

My dear friends and colleagues,

My name is Alex Shevchenko and many of you know me in person, or via some projects, papers, etc.

I'm a virologist and working as an Associate Professor at the Department of Virology, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.

We, Ukrainians, have always been a peaceful and likeable nation, and have never invaded any other country or territory.

For the last 8 years we've been defending our borders and minds against unjustified aggression from the Russia with over 11k lives already wasted.

It is with deep grave that I have to confirm that my home country, Ukraine, is now under severe and unexpected attack from Russia corpses. This very morning we had several missile strikes on Kyiv (a beautiful capitol city) and even more difficult situation in many border regions. We have lost ~200 lives just in 24 h.

We have army, we are strong, and we are ready but we're severely outnumbered and, in some context, left alone by Europe and the World in general. Constant discussions of your governments are just not enough at the moment, I'm afraid we need more from them and also from you!

So I **kindly request** you, my friends and the scientific community in general, to use any possible platforms (social media, private contacts within the government, decision makers, etc.) to raise awareness of your kin, to show support to my home country and countrymen, and to stimulate all possible help you can think of.

You don't have to do this, you can just stay aside and watch. Or you can save lives and contribute to solving the biggest challenge of the 21st century just by using your PC, phone and mouth. I will be much obliged if you choose the latter.

Peace,

My best regards,

Alex