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How to cite: Kupriianova L, Kupriianova D. Organ donation vs. organ harvesting in war times pows as well as abducted minors as potential victims of the illegal human organ market. Organ trade as a mechanism of the socio-cultural as well as political manipulation within the frame of the Russian war against Ukraine. *East Ukr Med J.* 2025;13(3):857-873

DOI: [https://doi.org/10.21272/eumj.2025;13\(3\):857-873](https://doi.org/10.21272/eumj.2025;13(3):857-873)

ABSTRACT

Larysa Kupriianova

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4448-7044>

KROK Academy by Dr. Kupriianova;
Humanitas University, Milan, Italy

Daryna Kupriianova

<https://orcid.org/0009-0002-4359-0998>

DAR for Peace and Equality, Milan
Italy

ORGAN DONATION VS. ORGAN HARVESTING IN WAR TIMES POWS AS WELL AS ABDUCTED MINORS AS POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF THE ILLEGAL HUMAN ORGAN MARKET. ORGAN TRADE AS A MECHANISM OF THE SOCIO-CULTURAL AS WELL AS POLITICAL MANIPULATION WITHIN THE FRAME OF THE RUSSIAN WAR AGAINST UKRAINE

Introduction. Wars, armed conflicts, climate crises, social/economic and political instabilities render a significant number of the global population vulnerable to the manipulation, as well as particularly exposed to the human rights' abuse. One of the most ferocious degrading practices against human beings is organ harvesting, which often leads to the flourishing of the illegal organ market in the territory of the state which is actively engaged into armed conflict or war. Some states, however, appear to benefit from the war/armed conflict conditions from the perspective of gaining the political influence through human organs/tissues "black market" distribution, especially, when the aforementioned organs and tissues were previously obtained through organ harvesting procedures performed on and against prisoners of wars, and earlier abducted newborns, children and adolescents from the counterparty-state.

Material and methods. Observational studies, case studies, ethnography, and thematic analysis.

Results. Once the cadavers of Ukrainian journalists and POWs were returned from the Russian captivity missing sometimes all human organs, the probability of the illegal organ market functioning in Russia, which is obviously being sustained by the "drastic organ influx" from the Ukrainian prisoners and minors, became not just apparent, but rather obvious.

Discussion. In this article, we shall take into a precise consideration a postulate of a probable illegal organ market functioning in the territory

of Russia which engages human organs and tissues harvested from Ukrainian POWs and minors. In addition, we shall touch upon the notions of Russian socio-cultural, as well as political manipulation performed towards the global population using the tools of a specific, typical for Russia, organ donation/harvesting legal and medical system.

Keywords. Organ donation, organ harvesting, captivity, prisoners of war, full-scale Russian invasion in Ukraine, war, organ procurement, socio-cultural manipulations.

Corresponding author: Larysa Kupriianova, KROK Academy by Dr. Kupriianova; Humanitas University, Milan, Italy
e-mail: lara_kupriyanova@ukr.net

РЕЗЮМЕ

Лариса Купріянова

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4448-7044>

Академія KROK д-ра Купріянової;
Університет Гуманітас, Мілан, Італія

Дарина Купріянова

<https://orcid.org/0009-0002-4359-0998>

Некомерційна організація «DAR for
Peace and Equality», Мілан, Італія

ДОНАЦІЯ ОРГАНІВ VS. ВИЛУЧЕННЯ ОРГАНІВ У ПЕРІОД ВОЄННОГО ЧАСУ ВІЙСЬКОВОПОЛОНЕНІ, А ТАКОЖ ВИКРАДЕНІ НЕПОВНОЛІТНІ ЯК ПОТЕНЦІЙНІ ЖЕРТВИ НЕЗАКОННОГО РИНКУ ЛЮДСЬКИХ ОРГАНІВ. ТОРГІВЛЯ ОРГАНАМИ ЯК МЕХАНІЗМ СОЦІОКУЛЬТУРНИХ ТА ПОЛІТИЧНИХ МАНІПУЛЯЦІЙ У РАМКАХ РОСІЙСЬКОЇ ВІЙНИ ПРОТИ УКРАЇНИ

Вступ. Війни, збройні конфлікти, кліматичні кризи, соціально-економічна та політична нестабільність роблять значну частину населення світу вразливою до маніпуляцій, а також особливо беззахисною під призою потенційних порушень прав людини. Одним із найжорстокіших і найбільш принизливих злочинів проти людства є вилучення органів, яке часто призводить до процвітання незаконного ринку органів на території держави, яка активно бере участь у збройному конфлікті або війні. Однак, деякі держави, вірогідно, отримують вигоду від умов війни/збройного конфлікту з точки зору отримання політичного впливу через розподіл людських органів/тканин на «чорному ринку», особливо коли вищезгадані органи та тканини раніше були отримані через процедури вилучення органів, що проводилися в стосунку до військовополонених та, об'єктивно проти них, а також раніше викрадених новонароджених, дітей та підлітків, що походять з держави-противника.

Матеріали і методи. Спостереження, тематичні дослідження, етнографія та тематичний аналіз.

Результати дослідження. Після того, як трупи українських журналістів та військовополонених були повернуті з російського полону, іноді позбавлені усіх людських органів, ймовірність функціонування незаконного ринку органів у Росії, який, очевидно, підтримується «різким припливом органів» від українських воєнних та політичних в'язнів та неповнолітніх, стала не просто очевидною, а, скоріше, беззаперечною.

Обговорення. У цій статті ми детально розглянемо постулат про ймовірне функціонування незаконного ринку органів на території Росії, який стосується людських органів і тканин, вилучених у українських військовополонених та неповнолітніх. Крім того, ми торкнемося понять російської соціокультурної, а також політичної маніпуляції, що здійснюються щодо світового населення за допомогою інструментів специфічної, типової для Росії, правової та медичної системи донорства/вилучення органів.

Ключові слова: Донорство органів, вилучення органів, полон, військовополонені, повномасштабне російське вторгнення в Україну, війна, нелегальна купівля людських органів, соціокультурні маніпуляції.

Автор, відповідальний за листування: Лариса Купріянова, Академія KROK д-ра Купріянової; Університет Гуманітас, Мілан, Італія
e-mail: lara_kupriyanova@ukr.net

ABBREVIATIONS

cDCD - Controlled Donation after Cardiac Death
uDCD - Uncontrolled Donation after Circulatory Death
MDD - Major Depressive Disorder
CD - Clinical Depression
MAiD - Medical Assistance in Dying
POW - Prisoner of War
CF - cystic fibrosis
BPD - bronchopulmonary dysplasia
PH - pulmonary hypertension

INTRODUCTION

War times-related realities, humanitarian crises, human losses, abuse, human and human organs and/or tissues harvesting, as well as trafficking, rapes, murders, abduction, and loads of other crimes are always commonly associated with happenings taking place in the territory/within the society/in the state suffering from horrible consequences of armed conflicts/invasions and wars. The Old Continent recalled that the aforementioned degrading realities are possible at any time in human history, only once the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine took place in February 2022. Since then, the fundamental postulates of humanitarian law have been violated multiple times, and civil society has been, until today, cruelly tormented by invaders. However, who could have thought that the greatest danger of human rights violations would be just around the “corner”? Namely, in the captivity, in Russian prisons, where the captured Ukrainian freedom defenders, soldiers, social activists, volunteers, journalists, even adolescents, but, at the same time, plenty of other representatives of the courageous Ukrainian people, would stay for an infinity, waiting for their either “life’s sentence” or release and turning back home after endless hours of inhumane tortures and violence. In general, if we go back to the very “river mouth”, i.e. to the very fundamentals of the Russian war machine, there will be no hidden mystery in the fact, that whatever is being done by Russia, by “ordinary” Russians, or their combatants, as well as, by basically each representative of civil society, clergy, volunteers, celebrities, TV presenters etc., is being a part of the all-Russian war-related propaganda dedicated to restoration of the so-called “Russian peace” which is supposed “to

bring the global happy ever after to every post-communist nation/state”, this time, however, being eager to include even more: those countries and territories which are willing (or, most probably, will be forced) to join as well.

Thus, every individual action of any person/organization/community/region, etc. is a single step in Russia’s world dominance, which is expected to arrive in the future according to the propaganda reports flowing from Russian television channels every single day.

Aim of the article. In this article, we shall take into a precise consideration a postulate of a probable illegal organ market functioning in the territory of Russia which engages human organs and tissues harvested from Ukrainian POWs and minors. In addition, we shall touch upon the notions of Russian socio-cultural, as well as political manipulation performed towards the global population using the tools of a specific, typical for Russia, organ donation/harvesting legal and medical system.

Material and methods. Observational studies, case studies, ethnography, and thematic analysis.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND THEIR DISCUSSION

The dominance in Russia’s domain may be reflected in both tangible and intangible activities of the country-conqueror. Therefore, among intangible activities, we are ordinary emphasizing voting manipulation in various countries around the World, price dumping, and artificial “play” with gas and oil prices in the global market of fossil fuels, mechanisms of fear and manipulation against anti-Russian activists, mobbing in social networks, recruiting children for espionage for

the good of Russian army around and out of continent, recruiting Ukrainian previously abducted from the temporarily occupied Ukrainian territories in the military to combat against fellow Ukrainians on the frontline, engaging into media manipulations to “promote Russian values” within the EU, as well as on the other continents and so forth.

Howbeit, the “tangible” Russian crimes against, first of all, Ukrainian civil and military society, as well as against the whole democratic global World, appear to go deeper and possess even more cruel scope, and dedication than one could have ever imagined.

The case of the well-known Ukrainian journalist, Viktoriia Roshchyna, has shaken up the global society as her body returns from the Russian captivity (after endless months of torture and inhumane treatment, her hair had been completely shaved, her feet disclosing electroshocking “favourite Russian therapy”, as well as having her hyoid bone broken, as a probable consequence of the strangulation), missing certain body parts, or, better to say, organs [1]. Her eyes, brain, and larynx would be removed, but the World’s community would spot the violation of the main provisions of the Geneva Convention, i.e. the Article 13:

“Prisoners of war must at all times be humanely treated. Any unlawful act or omission by the Detaining Power causing death or seriously endangering the health of a prisoner of war in its custody is prohibited, and will be regarded as a serious breach of the present Convention. In particular, no prisoner of war may be subjected to physical mutilation or to medical or scientific experiments of any kind which are not justified by the medical, dental, or hospital treatment of the prisoner concerned and carried out in his interest.

Likewise, prisoners of war must at all times be protected, particularly against acts of violence or intimidation and against insults and public curiosity.

Measures of reprisal against prisoners of war are prohibited.” [3].

In tortured and cruelly murdered Ukrainians, whose bodies are being eventually returned to their homeland after every so often years of waiting, the broken foundations of the Convention are being raised as the main reason for Russia’s “inhuman treatment of captured soldiers” blame. For the Global community, observing the Russian line of behavior with wide-eyed terror, the only fact of violation of the Geneva Convention appears to be a serious argument to apply for a respective punishment following the very well expected some kind of Nuremberg Trial, which is supposed to wait “all war criminals”, exactly as it was waiting the main actors of Nazi Germany back in 1945. Up to this point, nonetheless, the message which is indeed being decoded by both representatives of the

political elites, and ones from the civil community around the Globe, is as follows:

1) “Russia does not see any proper legal reaction to its actions regarding captured soldiers; therefore, it concludes to proceed with its criminal activity”.

2) “Russia applies, as it was highly expected, the so-called language of power. By demonstrating inhumanly murdered soldiers, it shares the message with the outer democratic world, claiming that “the power may do anything it wants, until there is no proper counter-power ready to oppose something to the aforementioned force”.

On July 30th, nevertheless, the Ukrainian media outlets are exploding with outrageous news: “the cadaver of the previously captured Ukrainian soldier is returned from the Russian captivity following a new prisoners’ exchange, missing ALL internal organs” [2]. It is not a sole sign of torture anymore, for every proficient analytical observation, it appears to be a new, and a most probable sign of organ harvesting, as well as subsequent human organs and tissues trafficking. This blood-based, illegal, and callous practice, however, constitutes an “expected” practice within the war realities since ancient times.

Suspicious of the Ukrainian and Global community have never been confirmed, and will not be confirmed by the Russian side on the matter. Albeit it is truly universally acknowledged that the previously mentioned practice is an accompanying “dirty business” naturally related to wartime realities. Hence, the subsequent research narration will only superficially entail the “story of Russian war realities in the territory of Ukraine, and/or about the war itself”, but in reality, it will reveal a feasible enough cause and effect relationship towards the following interconnection: **“war-captivity-inhumane treatment-human organs and tissues harvesting with a subsequent monetization of the “goods”- gaining of influence-optimizing the health of local community - social and political manipulation on the counterparty”**. This scheme is not a Russian war-related project; it is a reflection of every single global armed conflict, war, humanitarian and/or climate-related crisis, which involves (or may potentially involve) the capture of combatants and civil society representatives, massive relocation and/or displacement of the local community, kidnapping, abduction of people of the counter-party state, as well as a highly harmful propaganda and almighty political manipulation on the World’s arena. The following article will prove that the recent inhuman behaviours of the Russian army-related actors are not a sole violation of the international humanitarian law, but that they constitute a three-dimensional damaging activity, directed to the: 1) domination of the global

political arena through manipulation; 2) getting involved and managing an illegally flourishing human organs' and tissues' trafficking following the human trafficking in war realities as it is.

This article will touch upon the main definitions of organ donation and organ harvesting, philosophical aspects, medical and social challenges of the anteriorly mentioned phenomena, organ donation/harvesting as a tool for socio-cultural manipulation within wartime realities, pharmaceutical "boom" as a result of flourishing of the "illegal organs and tissues freely accessible to use", as well as notion of the organ tourism and organ/tissues illegal trade as an instrument of gaining of the Global "informal social dominance".

In the first place, to eliminate all possible confusion between commonly mistaken notions as "organ donation" and "organ harvesting". Thus,

Organ donation is the process of "giving" healthy organs or tissues from one individual (the donor) to another one (the recipient) to replace a failing, non-functioning, or damaged organ/tissue in the recipient's body. The main aspects of the organ donation procedure, which is a legally regulated mechanism, is the "charitable nature" i.e. in most countries across the Globe, the sale of organs (or the so-called "organ market") remains illegal, hence, in the aim of making donation procedure take place, there is a necessary emotional bound needed between the donor and recipient; both individuals should be medically compatible i.e. the donor and recipient have biological characteristics that make the transplant more likely to be successful and reduce the risk of rejection; and, finally, the proper timing should be taken into account (this postulate will be taken into consideration later in this article). In general, it is claimed that by donating the organs, one individual may save the lives of eight people. However, it is mostly the case of the deceased patient (and, what is more, the patient whose organs were appropriately preserved following the organ procurement procedure). In contrast, from living patients, there is only a limited number and organs that can be taken for the sake of the analyzed procedure, including, for example, the kidney or the part of the liver. The other organs, which is evident, can be donated only once death takes place, e.g., heart, lungs, whereas the donation of the brain is not commonly confirmed by medical specialists yet. Moreover, the death may occur in either controlled or uncontrolled conditions, i.e., the so-called "Controlled Donation after Cardiac Death" (cDCD) and "Uncontrolled Donation after Circulatory Death" (uDCD), as regulated by the Maastricht provisions that we will cover later in our narration. Finally, however, each state possesses a diverse attitude towards the organ donation procedure itself, choosing

either an opt-in or opt-out system, which will also be covered subsequently in the sub-chapters of the article.

Organ harvesting. According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, organ harvesting constitutes an integral part of the human trafficking for the organ removal procedure, where the consent (always required for rendering the organ donation procedure legal) is void due to being given under the physical and/or mental pressure, deception, fraud, of a position of vulnerability, [4] or a position where the consent is not being taken into consideration, as, for instance, in case of the captured Ukrainian soldiers in the Russian captivity, where the consent for any kind of behaviour vis-à-vis the imprisoned/captured individual is needed according to Russian military authorities (what constitutes a direct and clear violation of the antecedently underlined provisions of Geneva Convention).

There is no doubt that these are not exceptional provisions of the Geneva Convention, which are being violated in such a way, but also the procedure, pre- and post-donation care requirements are being ignored, and the condition of the imprisoned "donor" is being disregarded. Not to mention that the number and vital role of the organs for this individual are also being an object by the "deaf ear". Following the main postulates of our narration, we may also subsequently claim that the potential "death in the Russian captivity" (exactly, as it may take place in any zone of the armed conflict/war and/or climate disaster across the Globe) may occur as a result of the organ harvesting itself, either because of lack of necessary post-donation cure, or due to the removal of literally ALL vital organs. Under those circumstances, the sole "causing death or seriously endangering the health of a prisoner of war in its custody" according to Article 13 of the Geneva Convention, alongside "physical mutilations" and/or "medical and scientific experiments" that should be taken into account, but a direct postulate of possible "causing death through organ harvesting" or, better to say, "death penalty through organ harvesting". To what extent the aforementioned notion is not regulated or potentially punished by humanitarian law, such an inhumane, degrading, and cruel activity does not lack historical practical prototypes.

By concluding this sub-chapter, we should emphasize as following:

1) One should not confuse the notions of "organ donation" and "organ harvesting", especially under the prism of the illegal anti-human practices in conditions of the Russian (or every other) military captivity, hence, the illegal practice of organs removal which is currently taking place particularly in Russia towards Ukrainian captured defenders, is an organ harvesting;

2) Under such conditions, the performed organ removal is not the sole demonstration of failure of the Geneva Convention provisions; at least, in the case of a Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine, it is rather a full-fledged policy of socio-cultural manipulation by power and dominance on a global scale. This is an illegal human trafficking related practice, which does not allow for exceptionally war-related physical and mental “adjusting” of the frontline, but, at the same time, may significantly optimize the overall health conditions of citizens suffering from organ failures, the state of medical research and science in Russia, as well as may contribute to the “illegal”, but still, desperately needed influx of financial resources as a result of “putting the organs obtained in such a way from captured Ukrainian defenders on a list of a black organ market” alongside an expected price for the analyzed good.

The subsequent headlines of our narrative will address all the aforementioned matters.

Organ donation tourism, illegal organ markets, assets, and liabilities of the organ market during wartime. What does the pharmaceutical branch in war-involved countries have in common with organ harvesting in war-involved countries? Medical challenges. To properly approach the difference between organ donation and organ harvesting, both from legal and medical perspectives, we should primarily address the diversity between the organ donation/related attitudes, as well as the whole procedure as it is. Once the organ donation procedure is correctly explained, we shall be ready to proceed with the organ harvesting.

Thus, the organ donation procedure (starting from the organ procurement step) occurs either under the condition of controlled or uncontrolled circulatory death or after brain death. At this moment, we shall elucidate all three definitions.

Hence, the Controlled Donation after Cardiac Death (cDCD) refers to the process of organ donation where organs are recovered after a patient’s death, which is determined by the cessation of heart and lung function (circulatory criteria) also described as irreversible cessation of the heart and lung function, following the planned withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment [12]. After circulatory arrest, however, there is a waiting period (also referred to as “no-touch” period) to ensure that the autoresuscitation (Lazarus syndrome) will not occur before the organ procurement procedure begins. This period may vary from state to state, traditionally lasting from 2 to 5 minutes.

Brain death, therefore, [13] the death is declared based on neurological criteria, specifically the irreversible cessation of all brain functions, including brainstem functions.

Uncontrolled Donation after Circulatory Death (uDCD) refers to organ donation from individuals who experience sudden, unexpected cardiac arrest outside of a hospital setting, and who are deemed non-resuscitable [14].

From the legal perspective, however, countries across the Globe are diversified according to the system of organ donation. Thus, we distinguish opt-in and opt-out attitudes to the procedure.

An opt-in system, also known as a system of “**express consent**”, requires individuals to explicitly register their wish to be an organ donor. The default option is that the organs will not be donated unless the individual has actively opted in [16]. Ukraine currently applies the opt-in system, excluding active military or drafted soldiers from even the legal possibility to donate (if not in case of after-death donation, of course).

The opt-out system, also referred to as “**presumed consent**,” presumes that all individuals are willing to donate unless they have explicitly registered their refusal. The default option is that the organs will be donated unless the individual has actively opted out. The opt-out system (in case of a legal procedure of a literal “organ donation”, but not harvesting) requires still optional additional procedures to enable the organ procurement procedure, i.e., consulting with family members (unless some of the family members will be against the procedure, it will most probably not take place). Moreover, the family is usually consulted, even if the individual has neither registered nor mentioned their refusal [15]. Russia nowadays applies the opt-out system of organ donation.

As we notice, there are numerous fundamental differences and approaches when we discuss the postulate of organ donation as a legal procedure of surgically removing organs or tissues from one person and transplanting them to another one, to save the last one, who is often in desperate need of a transplant, to proceed with his/her life.

In an ideal situation, after multi-organ after-death donation, around 8 people’s lives may be saved, not to mention the lives that should be optimized through less “life-saving” procedures, enabling the last group of recipients to obtain a transplant which is even though not crucial for survival, but still can enhance the level of one’s well-being significantly. Hence, among typical after-death transplants, we distinguish the following organs: the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, and intestines [16]. In case of the aforementioned organs, the “no-touch” period plays a significant role in proper preservation, as well as in the very after-procurement donation as it is. The organ procurement involves firstly the heart and lungs, which are later followed by the liver, pancreas, and kidneys. The heart and lungs, thus,

have a crucially short preservation period, which may be counted in hours, whilst the kidney, for example, may be preserved for a longer time (counted even in days). By taking into account the period before the organ procurement under the conditions of both controlled and uncontrolled cardiac death, the very “no-touch period”, a documentation check to establish the fact of being or refusing to be an organ donor, family consultations if needed, checking the waiting list of patients, enabling the presence of the recipient who will luckily receive the transplant, possible non-obvious implications of the accompanying procedures, for instance, linguistic barriers among family members and doctors with a lack of chance to involve the interpreter, Lazarus syndrome at the no-touch or slightly after the no-touch period (due to the fact, that there is no strict requirement related to the time frames of the period before organ procurement), unavailability of family member to timely clarify a real attitude of the potential donor to the organ donation, and many other factors may render the organ donation procedure impossible or, what appears to be a more obvious consequence, may render specific (the rarest within the frame of donation procedure) organs spoiled and non-suitable for the further donation. It is also worth mentioning that, from the other side, i.e., from one of the recipients, the individual may suddenly appear incompatible with the donor’s transplant, the organs may possess a high morbidity level (as lungs, especially, in a longer time perspective), etc. Thus, in terms of the major organs, it never means that one potential (and even willing to help) donor will always donate all organs that may be healthy, but which, eventually, may not survive the pre-procurement period, or which may fail afterwards. Slightly better results show the tissues which may also be transplanted, including: corneas, bone, tendons, heart valves, nerves, and veins [17].

By confronting the number of desperately needy patients with the number of potentially available organs across the Globe, the peculiarity of being put on the waiting list, accompanied by completely unpredictable conditions of “being or not being available” at this very moment to receive the transplant, and/or by staying in a risk zone because there is no chance to forecast a potential refusal of donor’s next kins, we can easily reach the conclusion that the number of even potential (so to say “willing to donate”) donors will never match the real World’s demand regarding transplants in need.

Following this postulate, there are two important clues that we have to analyze simultaneously. This is the very reason why medical specialists are debating with ethical committees around the Globe about the right to “preserve” the body of a future donor in conditions which are maximally similar to ones that he/she had

during life (therefore, to artificially sustain the heart function or each organ which is not time resistant separately to ensure the best quality of organs). Alongside tackling controlled and uncontrolled circulatory deaths, these are the very backgrounds of emphasizing the perspective development of the euthanasia-related organ donation procedure, which enables not just to assist the person in pursuing death due to suffering from an incurable and painful disease, or irreversible coma, but also to obtain all crucial human organs and tissues exactly in the condition they are needed for a transplantation procedure [19]. The organ donation following Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) is, however, permitted under specific conditions in Canada, Belgium, the Netherlands, and, since 2022, in Spain [20].

Nonetheless, the MAiD still provokes reasonable and professionally expected discussions both among legal and medical researchers and practitioners. According to the predominant anti-MAiD narration, legally allowing organ donation procedures following euthanasia will bring more harm than benefit, as in some cases where the organs will be taken from an irreversibly ill patient and transplanted to the individuals in need, a predominant number of cases will follow a drastic and inhumane scenario. Thus, it will unwillingly lead to treating the human body of a patient suffering from pain or an irreversible coma as a “living laboratory” for preserving the organs in their best quality. There are numerous emphases among medical and legal professionals claiming that, in such a case, ferocious abuses will undoubtedly take place, as retrieving the medical assistance/life support from the patients who were able to turn back to a normal health condition, refusing help in a non-critical stage of the disease development, and, even trying to worsen the general level of a well-being of a patient who finds himself in a critical mental condition (Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) or Clinical Depression (CD)). Various complicated mental and psycho-emotional conditions are also typical for people overcoming migration, relocation, as well as forcible displacement-related disorders, not to mention Ukrainian children and adolescents who were abducted by Russia within the frame of the Russian aggression in Ukraine since 2014, as well as Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) who were captured by Russian servicemen during defending their homeland, Ukraine, who, to the point, often turn back from the captivity (or whose bodies are being returned from Russia) featuring numerous signs of tortures and/or missing organs and/or tissues, exactly as we have mentioned earlier. Thus, in case, if the physical or mental condition could have been in reality properly addressed, the medical assistance might have been

restrained or retrieved, as a result of which the individual might have decided in favor of assisted death. Yet, the abuse of the individual's mental and physical condition for the sake of facilitating the organ donation procedure still appears to be only one side of the problem. Hence, there is an issue of the philosophical attitude of the anteriorly discussed matter, i.e., the more we meet the MAiD followed by organ donation with a greater enthusiasm than it is worth meeting with, the more we push the global society to treat human beings as "sole means" as Immanuel Kant would describe the analyzed notion [11]. It might significantly decrease the very value of the human soul, alongside the value of the very life, by emphasizing the value (and predominantly the one which might be monetized) of the human's organs and tissues.

No better attitude would play along with Russian doctrine better than the contra-Kantian theory approach to organ donation. This is the point where organ donation is being turned into organ harvesting.

The global overall illegal but still functioning organ market remains one of the most contradictory issues in human history of modern history. It introduces the value of the organ to money exchange, supports global inequality, enhances social stratification, assists social biases and stereotypes, and, eventually, ends up being one of the most profitable "black" businesses that have ever existed on our Planet. The organ market that enables individuals to obtain human organs and tissues in exchange for money is legalized nowadays only in Iran still however, it puts limitations on anyone wanting to take part in the procedure. Overall, on the Planet, withal, human organs or tissues can be monetized legally, as, as it is commonly believed in the scientific literature, the possibility to buy" something that is now could only be charitably shared or given away will reduce the very clue of humanity, as well as will decline the matter of "desire" to help the person in need [21]. The illegal organ market is only claimed, however, to be actual in terms of living donation (so that in case if living donor is supposed to donate his/her organs or tissues), but, it is quite obvious that it will directly imply the scope of the organs and tissues from dead (or potentially dead) donors.

Nowadays, the illegal organ market globally is estimated to provide 5-10% of all organs available for transplantation. Regardless of general vision, it is not only the "black" side of the organ donation/harvesting-related coin that is benefiting from illegal supply. Year after year, official statistics claim that even the official ("white") organ transplantation-related sphere may, every so often, receive "illegal goods" [4]. The two notions remain fundamental at this stage: why and where the organ market is flourishing, and are people

from impoverished countries the only ones suffering from human trafficking for organ and tissue harvesting?

First of all, the organ market is flourishing because:

- 1) Anybody from across the globe in possession of a fortune or enough sum of money may benefit from each organ and/or tissue he/she desire or need;
- 2) There is no waiting list stretching in time for months and years, putting you at the risk of not surviving the vegetating on the list time frame;
- 3) The illegal market makes available a larger number of organs that would not be available following an ordinary "white" procedure. Yet, the scientists claim that the illegal market provides faster and smoother access only to kidneys, liver, and heart transplants. At the same time, however, due to the lack of credible resources, we can neither properly estimate the number of illegally available organs, nor the types of organs themselves;
- 4) It is a very typical misconception that all organs on the illegal market are available for an incredibly high price. Most of them indeed are not cheap, but as a very popular documentary, "The tales from the organ trade" claims, the overall prices remain rather affordable than not for a middle-income patient. The one who is indeed being disadvantaged in the case of being engaged in illegal organ market trade is the donor. They originate predominantly from impoverished countries or a drastically low-income community. Often through misrepresentation, abduction, bullying, kidnapping, or threat, they become rather victims than somehow "equal players" within the illegal transaction.

Yet, even the black organ market cannot meet the overall global demand of human organs and tissues, because even if there are more organs and tissues available, obviously rare ones, as the heart, lungs, for example, remain a "fortune" for the potential recipient, as by alongside its rarity on the market, the organs still possess a high level of morbidity, or might invoke complications while "accomodating" to the recipient's body.

The lungs, which we will touch upon separately later in our narration, constitute such a rare product also due to the short survival time after being removed from the donor's body, so the organ appears not to be transportable, unlike any other one.

The organ market, which is flourishing within any kind of armed conflict, climate disaster, war, or any kind of political/economic/social instability, tackles the flip side of the aforementioned black organ market, and

optimizes the organ harvesting so that this horrible business becomes even “darker”. We shall analyze this issue through the prism of the Russian full-scale invasion in Ukraine, and the often appearing news on returned bodies of the Ukrainian POWs demonstrating a lack of internal organs after returning from the Russian captivity.

In the first place, we shall mention that Russia is an obvious “safe harbour” for a potential organ harvesting procedure that may flourish on the very background of the organ donation legislation operating in the country. It is a unique legislation case where the limit between “organ donation” and “official organ harvesting acted by the state itself” is blurred. Namely, according to the report issued by the OHCHR [4], in Russia, the organ donation procedure operates under a presumed consent, or “opt-out” system. However, in practice, the system is more accurately described as an “imputed consent” system, because the consent is not actively sought during life or from relatives at the time of death. What is more, the attending physician, in most cases, may issue an official “approval” to enable the organ transplantation procedure, claiming that the changes in the patient’s condition are “irreversible enough” not to seek additional remedies and cease life support treatment. The only exception to the case is children under 18, the organ donation from whom shall be directly authorized only by their next of kin.

The currently operating organ donation/harvesting system in Russia enables a brilliant organ harvesting abuse in the Russian war-related prisons where Ukrainian POWs are held. For the general democratic World, organ harvesting against and towards POWs is a direct violation of the main provisions of the Geneva Convention; for Russia, however, something is happening inside the prison system in the territory of the state that is a part of normality. By constantly year after year torturing the Ukrainian prisoners, depriving them of health care, food, and clean water, violating their basic human rights, making them into victims of degrading treatment, Russian pro-war servicemen and medical doctors serving in the prisons, easily drive Ukrainian defenders to a critical state where they either seek to commit a suicide, or commit one, or die as a result of beatings and torturing. Then, the organs of the “potential donor” are most probably removed, as, as we have mentioned before, Russian medical authorities do not need any authorization from the donor’s relatives, or even the donor itself. For Russia, the Ukrainian POWs are no more than a tool of propaganda sustenance and an illegal organ market trade flourishing; they do not seek to treat POWs with the due respect they deserve to be treated with. Apart from the Russia-friendly organ harvesting procedure, within the frame of the captivity

(so, where neither international human rights organizations, not the basic provision of the humanitarian law do not have any actual influence), there are few additional accompanying “benefits” which render the organ harvesting from the POWs (as well as from the Ukrainian abducted children) even more lucrative to Russia than benefiting from the organs taken from the representatives of the so-called impoverished “Global South” (even though the last notion is drastically biased and shall be prohibited from official application in speaking). They are as follows:

- 1) Apart from torturing, the anteriorly mentioned cases with removing all human organs and sometimes even tissues from the cadaver of the Ukrainian POWs, definitely confirm the fact that within the Russian war-related imprisonment Ukrainians are being treated as if they were “living laboratories” for human organs preservations, so that they preserve their best quality;
- 2) Medical care within the frame of the imprisonment facility in Russia is a continuation of the prison itself. Thus, within ordinary medical tests, Russian medical staff could check the main parameters of the Ukrainian POWs to establish potential compatibility with the presumed recipient. This is a description in a nutshell of the procedure of the “in-prison donor choosing”, and the plain response to the question, why some soldiers return alive, and someone returns in a coffin missing all human organs, or being even burnt to the ashes. In our opinion, the practice which is mentioned above, is rather to hide drastically visible signs of the organ harvesting, and not ones of the violence and degrading treatment regarding Ukrainian POWs;
- 3) Having an access to the POWs as well as treating them as “human living laboratories” for organ harvesting related procedures enable Russian medical and political elites who sponsor and lobby illegal organ market, enable access to the organs which ordinarily are either non-accessible or possess a high level of morbidity within the ordinary legal organ donation procedure, for example, lungs.
- 4) The number of in such a way exploited Ukrainian POWs and, potentially, Ukrainian abducted minors (because, with a lack of responsible adult relatives from Ukraine, Ukrainian newborns, children, and adolescents who were kidnapped by Russian military servicemen, can easily become victims of the illegal human trafficking for organs chain.

Even after being adopted by Russian citizens, the fact of faking the authorization certificate for organ harvesting related practices appears to be a simple formality), provides an estimate of a potential number of organs that were influxed through capturing and abduction of Ukrainian citizens. The number of in such a way obtained illegal organs and tissues may not just enhance the level of well-being of Russian citizens who will obtain their organs (even those which are not normally accessible through black market as well), but may also become a decisive political tool in the hands of Russia on the international political arena. Organ tourism, i.e. travelling abroad to obtain (to buy) an organ which the potential patient is in a desperate need of, pushes multiple people annually into a trip to seek a necessary human organ “good” on the illegal market. Yet, not all organs are still easily or rapidly accessible, even if through “black procedure” they are definitely closer to the recipient than following the legal pathway. A simple enabling of access to the “crucially rare and incredibly needed” human organs on the Russian black market may render the Russian organ harvesting sphere one of the most influential in the world. Thus, Russia will obtain a commitment from individuals who were somehow saved only and exceptionally in the territory of this state from their irreversibly approaching death. If the democratically ruled state cannot protect its citizens from dying because of lack of organ transplant, but the authoritarian state is wholeheartedly ready to do so, the political views and sympathies are also becoming softer vis-à-vis such a state. This is a way of the best further promotion of the Russian pro-war doctrine, because “the state which saves lives of those who were literally forgotten by their super cool democratic state, cannot be obviously bad”. This is the way Russia may obtain support from the “hidden frontline” across the Globe.

- 5) Last but not least, the pharmaceutical and even medical advancement-related sphere will definitely benefit from the influx of “spare organs” of Ukrainians who are supposed to be murdered according to Russian propaganda. Following the story of the Nazis’ rule in Europe within WWII, people commonly tend to forget that the illegal and inhumane experiments on human beings led the Global society to the medical advancement and

discovery of numerous pharmaceutical drugs that are still able to cure multiple serious illnesses and diseases [22]. In our present realities, we suppose that Russia may “train its skills” also in the sphere of organ and tissue donation/harvesting, striving for successful brain donation, for example, which still appears an impossible nonsense for the global medical science.

Abuse and human organ harvesting as a practice of socio-cultural manipulation. Kidnapped and abducted newborns, children, and adolescents. Informal social stratification vs organ donation in the modern World. Why are war prisoners and minors so desirable through the prism of organ donation? According to the Guardian, around 35,000 individuals under 18 years old have been abducted by Russian military servicemen and relocated to the territories that either belong to Russia or are temporarily occupied by Russia within the frame of the full-scale Russian invasion in Ukraine [5]. The Guardian reports that around 2000 children have already been returned from the “informal captivity”, whilst the rest of the minors are publicly claimed as “non-returnable”, at least by the reporters of the outlet. Alongside tragic statistics, there is a valuable postulate underlined: *“This is likely the largest abduction since WWII, comparable to the Germanification of Polish children by the Nazis”*, - says Nathaniel Raymond, executive director of Yale’s Humanitarian Research Lab.

The dominant goal, or better to say, the “official” goal of the minors’ abduction to Russia within the Russian full-scale invasion in Ukraine, differs depending on the “global just truth” and one claimed by Russia. Hence, there are the reasons that seem to be objective from the common sense’s perspective, and these reasons/obstacles are common for every military/armed conflict, political, economic, and other types of crisis, which are somehow being accompanied by human relocation/displacement, and massive death/murders. Thus, we headline as follows:

1. By abducting Ukrainian newborns, children, and minors, Russia strives to “restore” the human potential in the territory of Russia. It has both social and political aspects, though. On one hand, by a massive influx of youngsters to the territory of Russia, this state is claimed not to “socially die” due to a natural process of population ageing. What is more, while the fourth year of the Russian full-scale war in Ukraine is entering its peak, confirming a steadily rising number of Russian military servicemen being killed on the frontline, together with new data on Russian women conscription to the army, directly from the imprisonment (due to the

lack of male combatants, and voluntary army servicemen as well), the abduction of Ukrainian children was dedicated to optimize the “number of Russia population” and to make up the “drastic loss” or “generation gap” which would have appeared once the war is over, as the dying servicemen are representatives of that specific age group which constitutes the predominant childbirth potential. Exactly as it is in Ukrainian realities. This crime of Russian political elites and military servicemen was supposed to reduce the Ukrainian reproduction potential of Ukraine through massive murders of minors in Ukraine, while Russian shellings and bombing, through minors’ abduction to Russia, and, last but not least, by forcing youngsters under 25 years old to flee abroad seeking for a war refuge somewhere else without a potential to return in the nearest future. Under such conditions, we should and we are obliged to claim both direct and indirect human rights violations within the frame of the minors’ abduction to Russia. As the first option, killing and kidnapping the Ukrainian younger generation within the timeframe of war, as the second one - forcing Ukrainian children to either military service on the side of Russia right after abduction, or a violent coercion to the pro-Russia education based on “Russian peace realities”[6].

2. The proper Russian vision of the reasons for Ukrainian children's kidnapping is, in our opinion, may be and should be diversified according to the subsequent classification: **“official Russian doctrine”, “unofficial Russian doctrine”, “the doctrine of criminal bands, human trafficking cartels, and political elites in Russia”**. The last one will be perfectly applicable for the accompanying conditions of each armed conflict/war, and political/social/economic instability currently existing around the World. Thus,

2.1. According to the doctrine, which within the frame of this research we shall call “the official Russian doctrine”, everything that is being done/committed towards (or against) Ukraine and its citizens and/or defenders, is a way “to protect the outer World from Nazis). Exactly as Hitler’s Germany in the XX century, Putin’s Russia is trying to “invent an Evil” abroad, i.e. in the territory the Russian elites are desperately interested in. After an unsuccessful attempt to coerce Ukraine to pro-Russian political views and attitudes in 2014, the full-scale invasion in Ukraine seemed to be “a logical consequence” to Russian elites unless they wanted to “lose” the final chance to conquer Ukraine as a politically independent state. Nowadays, after almost 4 years of brave Ukrainian resistance, the Russian political and military potential is even more blurred as well as unclear than it was even at the very beginning of the year 2022. Nonetheless, the Russian media, which constitutes one of the strongest pillars of

the propaganda machine, needs confirmation that “the official legend” does work. Thus, under the cover of a political lie of “saving Ukrainian minors”, newborns, children, and adolescents are day after day being abducted and forcibly relocated to Russia, with a simultaneous drastic breach of their childhood happiness. According to the official or social media statements of multiple human rights protection-related activities, apart from pro-Russian civil and military education, Ukrainian youngsters are being forced to disrupt all connections with their families in Ukraine, their culture, and Ukraine itself, not to mention the fact, that in most of known cases, those minors are exposed to the constant physical and emotional violence due to their origins. Here, we mention the adjective “known”, as most of the 35,000 cases remain “shadowed” due to the lack of a real influence of any human rights protection activists within the Russian borders.

2.2. According to the “unofficial Russian doctrine”, the Russian society (as almost every society in the World) is characterized by severe biases and stereotypes regarding individuals possessing diverse cultural, religious, linguistic, and other backgrounds compared to the “dominant nation”. Practically, it is being every so often reflected on more or less, social stratification, where representatives of those ethnic groups which do differ significantly, judging by their native language, history (which mostly managed to be preserved by the local representatives even though it was surely put under repression by the USSR and post-USSR political regimes), and, first of all, by their appearance, e.g. Bashkirs, Armenians, Chechens, Chuvash, Tatars and so forth. All aforementioned nationalities, including also Ukrainians, are unofficially recognized as “void” even though they are recognized by the Russian legislation. In real life, however, the representatives of these nations are predominantly bullied and tormented by stereotypes, especially by their mostly non-proficient Russian language comprehension level, their cultural values are always underestimated, and their history is always questioned by both “general Russian doctrine” and by “big brothers, Russians” as well. Formerly rich and authentic cultures of the contemporarily discriminated ethnic groups in Russia are generally viewed as “the low-class people” whose worth is limited by work in the service sector, who are often being targeted by extremist groups, who are often being put under pressure under all possible conditions by society, and who are commonly blamed for all political/economic/legal instabilities which may occur within the Russian borders). We are pretty sure that the situation described above is a common state of affairs in high-, upper-middle-, lower-middle-, middle-, and low-income countries. Sometimes, the social stratification and biasing of an

ethnic group may be associated with migrants, refugees, and forcibly displaced persons (commonly called “newcomers”), and, sometimes, with tourists or work-related nomads as well.

Yet, from the perspective of the healthcare system in each state, especially in one that is being actively involved in a long-lasting armed conflict and/or war, the quintessence is to optimize the health-related support of the citizens in a such way that as many people as possible could be either conscripted to the army, or work hard for the frontline-related sphere. No matter how successful the Russian propaganda machine is, and even by having an actively working opt-out organ donation legislation system, in case of donating from living donors and over 150 million potential recipients on the waiting list, cultural and social stratification-related biases appear to play a key role in deciding on whether to save the life of the presumed patient, or not, would it be a child or an adult. Thus, “the big Russian brother” will not likely donate to the offspring of ethnic groups from South of Russia, from Central Asian republics, etc. The tendency is in action, also vice versa. But the state still needs as many workers as possible, unless it desires to deal with a declining wartime-related economy.

Hence, the solution is being found. Organ donation statistics across Russia have been booming since 2022, declaring almost a 17% rise in organ donation in 2022 and almost 20% in 2023, respectively, underlining at the same time the numerous successful multiorgan procurement procedures. The aforementioned figures are publicly available if searched through any search engine; we do not provide an official source, however, to avoid promoting Russia-related research sources.

2.3. The solution is indeed found, and it is, in our opinion (following the objective time frames-related suggestion) is directly correlated with the number of abducted newborns, children, adolescents, captured Ukrainian defenders (who are subsequently claimed as ones that went missing), and ones being confirmed dead in captivity due to severe diseases, multiorgan insufficiencies etc.

Hence, there is every reason to believe that the rapidly growing index of successful donation in Russia is directly related to the illegal engagement of the robbed organs from people who were kidnapped from Ukraine after an outbreak of the full-scale invasion in 2022, in particular. In addition to the growing number of organ procurement procedures, the death rate as an index from 2021 to 2023 rapidly declined, with a sudden rise in 2024 (the phenomenon that is connected with war-related losses) (from 16.7 to 12.1 deaths per 1,000 population, and 15.9 deaths per 1,000 population, respectively). Even if we presume a justification by

propaganda manipulation vis-à-vis the numbers of combatants killed on the frontline, the discrepancy in earlier analyzed indices cannot remain unnoticed.

To picture the reasonableness of our assumptions as stated above, we suggest using globally important lung transplantation-related challenges. Hence, the lungs represent by far one of the most demanding organs both for organ procurement and for post-operative care. Not to mention, a visible lack of appropriate transplantation centers across the Globe, where such operations are even possible. Besides, even fewer medical centers allow for the downsizing of the lung from the adult donor to make the transplant fit the child or a newborn. However, the individuals under 12 are still rare in receiving a lung transplant, except for ones over 45 years old, as these age groups reveal the highest post-operative morbidity rate compared to those of 12-45 years old. Nonetheless, the survival rate of patients after the procedure appears to reach an index of 85% in the first year after the transplantation procedure. The statistics reveal that in the long-term perspective, slightly more than 10% of transplants will avoid adding to the morbidity rate [7].

In the U.S., for example, a well-known case of Sarah Murnagan, diagnosed with cystic fibrosis and needing an urgent lung transplant in 2011, narrates about a brave legal fight between her parents’ lawyers and the the so-called Policy 3.7 issued by the U.S. body that deals with the design and management of the organs’ distribution policy to allow her receiving a transplant despite being under the age of 12. Since then, the level of scientific advancement has increased significantly, but under the prism of lung transplantation, numerous medical and philosophical postulates are still being raised before performing the procedure. Thus, the distribution policy towards lung transplants still considers the “potential probability” of the patient’s survival, the “benefit” of the patient to society (as the lung transplants are still rare and are exposed to a high morbidity rate, the “ordinary” waiting list is not commonly applied, the “proper patients are often selected, as those healthier, stronger, and more “subjectively suitable”). The rules vary from country to country, allowing for a high probability of corruption and extreme inequality in access to organ transplants. This is, in addition, the very moment when the organ market-related illegal trade comes into play, and does present its highest level of demand among the population requiring urgent treatment [8].

The lung transplant within the discussed notion was not chosen by accident. Thus, the “sudden influx” of potential organ donors, i.e., abducted children and Ukrainian defenders, who are held captive in the territory of Russia, may enhance the potential ratio of

illegal organ market functioning, alongside the pharmaceutical branch advancement that we have already mentioned above in the respective sub-headline.

Thus, by introducing even half of the abducted minors into the illegal human trafficking for organ trade, accompanied by at least some percentage of Ukrainian defenders who will eventually be claimed dead in imprisonment, or missing, will literally “switch” the level of the lung transplantation advancement, even on the global arena. With a bigger number of potential donors, whose consent will not be unofficially even asked for, the number of Russian newborns, children, and adolescents who might be saved through donation from kidnapped Ukrainian minors will increase, and the morbidity rate across the country will be optimized accordingly. The waiting list for lung transplants will suddenly decline, the number of possible compatible donors will increase, and, last but not least, in case of donors under 12 years old, there will be no more necessity to wait until they reach a “proper age for transplantation”, there will be no need anymore to downsize the adult’s lung to fit it into the child’s chest, as the organ in its natural size would be taken completely, by therefore enhancing both survival ratio of the organ and patient him-/herself. Ordinarily, under the influence of such accompanying conditions, as cystic fibrosis (CF), bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD), pulmonary hypertension (PH), congenital heart defects affecting the lungs, as well as multiple other diseases with a similar development pattern, lung transplantation is required. What is more, in children, both lungs have to be transplanted (either through double lung or bilateral sequential (bilateral single) procedures) [9], with a mostly simultaneous downsizing of the organ through: lobe resection, bilateral lobar transplantation, segmental transplantation [10].

With almost 150 million people in need of a lung transplant in Russia, potential “quasi-legally” obtained lung transplants from Ukrainian defenders within the timeframe of their stay in the Russian war-related captivity, the demand will also be constantly higher than the supply. The market’s “request” for the lung transplants, as well as for the other organs, obviously will be enormous, particularly from the perspective of the pharmaceutical branch research, and illegal market functioning that we mentioned before. By taking into account that, for the most part, the lungs that are supposed to be transplanted from adults to children, or adolescents to children of a younger age, or newborns, have to be appropriately downsized to fit into the individual chest’s dimension of the minor, in case of organ harvesting within human organ trafficking, we should always consider the possibility that the one “organ donor” may become a saviour for more than one

patient, or that the following case might be involved, where the patient is suffering from the lung insufficiency with a one sole lung damaged by the disease. Thus, to optimize his/her health indexes, in case of availability of illegal organs influx through the organ harvesting market, which is functioning within the frame of the ongoing war, the available lungs might also be transplanted to them.

Finally, we shall also emphasize the following postulates, which touch upon the objective explanations of the fact that the information of human organ harvesting in the Russian captivity towards captured Ukrainian defenders, and abducted Ukrainian children, may be hidden in Russia itself. The truth that the data is indeed at least partially shadowed may be effortlessly explained by the way the organ procurement and donation/harvesting procedure takes place from the perspective of the political influence emphasis. Thus, although by comparing the overall death to donation ratio in Russia (which was, as claimed earlier, increased significantly exactly after the full-scale invasion outbreak period, even though the death ratio has declined) it is indeed evident that there is a manipulation within the organ donation sphere in Russia, i.e. that unless there were a huge amount of living charitable donors willing to suddenly donate their kidneys, livers and hearts (the organs the Russian organ donation statistics are based on), the influx of “nobody knows where coming from” organs becomes apparent. However, despite the typical Nazi’s postulate about killing an enemy nation’s representatives (Ukrainian defenders and minors) for the sake of the Russian citizens’ health might be lucrative for a Russian propaganda-addicted audience, we shall not forget the dominant postulates of our priorly explained sub-headline. Hence, everything that is happening in Russia is either dependent on or closely connected to politics. And, once more, the lung transplants by being equally desirable and expedient on the global arena, might become a mechanism of the illegal organ and human trafficking market manipulation for the benefit of Russia, following which the state which provoked the war may become an infinite peacemakers, at least for those, who are in a desperate need of the organ transplants. Imagining once again the lucrative character of, in particular, lung transplants, for a great number of individuals from across the Globe, Russia might thus become the last straw that has conquered the lives of the aforementioned people in need. A sophisticated market manipulation in the organ trade might significantly alter the balance of power in the global arena. Nonetheless, the way social attitudes towards Russia as an attacking state, and Ukraine, as a defender of its freedoms and rights, might be swayed by such a hidden but still

proficient action, will be eventually decisive for global political elites as well.

Yet, if unveiled, the information of the organ harvesting against Ukrainian prisoners of war, as well as abducted Ukrainian minors, in the territory of Russia, will never be damaging enough vis-à-vis Russia's reputation in both the internal and external political arena. The last argument may be explained in a two-dimensional way, namely, using a chain of direct and indirect lines of sequence in regard to the analyzed actions.

- Directly, therefore, if unveiled, the scenario might be as follows: a) a predominant number of Russian citizens, as well as pro-Russian society around the World, will only support the idea of using organs originating from the Ukrainian POWs and abducted minors, because radical pro-war attitudes based on propaganda always give birth to the uncontrollable hatred that will support an idea of an inhumane violence; 2) The anteriorly mentioned provisions of the Geneva Convention have not been working properly ever since the war started in 2022, but the lack of the document's efficiency was analyzed by the Russian war-related servicemen and political elites once the first stage of the Russian invasion in Ukraine in 2014 took place. Thus, without a proper legal reaction, there is no need to be afraid of the action itself; 3) Even in case the legal consequence follows, and the Nuremberg Trial will be activated against Russian war-related elites, exactly as it was in 1945, against Nazi Germany leaders and main combatants, similarly to those days there is still no guarantees that the main actors of organ harvesting procedure will not avoid their punishment through faked suicides, escape at a proper time, faked collaboration with the court against pro-Russian political actors with a future exchange of the punishment according to the international rules with the one in the territory of the post-war Russia, where the retributive function of the sentence will most probably be reduced by engaging respective corruption methods;
- Indirectly, however, the open-sourced postulation was transmitted throughout the famous news platforms, as mentioned earlier, the Guardian in its article about Ukrainian children that were abducted, and who "nobody will be able to get back" [5]. Russia indeed plays with the lives of Ukrainian abducted minors as in some kind of a card game, by changing their identity documents, claiming they are ones who went missing while relocating deep into the Russian territory, or by forcibly putting the minors into the orphanage system, from where the traces of Ukrainian newborns, children and

adolescents will vanish. However, as mentioned, the articles, especially when shared within a globally respected news outlet, should be mindful of the vocabulary used in the headlines. Because, following the aforementioned narration, there is no way to get the children back to Ukraine, even though most of the Ukrainian abducted minors were forcibly taken from their parents, who are still alive. Yet, similar headlines are giving an indirect but still tacit consent to accept the fact of "losing the young Ukrainians" forever. To what extent it will never be accepted by the Ukrainian audience across the Globe, among people who are less emotionally and/or physically engaged in the Russian war in Ukraine, similar headlines will provoke a decline in the interests of the Ukrainian minors' fates after their abduction to Russia.

Last but not least, some individuals across the Globe may decide to turn a blind eye to illicit actions allied to the organ harvesting from Ukrainian POWs and earlier abducted Ukrainian minors. Namely, in case, they will personally benefit from the organ harvesting results. They should not be personally engaged in the criminal organ or human trafficking, unlawful organ procurement, or murder during the analyzed procedure, but the desperate need of a transplant, which, nowhere but in Russia, may be obtained (even if for all the money in the World), will render such individuals accomplices of the war-related crime. The principles of democracy and overall World's well-being are crucial for our common sustainable development as a global community. But, in case one suffers from a grave organ or multiorgan insufficiency, the list of waiting for a transplant appears to reach the point in the year 2222, the person in need is a sole breadwinner (or even a unique parent of three children, for example), but, at the same time, his/her state of origins prohibits organ market where he/she might obtain an organ in exchange for money legally (the markets, as we have already emphasized, are legal only in Iran), and the person might find him-/herself tormented by a moral dilemma: i.e. "I might not be punished for buying (even illegally) a necessary organ abroad, I have a necessary amount of money to do so. The foreign market meets my demand, and I can go on with my life, without the necessity to leave my children in the orphanage". It is still not a dilemma. The dilemma is, what if this individual will comprehend at the right time the origin of the organs, especially if he/she is a wholehearted supporter of Ukraine? We reckon that nothing will probably change regarding the decision itself. Because if he/she will bravely refuse the illegal organ transplant, the other person might not be so noble. What is more, to be able

to help others, you should be in your best shape at first. “Ukraine will not benefit from my nobility vis-à-vis already accessible organs, but will benefit from my nobility and assistance, once I am fully recovered”, - one might think to oneself. Summum bonum, if not always guided by utilitarian visions of the overall happiness, or by Kantian combination of the happiness and virtue[12], sometimes the highest good might be egocentric in terms of putting one’s good in the first place of life’s priorities.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Wartime realities, armed conflicts, climate, economic crises, social, societal, as well as political instabilities significantly disrupt the level of psycho-emotional, alongside the general well-being of each individual who is directly or indirectly involved in the analyzed critical happenings.

2. Both combatants and representatives of the civil society are suffering gravely from the consequences of being involved in the military crisis and/or armed conflicts. Bombing and shelling constitute only one side of the “medal”. On the other hand, however, there is a significant level of vulnerability of each individual living in the conditions of wartime, as a result of which loads of dangers appear that civil and military society may be exposed to. Inhumane, the situation in military captivity appears to be. To what extent the breach of the main provisions of the Geneva Convention is objectively expected from each war or armed conflict, the realities of the Russian full-scale invasion in Ukraine are constantly declaring an absolutely “new vision” of human rights violations, which are different from ones that were claimed as “logical” before.

3. Human trafficking, including one for human organs and tissues’ illegal trade, and many similar “dirty businesses” accompany both times of peace and war. Every so often, individuals are exposed to financial struggles, e.g., debts, unmanageable bills, lack of personal financial solvency, etc., or one’s child is dreaming about studying at the University, the paycheck

for which is unbearable for a household for the time being. However, in a dominant number of cases, people may become exposed to the risk of becoming a victim of a proper human trafficking without even giving at least moral “consent” to do so. Therefore, not to solely optimize his/her family’s financial condition, but just because his/her organs were “lucrative” for human traffickers and traders. People of all ages, all nationalities, and almost all backgrounds across the Globe are, in one way or another, potential victims of human organs and tissues’ illegal trade. Under such conditions, there is always a risk to find oneself “robbed” of the organ and/or tissue, but alongside being deprived of a fundamental human right by not consenting to this type of operation, quite often, the individuals find themselves deprived of the right to live itself.

4. Military captivity, especially, under the prism of the Russian war against Ukraine which lasts since 2022 in a form of a full-scale invasions, whilst since 2014 as a conflict against some regions of Ukraine, postulates clearly that organ harvesting and subsequent illegal human trade (as a result of human trafficking within wartime realities) may constitute apart from a lucrative business, a notable method of psycho-emotional, social, and political manipulation, as messaging on failures of the humanitarian law in general.

5. Ukrainian defenders, civil society activists, journalists who were captured and remained enclosed in the war captivity somewhere in Russia, whose cadavers are later returned to Ukraine burnt to ashes or missing most of or all organs and tissues, kidnapped and/or abducted newborns, children, and adolescents who are claimed “relocated and missed” after crossing the border of Russia, all of them constitute not a sole violation of Article 15 of Geneva Convention, but also a ferocious mechanism of war strategy applied by Russia not just vis-à-vis combatants and captured civil society representatives themselves, but against the Global community as it is.

PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Perspective for future research: To analyze specific psycho-emotional disorders that accompany Ukrainian ex-POWs after they return from the Russian war-related captivity, as well as tools to address them efficiently.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Both authors have equally contributed to conceiving, collecting, analyzing, performing, writing, and proofreading the final manuscript.

FUNDING

This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or non-profit sectors.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There are no financial conflicts of interest to disclose.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DISCLOSURE

Nothing within this research was created with the assistance of the AI tools. The research was tailored, reviewed, and edited exceptionally by the authors.

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Received 12.05.2025

Accepted 20.08.2025

INFORMATION ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Larysa Kupriianova

Italian and Ukrainian Medical Doctor, PhD in Medicine, LLB,
CEO and Founder of KROK Academy by Dr. Kupriianova
Expert of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance of Ukraine

Daryna Kupriianova

Master of Laws
CEO and Founder of DAR for peace and equality
One Young World Ambassador