

Ihor KOZLOVSKY

700 days of captivity and torture

SUMMARY

Mr Ihor Kozlovsky is **a member of the National Academy of Ukraine**, a researcher in religious sciences, a historian, a writer, a poet and the author of several books and articles. In 2014 and 2015, he was one of the leaders of the peaceful demonstrations and prayer marathons in Donetsk against the pro-Russian separatists.

Kozlovsky first explained **the differences** between the Ukrainian people and language and the Russian people and language. He also explained why Putin's Russia considers Ukrainian territory to be its own.

The guest then detailed how the **seizure of power by arms and Russian infiltration** was achieved in Donbas. Russia waged **a hybrid war** to annex Crimea.

Russia's military occupation led **to persecution and torture of opponents**, and from the summer of 2014, people fled en masse to the territories of free Ukraine. Mr Kozlovsky explained how he himself was monitored by the Russian FSB and eventually arrested by agents of the Ministry of Security. He changed prisons three times and was **interrogated and tortured as in Stalin's time**. For half a year he was in a cell totally isolated from the outside world. Finally, he appeared with a bag over his head in front of a war tribunal which accuses him of intending to blow up the Lenin monument in Donetsk. Everything was a **lie** in order to build up so-called evidence against him and find him guilty. He explained how **he witnessed the horrific torture of Ukrainian prisoners and opponents**. Mr Kozlovsky explained why **all religious communities are persecuted except the Russian Orthodox Church**. The Russian occupation impoverishes the population who **lack work** and try to flee if they can.

Today, Mr Kozlovsky lives with his family in Kyiv. He ended his lecture by explaining that **Russia is putting pressure on Europeans** by making them **dependent on gas and oil supplies**. He said that living together and **love for one another** should be re-emphasised in Europe.

