



Woodbury, Connecticut  
[sandycarlson.net](http://sandycarlson.net)  
[imsandycarlson@gmail.com](mailto:imsandycarlson@gmail.com)

## sandy lee carlson

### What You Need to Know About Ukraine

*Nyet slov, odni emotsii*

For nine days we've seen a harsh war  
Our cities are being destroyed  
Our people and children  
Our residential areas, churches, schools  
Are being shot

For the historical record  
My job right now is documenting  
My country's war crimes  
For any future international tribunals

Few have access to independent media

The Russians are now occupying my hometown  
And also, it seems, my memories  
The mall where we shopped is a smoldering ruin  
Another video showed corpses in the park  
Where I used to go as a kid  
With my mother and my class  
To feed the swans

They tell me the Russians shot  
Apartment buildings, homes, a school

Russian forces have used cluster bombs and  
Other types of weapons  
In violation of international law  
This is brutality This is inhumane

(continued)

"What You Need to Know About Ukraine," page 2, by Sandy Carlson

The Pentagon established  
A direct communication line Tuesday  
With the Russian ministry of defense  
For the purpose of preventing  
Miscalculation  
Military incidents  
And escalation

The first mass grave has been dug  
It's hard to tell who ended up in it

I close my eyes and I see and feel the city  
My father walking me to school  
My mother buying me  
The tastiest korzynky tarts in the world

You hear kids screaming, mothers screaming  
It's so crazy  
It feels like we stepped back into WWII  
With the train whistles  
People hugging and saying goodbye  
Not sure if they will ever come back to this place

They shelled the cemetery  
They are afraid even of the dead

I am a resident of Kyiv, for many generations  
This is my place, and I am not leaving

Everything inside of me is boiling  
Because of what's happening  
My emotions are overflowing, I'm telling you  
I served and I am ready to fight  
Although in 1990  
I made a decision to be a pacifist

To the American people, I say  
Please stop him  
Otherwise  
He will flood the entire Earth  
With blood

"What You Need to Know About Ukraine," page 3, by Sandy Carlson

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said  
Russian war criminals will be held accountable:

To the people of Europe  
I call upon you not to be silent  
Support our effort and support our fight  
Because if Ukraine will not stand  
Europe will not stand  
Do not turn the blind eye on this

If we win, and I am sure we will win  
This will be the victory  
For the whole democratic world  
This will be the victory of light over darkness  
If we win, we will become as blossoming as Europe  
And Europe will be flourishing more than ever  
After this significant victory

The captain leaves the ship last

When the dawn breaks  
And there is light out the window  
It is somehow psychologically better

We are a fertile southern land  
With fertile black soils and two seas  
We are a nation of peace

It is impossible for those who know freedom  
To believe in the goodness of dictatorship  
The flag of Ukraine still flies here

When someone comes and destroys your home  
Kills children  
Makes your life a living nightmare  
You have no other words left to describe your feelings

How shall we describe this?

No words, only emotions

(A found poem of Ukrainian voices recorded from a variety of news sources over the past week. 5 March 2022)