Biodata

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VOICE MATTERS

Okay. Get comfortable. Imagine a situation where you can't move, you're paralyzed. You can't even speak, and you barely breathe. You just think about things that you didn't have enough time to do. You're thinking how beautiful your life was, and still, you were always complaining that something could have been better. Do you know what happened? Your entire existence has just collapsed on you. You're powerless and forlorn as you lie there. You can't hear what's going on the other side. You're concerned about your loved ones and fear that you won't see them again.

Have you imagined that? How do you feel? Probably devastated, but with a new spark to live and enjoy your life.

People all over the globe have been experiencing this since the beginning of the twenty-first century. Do you know what the most common reason for that is? War. Congo, Syria, Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Yemen, Ukraine... Those are not even all of them, those are claimed to be the deadliest.

The level of bloodshed that is spreading around the globe is unthinkable. And I'd like to inform you of the causes for this: control, territory, resources, and hatred. This is frightening. I can't believe I'm living in such times; how can I raise children in such a world?

My country, my people, my loved ones, and my companions are currently battling against hatred. The brave warriors lay down their lives for independence, freedom of expression, Ukrainian identity, and European ideals.

The combatants are valiant, but they require our assistance. Ukrainians have become unified. Many people are unable to battle on the frontline, so we contribute, help, and spread the word.

It is everyone's responsibility to advocate for those in need. We must protect civil liberties and democracy. Otherwise, we will exist in anarchy, where bad triumphs over virtue.

Every day, we must take steps to put an end to the torment and brutality that surround us. The very least we can do is to raise awareness and encourage people to stand up and express their thoughts. And I'm speaking now on behalf of Iranian women, Syrian survivors, protesters all over the world, American children, and heroes who are no longer with us in my powerful and shattered Ukraine.

If you speak up, you will be heard. It is the bare minimum of what you can do. Use social media to get the news out.

Allow your ideas to be acknowledged.

Anhelina STAS

