IDENTITY OF THE AUSTRIAN WAR CRIMINAL



This are the news :

An Austrian man suspected of war crimes in the conflict between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine was arrested in Poland at the Dorogusk-Yagodin border checkpoint on Sunday. A European arrest warrant was issued a few weeks ago for the suspect, who supposedly fought on the Ukrainian side against the pro-Moscow separatists.

The 25-year old is accused of "having killed soldiers involved in fighting at the Donetsk airport who had already surrendered and/or of having killed civilians".

Only the Austrian media reported from day one that **the man had fought against the separatists on the Ukrainian side.** All the other western media distorted the facts.

Polish media : The Austrian presumably belonged to one of the military groups that participated in the warfare and executed wounded and prisoners. **Or :**

... this is the first case when the Polish-Ukrainian border detained a suspect of involvement in illegal armed formations on the Donbass.

German media : Demnach werde der Mann beschuldigt, an der Seite der prorussischen Rebellen in der Ostukraine gekämpft und mehrere Verletzte und Gefangene getötet zu haben.

Ukrainian media : ...suspected of involvement in Donbas illegal armed formations, torturing and murdering Ukrainian prisoners of war. **Or :**

...who may be involved in the murder of wounded and prisoners of the Ukrainian military in the Donbass. **Or**:

In Poland, arrested an Austrian, fought for LDNR.

It was suspected that the Austrian joined the Right Sector in social media. And indeed – he did !

Name : Benjamin Fischer

Age : 25 years. He had his 25th birthday in March or April 2017. Nationality : Austrian Place of birth : Riezlern, Klein-Walsertal, Vorarlberg, Austria Parents : **Mother Tunisian, father Austrian** (that's why Ben is so dark-skinned)

Biography : At the age of fourteen, Fischer was sent off to a vocational school in Bregenz. As a youth he served in the voluntary fire brigade Riezlern, learns violin and starts training as a ski instructor.

Later, he forged his parents signatures in order to enlist early in the Austrian Armed Forces. Four years of military service with the mountain infantery. For six months he was in Prishtina, Kosovo. Fischer decided to take an indefinite sick leave.

Six months later, he was on the Red Sea, where he had found work running security detail on a container ship. On his first stop in Mogadishu, port authorities disbanded his unlicensed crew. With a small layoff payment, he bought a ticket to Marseille, where the French Foreign Legion turned him down. The next months, he worked as a bouncer in Vienna.

Then he went to the fronts, first **Donbass on September 3, 2014, supposedly only for two months**, then Iraq and Syria.

Back in Austria, Fischer learned that he had been put on a terror watch list for having fought with Kurdish guerrillas associated with the PKK. The government told him to stay in the country, but he left for Tunisia, where his mother's family still lived.

Then he returned to Donbass in July 2015 again and was there until January 2017. He was only a few weeks at home in Riezlern, than he tried to travel to Donbass for the third time. **But on the Polish border he was arrested on 29 April.**

Quote Ben: "The war is for me like a drug, stronger than heroin."

On Ben's right forearm "**Molon Labe**" is tattooed. "Come and take them", that means in ancient Greek. King Leonidas is said to have said that, as the Persians, who were far superior in numbers, had asked for the weapons of the Spartans before the Battle of Thermopylae. Two swords tattooed on his right shoulder converge at a battle helmet.

Ben's "career" in Donbass

First time in Donbass :

In 2014 he was looking in Facebook for contacts with Donbass fighters and traveled to Kiev by bus. Quote : At Maidan Square, he found a recruiter for Azov, a white-supremacist battalion and one of the few volunteer militias then accepting foreign volunteers. Almost as soon as he entered, an Azov commander who thought he looked too Arab threw him out. Fischer transferred to the Donbas Battalion—*"a bunch of alcoholics and PTSDs"*—but saw little fighting when he bussed out to Donetsk; the first Minsk Protocol, which brokered a ceasefire, was signed just two days after he arrived.

Minsk I was signed on 5 September 2014 in Minsk, Belarus.

Quote : Ben Fischer was thus at the front in the Ukraine, bored almost as much as in Kosovo, and researched another front, those against the IS in Iraq and Syria. He wanted to fight, not to watch.

I think Ben is lying when he stated he was in Donbass only for two month. I believe he was there for a longer time. A journalist saw him in December 2015 at the base camp of the Right Sector near Krasnoarmiisk.

In this video (<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hI4p0uyn19o</u>) published May 16, 2016 Ben gave an interview in Donbass. He stated that he was in **Donbass Batallion**, short time with **Azov**, most time with **Pravy Sector (Right Sector)**. **He said that he was only two month in Ukraine. But that is too short to join three battalions** !

The video verifies : He hates Putin and the separatists, is not fond of the Ukrainian army, Poroshenko and the Minsk deal. He predicts a second revolution in Ukraine with Right Sector at the front.

Second time in Donbass :

Quote: Fischer was just visiting his grandmother, when a former comrade from the army, who was in Poland and on the way to the Ukrainian front, called him, and Fischer, he did not think long, but set out for Ukraine again.

Quote : In Sousse (Tunisia), he received a Facebook message from **Alex Kirschbaum**, an Austrian army comrade he hadn't seen since Kosovo. "*Alex wrote me saying that he'd just deserted the army*," Fischer said. "*He couldn't stand Austria anymore. He was going to Ukraine*." The next day, Fischer began making his way back to Kiev.

For Kirschbaum and Fischer both, Ukraine became an outlet for nationalism that they consider in desperately short supply elsewhere in Europe.

"Where death is, everything is much more alive"

Two of the four comrades with whom he ended up in Donbass left Ukraine quickly. They all knew each other from the Austrian army, had the same military instructor.

May 2016 he joined Voloveka :

The **Voloveka Tactical Group** is named after a Right Sectorite who was killed by a land mine in Donetsk. Novogrodovka is the closest village of their base camp. The group members belonged to the Cyborgs who fought at the Donetsk airport.

Quote : Every human impulse was exaggerated in the Voloveka. When keys were misplaced, doors were blown in with TNT. Walnuts were cracked open with grenades. A few weeks before I'd arrived, a Ukrainian named Geronimo beheaded a cat after he caught it peeing on his bed. The members of the Voloveka frequently boasted that they possessed enough explosives to eradicate a small Ukrainian oblast.

Quote : When Ben Fischer stepped out of his jeep at the barracks of the **Voloveka Tactical Group**, in Donetsk, Ukraine, last May, he was a mercenary arriving to work on his third continent in as many years. The scene at the headquarters of **a rogue unit within the rogue Ukrainian nationalist group known as Right Sector** wavered between utter chaos and manic discipline. A great red banner hung along the side of the barracks facing east: DEATH TO YOU KREMLIN INVADERS. In a barren plain of coal pits and black sludge, Fischer found what he had come for: an experience full of violence and adventure. Right Sector contingent consisting of 27 men, had established a forward base six miles from the border of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic. By the time Fischer arrived, it had become an anarchic force that answered to no authority but itself. Quote : **Voloveka, a 27-men strong group of the Right Sector**, had built its base ten kilometers from the border with the self-proclaimed People's Republic of Donetsk. When Fischer arrived, the group had already developed into a lawless pile that did not recognize any authority.

Ben became the leader of his own small unit, consisting of three Americans and another Austrian.

"Task Force Pluto" they called themselves, but they were integrated into the troops of the

Right Sector. Ben's call sign was "Sam Fisher" (after a game figure from the game Shooter)

Ben Fischer's comrades :

Quote : Fischer tells stories like those of Craig, the US American he fought with, and who had tried to kill his wife because she sent him videos of sex with other men.

Ben speaks about **Craig Lang**. You can see Craig in this video : <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u> <u>v=sIYL2O4xRe0</u>

Quote : Three weeks before I visited Novogrodovka, I met **two Americans** in Kiev. **Quinn Rickert** of Illinois and **Santi Pirtle** of California were in their early 20s and had checked into the Delil Hostel, where I overheard them hashing out their plans to join Right Sector. **Craig Lang**, whom Rickert had found on Facebook, had told them which trains could take them to Novogrodovka.

Quote : Small talk wheeled around the different preferred methods for killing separatists. A Texan named Russell Bentley was known to be fighting for one of the Donetsk battalions. *"He's not from Texas,"* Lang said. *"He's a piece-of-shit communist from Austin." "Would killing him get you in trouble with US law?"* Rickert asked. **"No,"** he replied.

All three Americans have a criminal record in the US.

So it is known that **the names of Ben's "Task Force Pluto" are : The Americans Craig Lang, Quinn Rickert and Santi Pirtle. The Austrian Alex Kirschbaum.**

Testimonies of Ben's actions :

1) Ouote : Ben tells of his crazy colleague, who asked him what to do with the prisoner in the neighbor room : "*Fischer, may I cut him off his ear ?*" And the worst was, says Fischer, "you never knew if he meant it seriously or not. But I am sure, would I have said "yes", he had done it." Ben tells of the other comrades who had "destroyed" the prisoner a little later, "you could not see his eyes anymore, his face was too swollen."

2) There are photos on which Fischer draws dead Russians behind him. Videos, where he sits in a pickup truck, with dead tortured corpses lying on the loading area.

3) Quote : At some point, Ben Fischer says, "*Lying I find worse than shooting someone's head*"; he thinks shortly after what he said, "*But* ..." and then: "*Yes, sure*". Ben Fischer's image of the world is one in which the definitions of good and evil are distorted to the point of being unrecognizable. And he himself does not know where to put himself.

4) Ouote : Several weeks before I (the author of the article Alexander Clapp) visited the Voloveka, a man had been picked up wandering the streets of Novogrodovka at night, drunk. Police confiscated his phone and found photos of him posing in front of Donetsk tanks on VK, a popular social network among Russian speakers. They brought him to the Right Sectorites, who locked him in a standing-room-only shower stall. The lights stayed on for a week. They beat him with a sock stuffed with sharpened rocks. They stripped him of his clothes and made him clean the barracks on his knees. An interrogation session involving repeated threats of deportation to

Guantánamo Bay revealed only that the man came from a local village and apparently knew nothing about rebel troop movements. After a week, the police picked him back up and brought him to Kiev — presumably for a jail sentence, though no one could tell me what actually happened to him. "It is a pity to have to beat these people," **Kirschbaum** said. "But I'd have more sympathy for them if we got any sort of similar treatment in Donetsk. Right Sector members captured there get their noses and ears cut off."

How will the official Kiev react ?

For the first time, the official bodies and the Ukrainian media will try to to keep the case under wraps. Hopefully the Russian media will not allow it. Twitter will be important.

If Porky, Avakov, Turchinov, Gerashchenko and Co. have to face the truth, they will make silly excuses. One of these might be that Fischer belonged to the Right Sector and the latter does not belong to the Ukrainian army. In addition, the government had already brought charges against such illegal battalions.

BUT... there is a little video that could cause these people some headache !

The video was published on April 3, 2016 and is titled :

"Ukraine's Foreign Legion: Americans and Georgians officially serving in Donbas" Subtext :

The so-called 'Georgian legion' is made up a number of veterans from the former Soviet republic who are now **fighting alongside Ukrainian troops.** They all have higher education, one even took his degree in France.

For three Americans now also fighting Russian-backed separatist forces – it was an easy decision to join them. With the Georgians, it's always lively. No matter how much they come under fire – they always sing.

Fueled by their losses and their hopes the Georgian volunteer fighters have been taking part in the Russian war against pro-Russian separatists. They've got too much behind them, in particular, their military experience which is precisely on demand here in the frontline.

But the door is open not only for Georgians. Several US veterans have joined their armed group. **The fact which makes it the very first international unit within Ukrainian ranks.** <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGiYXiiTdKc</u>

Guess who is to be seen in this video, playing guitar and signing a document with an army officer : BEN FISCHER !

And who receives a Ukrainian passport : CRAIG LANG !

As it is not known how the other members of Ben´s "Task Force Pluto" look like, it is not sure if Quinn Rickert, Santi Pirtle and Alex Kirschbaum are in the video, too.

Even the Ukrainian Military Commander Evgeniy Lavrov gives an interview.

The war criminal Ben Fischer was thus officially recognized by the Ukrainian military as a fighter on the side of Ukraine !