



SOFIA MYKHAYLENKO, *12 years old*

City of Kyiv

Sofia used to be an active and energetic girl. She performed at school concerts, painted, and loved to ride a bike. Now, for the first time in her life, she is closing in on herself...

"On the first day of the war, when we woke up from the explosions, I became hysterical. Mom and Dad couldn't calm me down. At first, I didn't understand why they came to kill us.

When my mother said that we would go to visit relatives in Vinnytsia, I cried a lot. And when my father said he was going to fight, for the first time in my life it became difficult for me to breathe.

The next day, we were already in Vinnytsia, with my mother's sister. I was so upset that I lay in bed for 4 days and couldn't eat anything. I was bored because I was nervous," says the girl.

Sophia began to recover on the 5th day of the war. That's when her dad called for the first time.

"Dad calls us whenever he has a free moment. I'm always looking forward to hearing his voice. I hope that our defenders will win very soon! My family will be together again and no one will ever be able to separate us again!" Sofia shares.



For reference

Mykhaylenko family:

Father - Alexander, heating network engineer, volunteer of the Armed Forces, 41 years; mother - Julia, an employee of the Department of Education, 39 years old; daughter - Sofia, a schoolgirl, 12 years old; daughter - Solomiya, 3 years old.