



A CALL for PEACE

Protesters call for peace as Russian forces launch a full-scale assault against the Ukraine and Ukrainians fight to save their country. One student shares her personal connection to the conflict. *by Allison Huang and Sanaya Alamar*

T Unlike many students for sophomore Polina Chayka, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is personal.

"Honestly, I feel panicky and uneasy. I have condolences for all of the people in Ukraine right now. Most people don't know anyone from Ukraine, but I have many relatives there. One of them being my mom's aunt, who is in danger because she lives in Mykolajiv, which is one of the many cities where people are waking up to sounds of bombing everyday. Last time she texted my mom, her family is safe in a basement with food and other supplies. My family is praying for the best," Chayka said.

On social media and in the classroom students expressed concern about Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of a sovereign nation.

"I feel saddened by Putin's cruelty.

He could end the war so easily but refuses to. It's up to Putin to stop the war," sophomore Negeen Walizada said.

There are signs that Putin's actions don't reflect those of the Russian people. "In Russia, I know that there are many people who are against the attacks on Ukraine, there are protesters and people who see Ukrainians as their brothers," Chayka said.

In the buildup of the war, Putin expressed concern about Ukraine joining NATO or the EU. Putin has insisted that Ukraine is part of Russia, culturally and historically, and it should not be aligned with the rest of Europe. But as Chayka explained, Ukraine has its own language, traditions and customs. Ukraine wants to remain an independent country.

Although this fight has been brutal for

Ukrainians, their voices have been heard throughout the world. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky used social media and Zoom to communicate with the world. He asked the world to support Ukraine.

"I'm pretty sure this is the first war where attacks have been broadcast. Right now, I think people who have social media are useful because it can help raise awareness quicker than before. Raising money for the army, the refugees and the rebuilding of cities in Ukraine is easier. The more people post, the more people become less insensitive or indifferent because they see images, videos, and grow more aware of how terrible war is," Chayka said.

Protests in cities around the world including London, Prague, Rome, Paris and Moscow have called for peace. San Diegans also #standwithukraine.



COUNTING all the EVENTS

Some of the events that led up to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the first few days of the war.

Information from unccom and npr.org websites.



Jan. 23

NATO places forces on standby U.S. ordered 8,500 troops to be ready to deploy. The State Department orders the families of embassy staff to leave Ukraine.

Feb. 15

Separatist leaders call for evacuations Fighting escalates between Russian-backed separatists and Ukrainian forces in Donetsk and Luhansk.

Feb. 24

Russian forces launch an assault on Ukrainian Territory The largest military operation in Europe since the end of World War II begins

4:50 a.m. GMT+2

Putin announces operation "to conduct a special military operation" and that countries interfering would face dire consequences.

5:07 a.m. GMT+2

Russian forces launch a series of missile attacks and long range artillery against Ukrainian cities, including Kyiv, Zaporizhzhia, Mariupol and Kharkiv.

Mar. 4

Russia captures Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant Russia captures the largest nuclear power plant in Europe, the source of half of Ukraine's power.