of participants. The participants started moving along the roadway of Khreshchatyk Street. In front of them were policemen (TOR, POP, Main Directorate of NPU) who quickly built a border to stop the movement of the march movement. The police officers regrouped and tried to block the pressure of the column, but the march broke through the border and began to move on the roadway of Khreshchatyk Street. During the physical confrontation, at least one participant fell, and the use of special equipment by the police was not recorded. Some of the participants also bypassed the police border from the side and started moving even before the breakthrough.

The march began an active movement from Maidan Nezalezhnosti towards the Teatralna metro station, accompanied by cars with participants.

At 10:26 a.m., a counter-assembly started moving along Bohdan Khmelnytskyi Street. At that moment, the Kyiv Pride March ended, and the participants left the territory mainly by metro and with coordinated communication between the organizers and the police.

During the march, the participants chanted slogans. In particular, the slogan "Death to LGBT!" was heard.

At 10:31 a.m., the March for Tradition started moving along Volodymyrska Street toward Sofia Square. The participants moved partly on the roadway and the sidewalk.

At approximately 10:35, the slogan "Death to Faggots! Death! Death!" One of the participants approached the OZON volunteers and asked if they had heard this slogan and asked them to record it.

At 10:40 a.m., counter-assembly moved past Sofia Square toward Mykhailivska Street.

At 10:45 a.m., the march stopped, and the participants sang the Ukrainian national anthem. Within two minutes, the column resumed its movement toward Maidan Nezalezhnosti through Mykhailivska Street. The police ensured the safety of the movement.

At 10:51 a.m., the march of tradition was again on the steps of Independence Square. Here again, the participants sang the national anthem of Ukraine.

Around 11:05, a verbal fight occurred between the counter-demonstration participants and two people who came to the Maidan. During this, a participant of the counter-assembly sprayed them with gas (tear gas, due to weather conditions, no damage was done).

Representatives of the dialogue police responded quickly and tried to mediate the conflict situation. They took two people who were carrying LGBTQ+ symbols to the side along Khreshchatyk Street.

During this, the participants of the counter-meeting moved behind and demanded dialogue from the police representative to force these two people to stop the video recording they were conducting. The police offered the victims of the sprayed gas to write a statement, but they refused and left the area.

At 11:28 a.m., the participants of the March for Tradition performed the UPA anthem and the Prayer of the Ukrainian Nationalist.

Around 12:08 a.m., the participants started to leave.

At 12:11 a.m., the OZON public monitoring group completed monitoring of the counter-assembly.



Brief Description of Law Enforcement Actions

Before the start of the March for Tradition, several groups of the Main Directorate of NPU and dialogue police were near the assembly's location, Maidan Nezalezhnosti.

They communicated with the march organizers and, with the help of a border of police officers from the Tactical-Operational Response Unit (TOR), prevented the movement of the March until 10:18–10:20.

When the March broke through the border and started moving along Khreshchatyk Street, the police partially restricted traffic to ensure the safe movement of the participants. Traffic was also partially restricted along Bohdan Khmelnytskyi Street.

OZON volunteers did not record any arrests or the use of special equipment during the pressure on the police border.

It is important to note that the number of policemen on the Maidan grew gradually, and at the time of the border breakthrough, there were about 100 policemen, among whom there were representatives of the Main Directorate of NPU, TOR, POP, patrol police, dialogue police.

After the March for Tradition passed along Bohdan Khmelnytskyi Street, most police remained in place, and the dialogue police and patrol police officers followed the march.

As of 12:00, OZON recorded 15 dialogue police representatives, 11 patrol police officers, and 10 police officers without means of personal identification (probably employees of the Main Directorate of the National Police of the city of Kyiv).

Episodes

1.

During the Kyiv Pride March at 8:55 AM, observers from the OZON public monitoring group noted the presence of representatives from the Territorial Center for Recruitment and Social Support (TCRSS). An employee from TCRSS checked the monitor's documents and remarked: "I'm interested in young men of draft age."

During the counter-rally, observers from the OZON public monitoring group did not observe any TCRSS employees.

2.

In a video published on the DARK PODCAST YouTube channel titled "#RightDay: Action of nationalists, conservatives, and veterans for traditional family values. 16.06.24," a moment of a police officer falling and the pressure of the assembly column participants are captured at 6:30 minutes. The video clearly shows the reaction of the participants to the fall: at least two of them pushed the police officers from behind.

At this moment, one of the police officers, who was wearing a raincoat that completely covered all means of personal identification (presumably a representative of the GUNP), raised his hands and called on the participants to stop, literally saying, "Stop! Guys, stop!"

Also, in the video at 6:57 minutes, communication between the counter-rally participants and the police officers is recorded. In particular, the participants used profanity and offensive language towards the police officers (literal quoting): "Back off, damn it!", "War veterans are walking, bitch!", "Disabled war veteran ... you bastard!"

No actions from the police officers in response were recorded. Overall, it can be concluded that the police acted with restraint, used common sense, and tried to avoid conflicts and the use of force. The police were focused on reducing tension and preventing the escalation of the situation.



"Photo illustration for Episode No. 2"

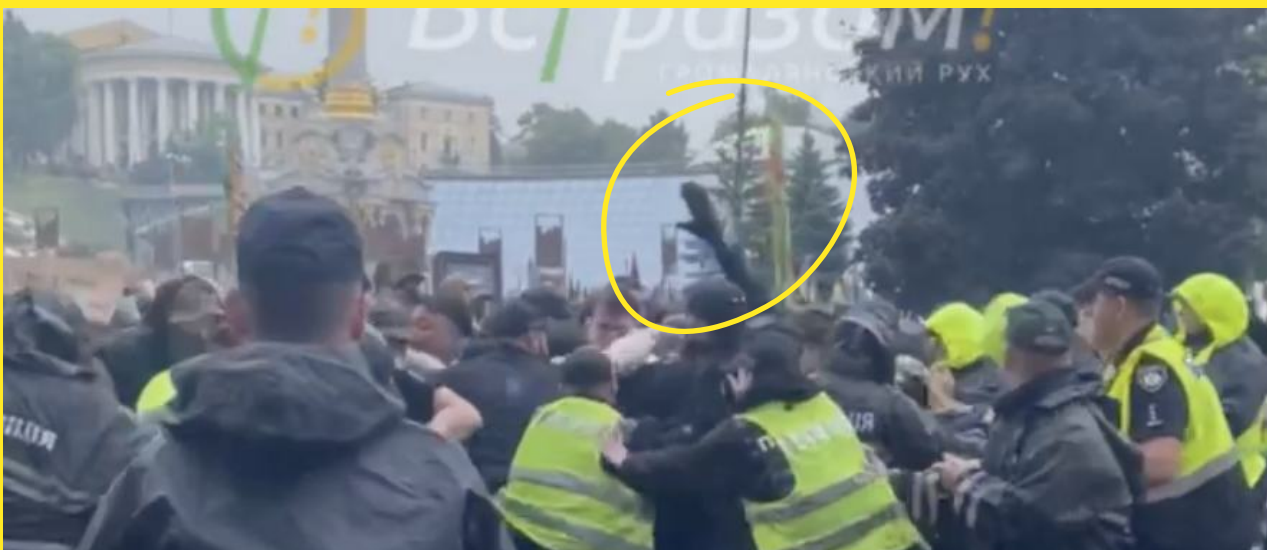
3.

At approximately 10:27 AM, during the movement of the counter-demonstration along Bohdana Khmelnytskoho Street, the slogan "Death to LGBT!" was heard. Around 10:35 AM, the slogan "Death to faggots! Death! Death! Death!" was shouted. The OZON public observation group interprets these slogans as hate speech.

It is worth noting that Ukraine lacks legislative regulation prohibiting the use of hate speech, which could provide grounds for police intervention and action against such slogans.

4.

In a video obtained from open sources (Telegram channel "All Together"), at the 37th second, a breach of the police cordon is recorded (the video was filmed from the side of the main Ukrposhta post office). The video shows an active breach where a brief physical altercation occurred between a police officer and assembly participants. It is also clearly documented that the police officer struck one of the assembly participants on the head with his palm.



"Photo illustration for Episode No. 4"

Assessment of Law Enforcement Actions Regarding Protection of Freedom of Peaceful Assembly

Ensuring the freedom of peaceful assembly is a challenging task for local authorities and the police, especially given the legal regime of martial law and the constant threat of missile attacks. These factors add a broader context of risks and require detailed security planning.

The public monitoring group OZON assesses the work of law enforcement agencies during the Kyiv Pride March and the counter-demonstration of the March of Tradition as successful.

A clear positive aspect is that the National Police of Ukraine made significant efforts to facilitate the Kyiv Pride March and ensure the safety of participants in the peaceful assembly amidst the counter-demonstration and the potential threat of missile strikes on the capital.

It is worth noting separately the following positive actions by the police:

1. Coordinated Law Enforcement Operations

Throughout the entire period of conducting peaceful assemblies, the police demonstrated coordinated operations and the ability to respond promptly to emerging risks. For instance, during escalating tensions at Maidan Nezalezhnosti, the police swiftly deployed reserves from the Teatralna metro station to Maidan.

2. Police Awareness and Communication Ability

During the Kyiv Pride March, police officers adeptly and clearly communicated with random passers-by and individuals exiting the Teatralna metro station regarding possible passage routes. Additionally, the non-confrontational attitude of the officers handling counter-assembly activities is worth noting.

3. Implementation of Surface Checks

OZON documented a differentiated approach to surface checks and highlighted the use of handheld metal detector devices during this process as a positive practice.

4. Ensuring Safety

At the approaches to the Kyiv Pride venue and at various metro stations, OZON observed the presence of patrol police groups and cadets from the National Academy of Internal Affairs. Patrolling by police groups was conducted around the perimeter near the march, which is essential and crucial for minimizing the danger to participants.

5. Assisting in the Safe Departure of Participants from the Kyiv Pride March Venue

Dialogue police joined the organizers' calls and directed everyone to the Teatralna metro station. According to the police, officers responsible for metro security accompanied participants in the metro cars.

It is also worth highlighting the work of the dialogue police, who professionally facilitated processes and communicated with the event organizers, counter-assembly organizers, and participants of both events. Timely response to escalating tensions and conflict situations is crucial for preventing conflicts involving the use of force.

At the same time, the OZON public monitoring group documented:

A Number of Issues and Violations During the Security of the Peaceful Assembly and Counter-Assembly:

1. Discriminatory Remarks and Inappropriate Behavior

During communication with observers, one police officer used the phrase (verbatim quote): "Are you not one of those? Are you normal?" OZON considers this remark discriminatory.

2. Violation of Surface Check Rules

OZON observers documented several isolated incidents of violations during visual inspection of items during surface checks. Specifically, during inspections, police touched items to hold them and patted the outside of bag pockets, which goes beyond a purely visual inspection.

3. Aggressive Communication

During the photographic documentation by OZON observers of police officers and their actions, some officers expressed themselves aggressively and demanded to stop filming. These requests occurred more frequently than usual. The conflict was resolved after explaining the work of the public monitoring group.

OZON considers verbal prohibition on filming during police security of public order at a peaceful assembly unacceptable. OZON acknowledges the possibility of cases where police officers are performing a special task, but the prohibition should not apply to the ordinary work of police officers.

4. Violation of Ethical Conduct Rules

During the counter-assembly, OZON observers repeatedly witnessed the use of profanity by police officers.

5. Lack of Proper Differentiation Between Assembly Participants and OZON Observers

During the monitoring of the counter-assembly, a police officer stopped an OZON observer who was following the counter-assembly column. The officer held her by the shoulders and ordered her to stop and remove her vest, stating that she was provoking a conflict. OZON assumes the officer might have confused the OZON monitor with Kyiv Pride safety volunteers, who wore similar yellow vests.

6. Violation of Uniform and Personal Identification Rules

Raincoats, part of the police uniform, cover entirely all personal identification means (badges, police, and unit patches) in cloudy and rainy weather. Additionally, some police officers not wearing raincoats were observed without sufficient personal identification means. During the formation of the column in the passage, two women in civilian clothes wearing vests labeled "Police" but without uniforms or other identification means were noticed. Monitors also documented several police officers in official uniforms without any identification means, as well as individuals in entirely civilian clothes inside the march who were evidently police representatives.

7. Involvement of the National Guard of Ukraine in the Protection of the Peaceful Assembly

According to the Law of Ukraine "On the National Guard of Ukraine," the duties of the National Guard include maintaining public order, ensuring the protection and security of citizens' lives, health, rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests. Article 1 of the law also states that the National Guard is a military formation. The OZON public monitoring group believes that the protection of peaceful assemblies should be carried out by civilian law enforcement agencies, not military formations. The use of military personnel to guard peaceful assemblies may be seen as a disproportionate measure that could potentially lead to human rights violations and create an atmosphere of intimidation.

8. Use of the Russian Language

Observers documented several instances of police officers communicating in Russian, which contradicts Article 93 of the section of the Law of Ukraine "On Ensuring the Functioning of the Ukrainian Language as the State Language."



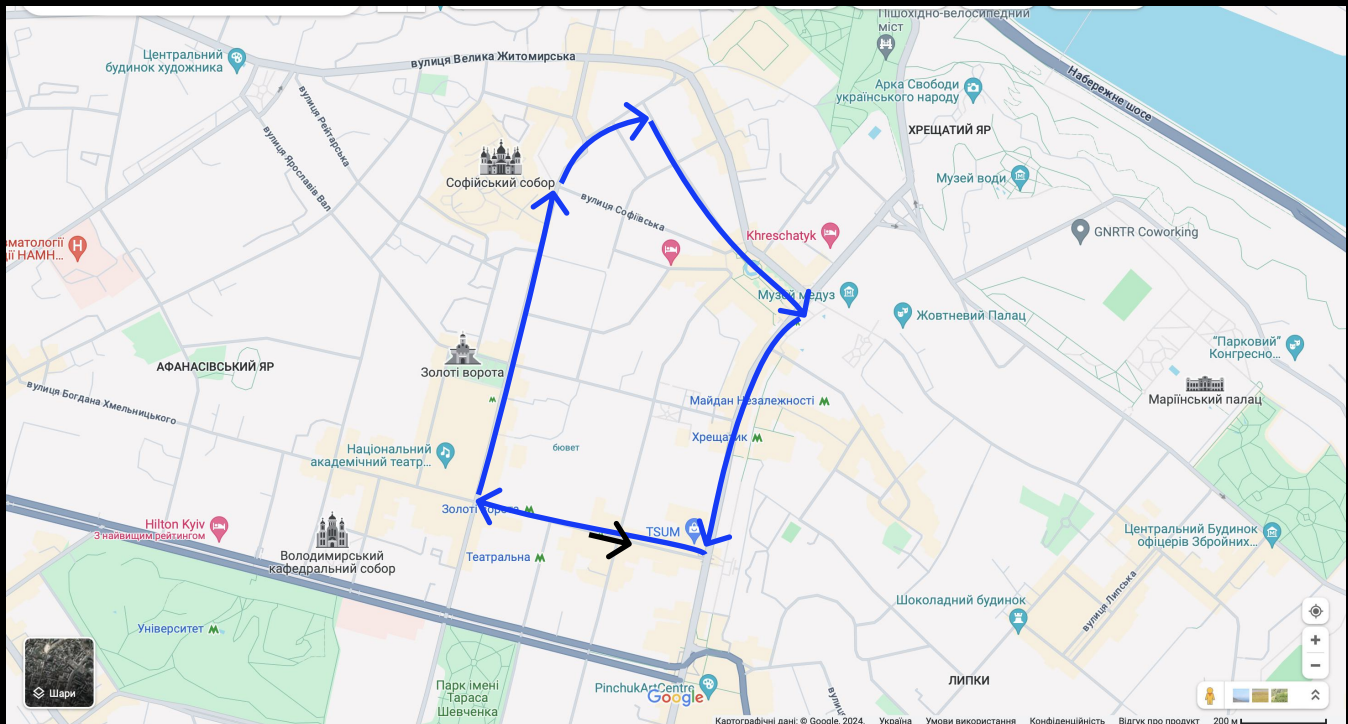
"Photo illustration for item No. 2: During the inspection, police officers touched items to hold them and felt the pockets of bags from the outside, which goes beyond a purely visual inspection."



"Photo illustration for item No. 6: Police without badges."

Furthermore, it is evident that the peaceful assembly implemented the principle of "visibility and audibility" less than the counter-assembly. The Kyiv Pride March lasted 1 hour (with the march itself lasting about 10 minutes), and the column moved 100 meters along the pedestrian part of the street, which was blocked on all sides by police special vehicles.

In contrast, the counter-assembly, the March of Tradition, lasted about 3 hours, with the column passing through the capital's main streets, covering a total route of about 4 km.



Conclusions and recommendations

To the Kyiv City State Administration and the Kyiv City Military Administration:

1. Facilitate the realization of citizens' right to freedom of peaceful assembly, particularly supporting the conduct of peaceful assemblies in zones of "visibility and audibility" to their target audience.

In this instance, the Kyiv Pride March was completely enclosed by special transport, which complicated the realization of this principle.

To the National Police of Ukraine:

1. Facilitate the realization of citizens' right to freedom of peaceful assembly, particularly supporting the conduct of peaceful assemblies in zones of "visibility and audibility" to their target audience.
2. Conduct an internal investigation regarding the violation of the requirements of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police of Ukraine" concerning proper identification and uniform regulations by police officers.
3. Ensure proper control over police officers' adherence to the regulations concerning uniforms and the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police of Ukraine" when maintaining public order during peaceful assemblies, specifically regarding the wearing of distinguishing marks and special badges.
4. Make efforts to promptly mark elements of police officers' passive protection that would allow the identification of each individual officer during the maintenance of public order at peaceful assemblies, in accordance with OSCE guidelines on freedom of peaceful assembly and Ukrainian legislation.
5. Improve the material and technical support of police officers involved in maintaining public order at peaceful assemblies and strive to improve working conditions at such events. This could include planning work schedules to normalize personnel's workload.
6. Enhance the design of the uniforms of law enforcement officers involved in maintaining public order during peaceful assemblies, particularly raincoats and jackets, to allow police officers to wear visible means of personal identification.
7. Conduct educational work with personnel regarding the procedure for conducting superficial inspections, particularly the part concerning purely visual inspections of belongings.

8. Conduct informational and educational work among the personnel regarding the requirements of Section 2 of the order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine from 09/20 No. 79 "On the approval of the rules of ethical behavior of police officers".
9. Conduct educational work with personnel regarding the public's right to take photos and videos of police actions. Employees of the National Police of Ukraine must be easily identifiable and remain accountable, especially while guarding such important democratic events as peaceful assemblies.
10. Conduct training on police actions during peaceful assemblies and public events, nonviolent communication, facilitation, and mediation for representatives of the National Guard of Ukraine, who are involved in maintaining public order during peaceful assemblies, to improve their communication skills with participants and effective work at peaceful events.
11. Gradually reduce the presence of military formations during the maintenance of public order at peaceful assemblies. The monitoring group adheres to the position that the use of force should be exceptional and proportional to the threats that arise during peaceful assemblies. Security should be provided by professional police officers who have undergone appropriate training in human rights, nonviolent communication, facilitation, and management of public events.

To the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine

1. Require employees of the National Police of Ukraine involved in maintaining public order during peaceful assemblies to wear means of personal identification, except in cases where it interferes with the performance and implementation of their special tasks (according to the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police of Ukraine").

This report would not have been possible without the efforts of the volunteers of the OZON public monitoring group who monitored the assembly and counter-assembly on June 16, 2024:

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We believe that independent public oversight of the freedom of peaceful assemblies is a key tool to prevent human rights violations, as well as a mechanism for preserving and developing the Ukrainian tradition of peaceful assemblies, even in times of war.

For any questions regarding the report, please contact the OZON Public Monitoring Group at ozon.monitoring@gmail.com

Photo Gallery

Kyiv Pride March



Counter-demonstration – March of Tradition



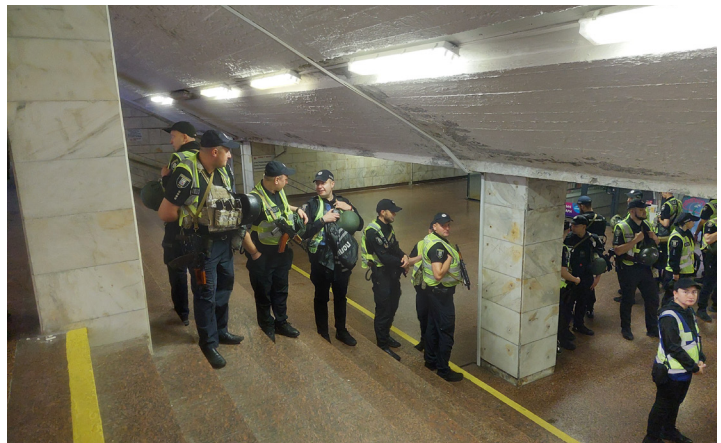
Violations by the Police



Police cordon at the entrance to Kyiv Pride March from the Khreshchatyk side—issues with police officers' identification: raincoats cover personal identification means.



Police cordon at the entrance to Kyiv Pride March from the Khreshchatyk side—issues with police officers' identification: raincoats cover personal identification means.



Police cordon in the underground passage of Teatralna metro station – vests cover special badges, which are sometimes missing.



Issues with wearing a police uniform



Kyiv, 2024