

ISSUE 10  
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# Quarterly NEWSLETTER



HELLENIC RED CROSS



WHEREVER THERE'S A NEED

# Message from the HRC President

The virtuous ideas of the Red Cross visionaries have inspired us all to preserve the democratic function of the HRC, which alone guarantees meritocracy and equality through fair elections.

The thousands of members of the HRC who participated en masse in the election process, condemned those who attempted to deprive them of their electoral right through repeated judicial appeals in the lead up to the elections, by placing them where they belong, in the past. Meanwhile, they have sent a thundering message, acting as guardians of the HRC, to those who ever intend to challenge their democratic right and to those who ever intend to seek, with self-serving pursuits, to hurt and discredit the Organization.

The impeccable and fair electoral process, along with the clear message emerging from the result of the elections by the volunteers and members of the HRC, prevents the resurgence of disputes and unnecessary court battles that may result in renewed administrative disruption for our long-suffering Organization.

With their pride, the Red Crossers expelled and ostracised the perceptions and behaviours of the minorities who were attempting to recover attainments that they considered their own. They destroyed any suspicion of their reactivation within the Organization, with their absolute rejection, pitting them against their own conscience.

The result of the democratic elections ensures the Administrative Stability, Accountability and Ethical Responsibility of the Hellenic Red Cross, thus decoding the Treasury of Humanism.

The election of an administration with broader acceptance enables the relaunch of the Red Cross—now smoother than ever. By swiftly regaining the enormous momentum that distinguishes the world of the Red Cross, it sets its sights on unity and cohesion, so that it can be guided towards the fruitful forest of timeless humanitarian values.

The priority and constant strive for us all from this day forward will be the



continuous qualitative and innovative upgrade and reform of the HRC. With collective stimuli and ideas, in order to shape and multiply its prospects; to interweave mature choices and, with a framework involving action and innovation, to build a new cultural pipeline as the HRC's main driver of development.

I invite you all, united together, to join us in finally achieving social and Red Cross prosperity, to work towards social bliss, to forge solidarity, to give meaning to the future so that the flag of the Red Cross waves freely and, together, we may realize the values we stand for.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY WARMEST THANKS FOR YOUR TRUST.

Best Regards to all Red Crossers,

The President of the HRC

*Dr. Antonios Argerimos*

Pharmacist, Major General (Retired)



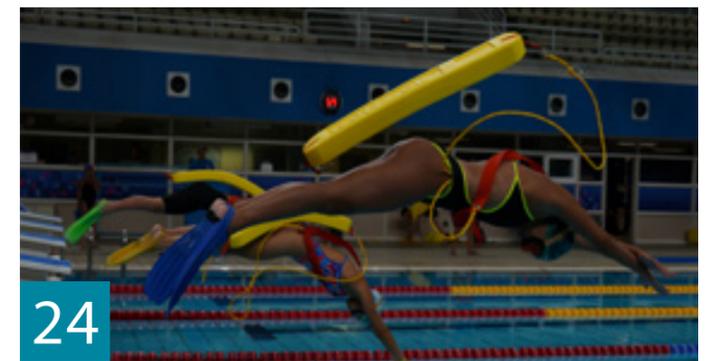
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## The Hellenic Red Cross firmly on the side of the civilians of Ukraine

Since the beginning of March, the Hellenic Red Cross, in constant cooperation and communication with the Ukrainian Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, has carried out 6

high-risk humanitarian missions within Ukraine, making a decisive contribution towards tackling the enormous humanitarian crisis caused by the ongoing hostilities.

The nearly 300 tons of human-

itarian aid safely delivered to the Ukrainian Red Cross have already been made available to civilians who were forced to flee their homes in an attempt to escape the horrors and destruction of war.



## The vast humanitarian work of the HRC Mobile Health Unit on the Ukrainian-Romanian border

Since the beginning of March, the Hellenic Red Cross has maintained a Mobile Health Unit on the Ukrainian-Romanian border, a few meters from the Siret customs, offering a warm embrace to those who lost everything to the devastating war—primarily women and children.

The HRC Mobile Health Unit, already in its 4<sup>th</sup> month in the area, consists of a team of experienced certified nurses who have successfully handled more than 1,700 cases to date (caring for patients with inju-

ries, chronic illnesses, etc.). It is worth mentioning the valuable humanitarian work offered by the appropriately trained volunteer Samaritans-Rescuers of the HRC, assisting with their experience and expertise in overcoming this immense humanitarian crisis.

It should also be noted that the HRC is the only National Red Cross Association that has been continuously stationed in the region since the beginning of March, earning the recognition of both the International Federation of Red Cross and

Red Crescent Societies and the local bodies that have found a valuable supporter in their difficult and particularly demanding task. In fact, on Sunday 19/6, the Emergency Inspectorate of the County of Bukovina in the Suceava Prefecture offered an honorary plaque to the tireless staff and volunteers of the HRC's Mobile Health Unit, as a small token of recognition and gratitude for the vast and multidimensional humanitarian work they are accomplishing.



## Nationwide blood donations for the victims of the war

The Hellenic Red Cross, in collaboration with the National Federation of Volunteer Blood Donor Associations and the Region of Attica, organized

major voluntary blood donations on April 8-9 in Athens, Piraeus, Thessaloniki, Ioannina, Larissa and Heraklion, Crete, in order to help the suf-

fering people of Ukraine. The collected blood bags were safely delivered to the competent authorities in Ukraine.



## Collection of humanitarian aid in cooperation with the Ministry of Sports

The Ministry of Sports is working with the Hellenic Red Cross to provide aid to Ukraine's suffering residents. During the action, humanitarian aid and basic necessities, primarily long self-life foods, will be collected at the sports facilities supervised by the GGA throughout the country.

The supplies will be collected by the local Regional Committees of the Hellenic Red Cross and will be forwarded to its main warehouse in Athens, from where the mission for Ukraine will depart.

The excellent initiative by the Ministry of Sports was pre-

sented at a joint press conference held at the offices of the HRC, in the presence of the Deputy Minister for Culture and Sports, Mr. Lefteris Avgenakis, and the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos.

## The President of the Hellenic Red Cross meets with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Moldova, Veaceslav Dobinda

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, A.E. Veaceslav Dobinda, accompanied by the Advisor for Bilateral Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, Mrs. Cristina Burian, and the First Secretary of the Embassy of Moldova in Greece, Mrs. Cristina Nani, visited the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, at the Organization's Headquarters in Ath-

ens on Friday, 19 April 2022. During the discussions, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, the Minister congratulated Mr. Avgerinos for the immense humanitarian work offered by the Hellenic Red Cross to the suffering people of Ukraine, while fully briefing him about the thousands of Ukrainian refugees hosted in Moldova, as well as the coordinated multifaceted actions implemented for their relief. Indeed, he made special reference to the children who have

been caught in the throes of war, pointing out that 10% of the refugees are children under the age of fifteen.

For his part, the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, laid out the potential for the HRC's assistance and support to the Ukrainian refugees who fully reside within Moldova, stressing the fact that the Hellenic Red Cross will assist in any effort aimed at alleviating the human suffering caused by the devastating war, by sending the appropriate aid.



## Signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the National Emergency Centre

On Friday, 20 May 2022, a scheduled meeting was held between the President of EKAV in Athens, Mr. Nikos Papaefstathiou, and the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, where a memorandum of cooperation was signed between the two organizations.

The signing of the memorandum of cooperation is the

culmination of the excellent long-term cooperation between the two parties, regarding the safe provision of first aid in emergencies and during any kind of official events. The main pillars of the cooperation between EKAV and the HRC concern immediate and medium-term initiatives and actions regarding the strengthening of volunteering and the certified training

of the HRC's staff, the mutual support in the implementation of planning for dealing with emergencies and health crises through the provision of volunteer Samaritans and the means of the HRC, as well as the overall communication link between the two organizations during their joint operational activities.



## The Hellenic Red Cross on the front lines in the battle against the flames at Panorama Voulas

The volunteer Samaritans-Rescuers of the Hellenic Red Cross responded immediately and effectively when a large fire broke out in Panorama Voulas, aiding both citizens and firefighters.

Specifically, the specially

trained volunteer teams of the HRC, in cooperation with the Civil Protection and the Fire Service, immediately set up a First Aid station in Panorama Voulas, in order to offer all kinds of assistance to firefighters and residents who were either facing vi-

sual impairments due to the dense smoke or had suffered burns in the fight with the flames. Meanwhile, teams of volunteers patrolled the fire zones throughout the night, intervening where necessary and offering relief goods to residents and firefighters.





## Glamorous event at the Athens Concert Hall for the World Red Cross & Red Crescent Day

On Sunday, 8 May 2022, the HRC celebrated the International Red Cross & Red Crescent Day, the birth date of the great activist, ideologist and founder of the Red Cross, Henry Dunant, by organizing a major event at the Athens Concert Hall, attended by the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, along with thousands of volunteers from all over Greece. The HRC's grand celebration

took place at the venue's Banquet Hall. The Deputy Minister for Culture and Sports, Mr. Lefteris Avgenakis, and Shipowner Mr. Athanasios Martinos were honoured at the event for their wide range of humanitarian actions and assistance to the Hellenic Red Cross. Volunteers from all Sectors of the HRC were also honoured for their vast voluntary and humanitarian contribution. The Minister of Health,

Mr. Thanos Plevris and the Deputy Minister of Health, Mrs. Zoi Rapti extended a special greeting, while many representatives of the Government, Authorities and Public Bodies of Greece attended.

**On Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, the Greek State illuminated the Hellenic Parliament with the colours of the Red Cross.**



# 145 years of selfless contribution

On Friday, 10 June 2022, the Hellenic Red Cross completed 145 years of uninterrupted contribution, always using as their guide and compass the extended contribution towards all social groups, as well as the dissemination and championing of the supreme universal values of volunteering, humanitarianism and selfless contribution.

The humanitarian action of the Hellenic Red Cross, from 1877 to the present day, is full of sacrifices and touching stories of solidarity and volunteerism by unique individuals, who, with their lives and sac-

rifices illuminated the great timeless journey of the HRC, transforming the ideals and the Fundamental Principles of the largest Humanist Movement in the World into action.

Today, the Hellenic Red Cross, free from the stigmas and guilt of the past, has charted a new regenerative course, implementing numerous innovative, high-quality, anthropocentric initiatives and actions for the benefit of the country's vulnerable population groups and beyond. At the same time, it remains an unwavering bastion of active volunteering and solidarity and an unrivalled

supporter, aiding the Greek State not only in dealing with emergencies but also in the enormous daily needs that arise within Greek society.

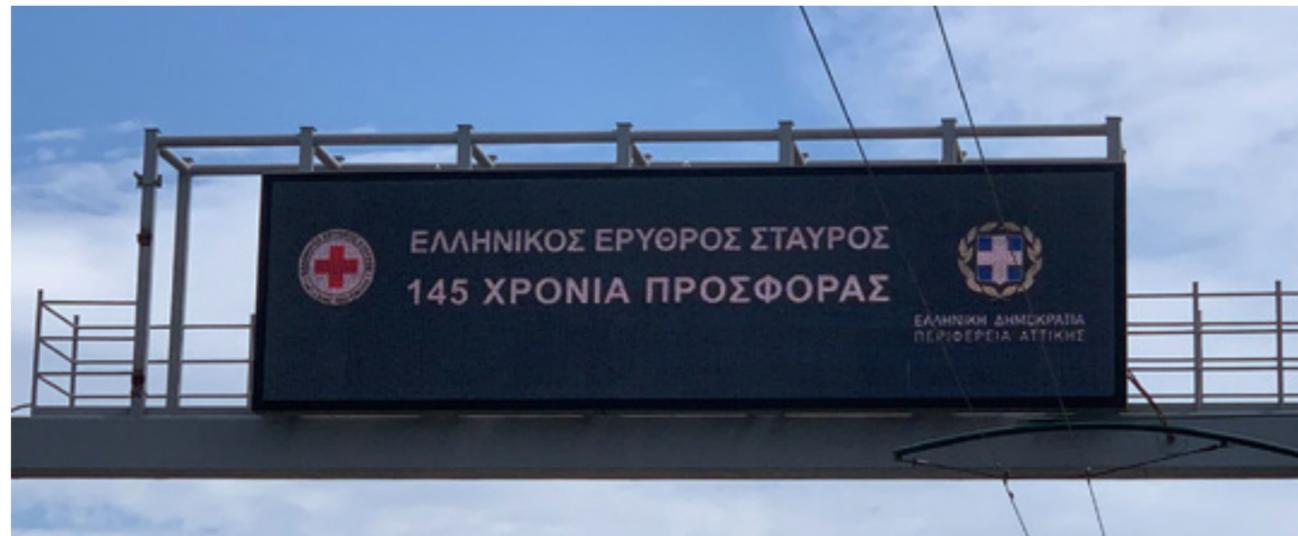
In the last year, the HRC faced huge challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the devastating August wildfires, along with the vast humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine. Challenges, to which the HRC, with the touching contribution and self-sacrifice of its volunteers and staff, provided an excellent and effective response, steadily regaining the trust of the Greek society.

## Festive message by the HRC on all traffic management displays throughout Attica

The Region of Attica, recognizing and applauding the enormous humanitarian

work of the Hellenic Red Cross, presented the festive message of the HRC on the

electronic traffic management displays in Attica, filling all Red Crossers with joy and pride.





## Innovative training of the Search and Rescue Units (SRU)

A particularly dynamic and interactive training experience was offered to 110 HRC Volunteer Samaritans-Rescuers who took part in the large-scale HRC exercise entitled: "Extrication and rescue from a road traffic accident", which was organized in Komotini (9-10/4) by the Samaritan-Rescue & Lifeguard Corps of the Hellenic Red Cross, attended by the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos.

Specifically, the members of the HRC Rescue Units, with

the guidance of experienced trainers, were tested in numerous scenarios which included the extrication of victims involved in traffic accidents, the safe entry of rescuers into enclosed and confined spaces using a special CSE simulator, the emergency response with the provision of First Aid and the use of new rescue devices, such as the state-of-the-art cutting tools that the HRC has procured. Volunteers Samaritans-Rescuers from numerous Regional Branches of the HRC, including Athens, Didymo-

teicho, Thessaloniki, Kavala, Kilkis, Komotini, Xanthi, Orestiada and Serres, participated in this major training event.

Attending the HRC event were representatives of the Hellenic Police, the Fire Service, the Metropolitan Bishop of Maroneia and Komotini, Panteleimon, the Regional Governor of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Mr. Christos Metios, as well as numerous members of the local government.

## Active involvement in the PPC International Cycling Tour of Greece

The Hellenic Red Cross once again plays an active part in one of the country's leading sporting events, ensuring the health coverage of the PPC International Cycling Tour of Greece, which took place from 27<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May, covering a total route of 846.6 kilometres which started from Heraklion, Crete, and ended in Ioannina.

In particular, teams of Volunteer Samaritans-Rescuers of the HRC, fully equipped with the appropriate logistical equipment, were stationed at the five ETAP of the PPC International Cycling Tour of Greece that took place in Crete, Attica, Central Greece, Thessaly and Epirus where they offered primary health care wherever necessary. During the first

two days of the race in Crete and Athens, the HRC's volunteers successfully addressed dozens of incidents regarding injuries caused by falls, exhaustion, etc. that occurred to both contestants and spectators, playing a decisive role in ensuring that the race ran smoothly. It should be noted that the HRC's volunteers also undertook to provide health coverage for all activities held alongside the PPC International Cycling Tour of Greece, which puts Greece back in the forefront of international competitive cycling.

The Deputy Minister of Culture & Sports, Mr. Lefteris Avgenakis, after congratulating the volunteers of the HRC for the particularly difficult task

they were called to carry out, said: "I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your extremely important contribution to another leading sporting event in Greece, the PPC International Cycling Tour of Greece. You're always there for us whenever we need you. This demanding event, which is held in 5 regional units and dozens of municipalities, will be supported by the volunteers of the Red Cross. The Organization's red colour will be present in every area, with hundreds of volunteers who, with a smile and boundless energy, set an example through their humanity, love, support and solidarity."



## The Hellenic Red Cross with the Aegean Team at the 28<sup>th</sup> Diaplos in Fourni, Thymena, Agathonisi, Arkios, Lipsi, Patmos, Donoussa, Anafi, Koufonisi

The HRC, implementing its recent Memorandum of Cooperation with the Aegean Team, aimed at conducting educational programs for children in primary and secondary education living in small and border islands, participated in the 28<sup>th</sup> Crossing of the Aegean Sea.

The nurses-trainers for First Aid and Health Education pro-

grams of the Health Sector of the HRC, visited a total of 9 islands with the Aegean Team, from 5 to 15 May, and carried out educational experiential activities at 14 schools, with the participation of 310 students. The First Aid Book of the HRC's Health Sector, as well as a booklet with first aid instructions were given to all children and teachers at every school unit.

Experiential First Aid training sessions were carried out for children of elementary, middle and high schools, with subjects selected according to each age group. Kindergarten children, with the use of models, educational building sets and materials, learned about personal hygiene, oral hygiene and accident prevention.

## World Refugee Day: The Hellenic Red Cross organizes events for the empowerment of refugees

Marking the World Refugee Day (20/6), the Social Welfare Sector of the HRC organized various anthropocentric activities in Athens, Volos,

Kalavryta, Thessaloniki, Ritsona and Lesvos, from 16 to 27 June 2022, aiming to empower refugees, to aid their integration into Greek society

and to strengthen the bond between the host society and the refugee population.



## Active involvement of volunteers in the performances of the Athens & Epidaurus Festival

As part of the HRC's Memorandum of Cooperation with the Athens & Epidaurus Festival, the volunteers of the Samaritan - Rescuers and Health Sectors have been actively involved in the packed shows of the Festival

at the Herodion and at 260 Piraeus St., offering their valuable services to numerous emergencies arising before, during and after the end of the performances.

Our volunteers have earned

the well-deserved recognition of the spectators who know that there are specialized rescuers beside them, ready to intervene wherever needed, at any time, in a timely and effective manner.





## Emergency action for the homeless in downtown Athens due to the heat wave

The Hellenic Red Cross, due to the exceptionally high temperatures, organized an emergency action on Thursday, 23 June 2022, that involved streetwork for the homeless in the historic centre of Athens.

In particular, teams of the HRC, staffed by social work-

ers, volunteers from the Samaritans-Rescuers and the Health Sector, were mobilized in support of the homeless population living under conditions of social exclusion in downtown Athens, distributing packets with humanitarian aid (personal hygiene articles, essential foodstuff,

clothing, protective equipment against Covid 19, etc.).

In total, 250 of our fellow citizens received aid, while similar actions will be implemented throughout the summer, particularly during periods with similar conditions.



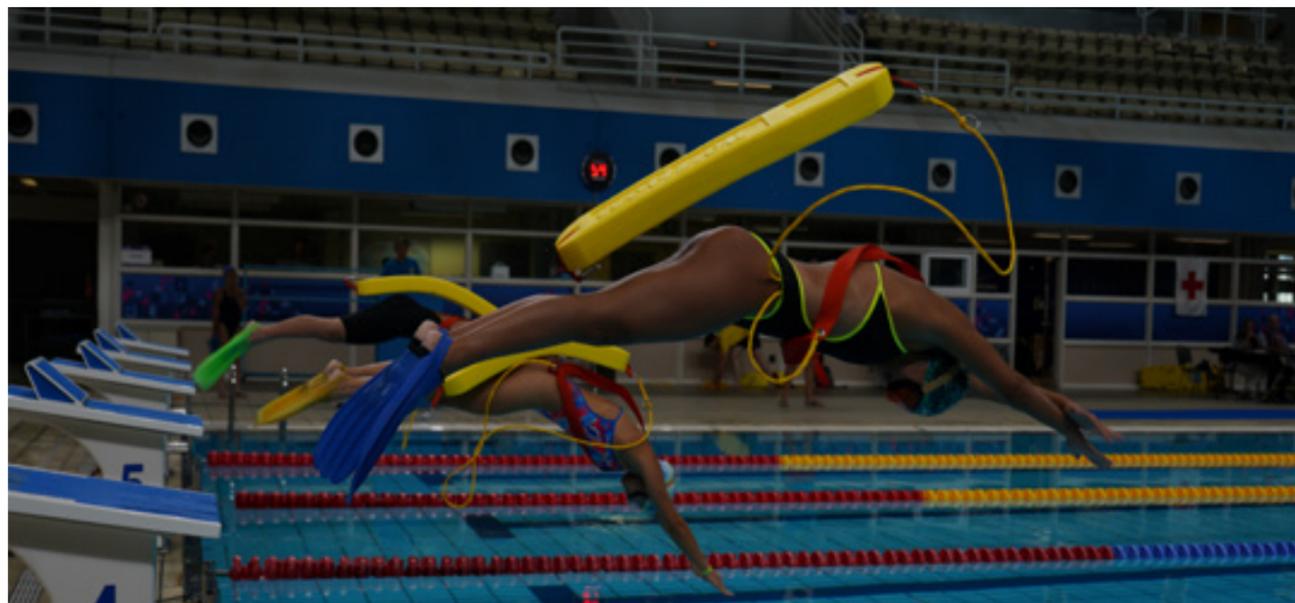
# Lifesaving Races in Artemida and OAKA

The Lifesaving Races at sea and in the swimming pool organized by the Hellenic Red Cross at the Artemida beach and at the OAKA swimming pool (4-5/6) were successfully concluded, sending a resounding message for the promotion and empowerment of Lifesaving in Greece. The

races took place in the presence of the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos.

The events, organized by the HRC as the only full member of the International Life Saving Federation (I.L.S.F.) in Greece, were divided into 2 categories. The Qualifying

category, which leads to participation in the Lifesaving World Championships in Riccione, Italy, and the Open category, which was addressed to those who want to get to know the Life Saving disciplines and watch various types of water rescue techniques.



# Training for Search and Rescue Units (SRU) in rapids and extraordinary flood events

The Search and Rescue Units (SRU) of the Samaritan-Rescue Sector of the Hellenic Red Cross continue their preparation for emergency situations by conducting large-scale rescue training events for victims trapped in rapids and extraordinary flood events. The theoretical part was carried out in Komotini, while the practical part took place in the river Nestos (Stavroupoli, Xanthi).

The training event was focused on the proper use of rescue equipment in rapids and floods, the rescue of vic-

tims, as well as the smooth cooperation with the Fire Service (EMAK), the Hellenic Army (HA) and other bodies. This type of training will also be carried out in other Branches of the HRC in the near future.





# Graduation ceremony for new Volunteer Samaritans-Rescuers at the Peristyle of the Zappeion Megaron



On the evening of Sunday, 22 May 2022, at the Peristyle of the Zappeion Megaron, a warm and moving Swearing-in Ceremony was held for Samaritan - Rescuers and Lifeguards Volunteers of the Athens and Piraeus Branches of the Hellenic Red Cross, in the presence of the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, the Secretary General Mr. Georgios Skoumas and many representatives of the state and political leadership of the country.

contribution to people in suffering, concluding their highly-demanding, long-term training in the best possible way, now ready to offer their services wherever necessary. At the same time, diplomas and promotions were awarded to HRC volunteers, as a token of appreciation for their decisive contribution to the work of the Organization over the years, guided by the ideal of extended contribution to all social groups.

The crowded Peristyle of the Zappeion Megaron was the venue where 160 new Samaritan-Rescuer volunteers took an oath of allegiance to the humanitarian and Red Cross ideals. They pledged to serve and defend the supreme values of volunteering and

The event was attended by representatives from the state and political leadership of the country, as well as Organizations, Bodies and Sports Clubs which closely cooperate with the Samaritan-Rescuer Sector of the Hellenic Red Cross.

# ΣΥΝΕΧΙΖΟΥΜΕ ΝΑ ΣΤΗΡΙΖΟΥΜΕ ΤΟΝ ΛΑΟ ΤΗΣ ΟΥΚΡΑΝΙΑΣ



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