



# VLADISLAV GALCHENKO, *17 years old*

*City of Mariupol,  
Donetsk region*

At 5 am, we woke up from a loud explosion. After 6 minutes, the next one sounded, then another one... We panicked and left our documents in our backpacks, a few warm things, and some food. Our meeting took no more than 20 minutes.

When they ran out of the house, there was no electricity in it. We went to work with my mother at the social services center and could not return home. There were 24 people living in the office with us. Until March 3, we traveled around the city and delivered food, clothes, and personal hygiene items to elderly people.

On March 3, Mariupol was completely blocked. Then survival began for us, the search for food and water. Not far from the office was a well. Water could be collected there, but the Russian military fired on anyone who approached it.

In three weeks we survived many shellings, 6 shells flew into the office. And on March

16, the DNR assault brigade came to capture us. All people were searched under the wall and documents were checked under the barrel of a machine gun.

We have seen these damned "rescuers" destroy my city. They destroyed entire neighborhoods and killed anyone they came across. People were simply buried in funnels from Russian shells.

We have already come to terms with the thought that we will die here... But on March 30 we were saved. Volunteers from Zaporizhia brought us food and invited women with children to go with them.



## *For reference*

*Galchenko family:*

*Mother - Love, social worker, 39 years old;  
son - Vladislav, schoolboy, 17 years old.*