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[00:00:00] **Zev Shalev:** We're joined tonight by Kira Rudyk . She's the current leader of the political party voice in Ukraine. And since 2019, she has been a member of recovery rider. How are you Kira? Good. Thanks for being here.

[00:00:09] **Kira Rudyk:** Hello. Thank you so much for having

[00:00:11] **Zev Shalev:** me. Let's talk a little bit about this, a \$40 billion aid package.

That seems a truly substantial amount to all of us. Isn't enough to help her Ukraine out of the situation that.

[00:00:24] **Kira Rudyk:** So we are extremely happy in Ukraine here that will receive the support. This is something that we have been waiting for, and it has so many angles of why it is great for my country.

Starting from the, it will be cash flowing in some of these 40 billion One third would be used for the weapons that we will be buying and leasing some to cover our debts and sound, to get the supplies for Ukrainian army on the other symbolic part, it is a support that is ongoing and it shows the world that there is no Ukraine fatigue.

And then the United States remains to be our strongest and largest ally in this. On the other hand, what we need to remember is that it's obviously to everybody right now that this war is a marathon and not a. And for the ones who jog like me you know that you cannot just have one one bar of chocolate and then have your whole run with it.

You will have to. For support and support. And this is why, especially given the numbers that we need \$5 billion a month only for humanitarian support and not even for the military support, you can imagine of how long we will last with those 40 Billion so not so long.

[00:01:58] Zev Shalev: I am a sprinter. So I don't know that I have to eat as much chocolate bars to make my runs work, but it does seem like a lot of money.

When you factor in the \$5 billion, that's only going to last you half a year. What are you going to do beyond if it's what keeps going on? And it seems to now be settling into a sort of a protracted pattern is at some point there's just not enough money out there.

I strongly believe that. It's we are very grateful.

It should not be us UK, European taxpayers paying for Russian misdeeds in Ukraine. There is enough of frozen Russian assets in the world, so that if on frozen and given to Ukraine, we can actually make Russia pay for what they are committing right now. There are two directions of that. So first is that money of fresh and central bank.

So it's basically governmental money and it's around \$300 billion all over the. Which sounds nice, right? Yeah. So it sounds lovely. Sounds like then we'll have enough for everything, but the issue is that there are international laws that prevent countries from unfreezing, raw assets from civilian banks and giving them to whoever the.

So that will require a significant change in legislation though. I'm pushing forward with all my colleagues from different countries and the progress is there in some countries it's further in some countries, it moved slower, but I do believe that once the first country will name this decision, it will be house of cards and the rest will follow through.

And especially those countries that we like to call. Small, smaller countries. We money late, like Virgin and Billy's et cetera. So they usually wait until the big players make a decision and then say, yeah, we were always. So the second part of Russian money is actually private money that are under sanctions right now.

So when you hear the word sanctions and somebody was essentially basically means that they took the yachts, their

helicopters, et cetera, and frozen it again, I do strongly believe that you need to sell them and then send money back and then it will be even more than 40 billion.

Absolutely. There's also, a big surplus in the Russian economy right now because of the price of oil going up.

We're seeing, billions of dollars in surplus now in foreign reserves. We should not expect it to really because of these sanctions because Putin is able to benefit from these increased oil prices because of his war. It seems to me that without an oil embargo, a real oil embargo is going to be very hard to get Russia, to stop financing this war.

[00:04:47] Klra Rudyk: Let's again, use logic. Did we ban Russian well in European union and the answer is no. Did we Russian? Yes. European union. And the answer is no. So what this means is that while we are talking every single day, European countries are paying Russia a billion dollars. Billion dollars. So when we are talking about, okay okay, let's send this tremendous aid to Ukraine.

It only covers same thing that European countries have been to Russia for. So that's why the sanctions are so important. And that's why you essentially are not implemented. Russia will continue benefiting from the war because its economy is built. If you were a gas station and very aggressive gas station that is benefiting from the gas prices.

And even if they will be critically low, rateable still find markets. And it will still continue selling it. So this why it needs to be M mutual effort from countries that will stop buying Russian gass in a while, but from the international community with world leaders, pushing other countries, not to start buying Russian gas and oil.

So basically really close the markets. And I see So the sanctions six package of sanctions was oil. They would only start in six months. This United effort would start to probably in a year. So when you're asking me when the war would end, I can just throw this ball at you.

[00:06:31] Zev Shalev: it, this is true. That will take us six months to a year to get to all these sanctions in place for the oil embargo.

And if that's the case, then there's no real reason for Putin to stop fighting. That's why he might keep the war even smoldering for a while. Why not? For him, there's no downside. Oh,

[00:06:47] Klira Rudyk: so his future is right now assured with the finance much better than any of both.

[00:06:54] Zev Shalev: It certainly seems like that's something that a Washington needs to pay a lot of attention to and the world.

Certainly Washington's been leading this effort, but it's time maybe for a lot more pressure on other countries that have not started the oil embargo to, to implement it. At the end of the day, that's the only way this war is really going to wind down. It seems to me let's talk a little bit about what's going on in Maria Paul, because there has been an evacuation of at least a 950, I believe.

Soldiers from the from the steel factory over there. Are there still any people left inside that.

[00:07:28] Klira Rudyk: Yes, there are warriors that are not has not been wounded. They are still left there and they continue fighting. They will plan to defend the other stout to the end. That was their statement.

[00:07:42] Zev Shalev: Unbelievable...it really is.

[00:07:47] Klira Rudyk: This is why they said, we know it's a suicide mission, but we are ready to to a suicide mission.. So right now, we we actually concentrated on making sure that the vacated people are being treated fairly and well, and that freshmans keep their word on allowing and getting people the medical aid they needed.

From what we hear from the volunteers of United nations and directly. The state of many of the wrong people is critical. And and they are trying just to save their lives.

[00:08:26] Zev Shalev: What about the soldiers that have been taken to Russia? The ones that now we hear Putin is suggesting may go on trial.

Is there any more word and whether that will happen and whether they will declare the, as of brigade a, a terrorist organization.

[00:08:43] Klra Rudyk: That was anticipated move. From the very beginning, they did really hope that it wouldn't happen for some time. However, right now we, what we see is that Russia will move forward with with the not treating them as a style advocated people the way that they.

We had the United nations and red cross as the guarantors of the security of this operation. So I would like to be very careful with with the statements here, just in terms of that, let them do their job. So the idea is that they remain in this. For some time with it, but the potential to be advocated somewhere to the third countries, but these negotiations are still in place.

So

[00:09:37] Zev Shalev: It sounds like that's very important that gets resolved. And w we won't go too much deeper into that because of those negotiations and those the work that needs to be done there. Let me turn them a little bit to the refugee crisis. It's still 6 million is the number of we're seeing a net, a fledged Ukraine, and relate today.

We heard there were 50,000 arriving in the United. When you look at the scale of that, you've got 6 million refugees and you've got 50,000 arriving in the United Kingdom. Again, it just seems like a drop in the bucket. What more can the world be doing to help the refugees settled down in, in countries other than Poland, which is waste, which seems to be having the brunt of the issue.

[00:10:17] Klra Rudyk: Obviously that the workforce is looking for. And this is the main thing to keep in mind. And this is why some people, they don't want to move from Poland because they

still hope that they will return to Ukraine like in a month or so we understand the situation is much more comfortable.

And that it probably wouldn't happen in a month or so. Is there ability for people to start the new life in the peaceful countries, which would include first documentary support, but also the ability to to have social protection and like a place to leave their children with. So just before talking to you, I was talking to my friend.

Who is a refugee was her small daughter, six months, years old. She's in France right now, but she cannot find any work. She she's trying to do some translations, but she doesn't have a possibility to live her daughter with anybody. And she's just exceeding thankful to people who took her under.

So because most of the refugees are women with children, because these are where the flat, the first right now it is incredibly important and critical to give this infrastructure for children to be taken care of. So then mothers can settle that.

[00:11:43] Zev Shalev: Think about the children's so much, I suffer from PTSD and I know a lot of these children are gonna grow up with symptoms of PTSD, no doubt.

And that is a very difficult thing for them to grow up with. You see them so bravely, holding back tears and living their normal lives. But of course, underneath that, there's always some sort of trauma that's being developed in a lot of these cases. What can be done even at this stage to help those children dealing with PTSD so it doesn't build up and build up over a lifetime, which is what happens with post-traumatic stress disorder and, and can become quite difficult to live with over a period of time. So what can be done for those kids today to make sure that they don't have to deal with the consequences for decades.

[00:12:29] Klira Rudyk: First of all, that was like probably the most terrifying thing that I was thinking of when the war started, when we had children that we had to tell them that it's all a game and pretend to play different games. One when the bombarding was

all over the place we have had this game of turtle when we told the children to go on the ground and open their mouth and cover their ears.

So they wouldn't suffer all of the shockwave if something and that we were telling them we are just playing turtles, et cetera, et cetera. But obviously they do understand everything and they face the atrocities of war in, in different stages of their life. Like the teenagers who have seen dead bodies, that they were never supposed to see at this fragile age or 12 nurse who were sent without their parents only total told them their blood type that they, they were actually given to social workers.

So they helped should be there for. I'm making sure that there is a peace. And if the were in the brain continues for so long people, children need to be staying where they can feel safe. The safety is a top priority. The first and foremost important thing they're saying you are safe.

You're here. You can, you may not stop being afraid anymore. The second is obviously psychological health and support and integration into the society because. Because I agree with you that it's very important to, to receive the support. So it wouldn't be bundling up. I also believe that once you have like your emotions in you new things to do and post lots of positive things in your life, it's getting easier to go through the trauma that you suffered because it's I have a friend in Turkey and she is manufacturing women's luxury. So she sent me two boxes of that to give to the victims of sexual assaults here in Ukraine. And she told me, I said are you sure it's appropriate? She said, look, just give it to them and tell them that there would be love.

There would be like, It may not happen right away, but at some point it will change and there will be a day when you don't feel pain anymore. And I believe it, children, it's the same thing that, that you need to show them that the future doesn't have to be the same as the present.

[00:15:09] Zev Shalev: The human body is so remarkable that it's able to suppress all these things and carry on.

That's part of the way we see. A lot of these traumatic events and and a lot of the time that's what causes them to bubble up. So many years later is the suppression. So the processing of these traumas early on is so critical in a psychological setting. And it seems like that's obviously a priority, but it can be as much of a priority as just their safety right now.

And it's certainly one of the things that I think the world and especially the United States can think about leaning into and seeing how they can. Support some of these kids, so they don't have it a lifetime. And these women, as you point out a lifetime of trauma, that's unnecessary and can be dealt with at an early stage.

We are all so amazed at the courage of Ukrainians and you've probably heard this often and the tenacity of Ukrainians and their ability to continue to fight in the face of so much. And yet these images that we're getting out of Kharkiv now and out of these other parts of Ukraine that are so devastating and so cruel how do you continue?

How do you continue in the face of all of that? It might in some way be an inspiration and motivation, but in other ways, it's, it must be so difficult.

I wouldn't lie to you, there are days when you like waking up and we just literally pulling yourself out of the bed. There are some days, and probably the hardest ones were after the adrenaline of the beginning of the war.

It passed. And then just asking yourself now, what now, what? So we have this, they have this point on like that we need to win the war and then we will figure out, but this is one of the Putin strategy to make sure that it is. It is a long-term and exhausting war where people become de-motivated same way as they become poor and same way that you know, the attention from the whole world winds down.

And this is my biggest fear, honestly. First of all, we all have relatives and loved ones who are fighting in the front. So you're

just like saying you cannot allow yourself. We could because they are fighting and they have challenges that you cannot imagine facing. And there is this thing in in Ukrainian radio that they heard once and then repeating to all the other people is saying, do whatever you can do.

But today a little bit better because we are pushing for the week. This is what I'm telling myself, like what I can do to make it a victory. They closer and let's do it today a little bit better than we were doing it before. And that's probably helping to go through, to push through the day and as a runner like how it is the best way to start running is just to start training.

You're absolutely right. And it's still remarkable. I got to say, we are all in all of what the Ukrainian people are doing and this incredible war effort. And it does look to everybody that this war will be won by Ukraine. It's just a matter of time and hopefully you get the right weapons and support.

Now with this \$40 billion aid package enough to go on for at least the next few months to really achieve this victory against Russia and Vladimir Putin. Thank you very much for joining us tonight. Kira Rudyk. We really appreciate that.

[00:18:37] Kira Rudyk: Thank you so much and glory to Ukraine.