

24 February 2022, Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine. (*)

Paolo Coia did not abandon his Ukrainian friends. The pretentious and absurd cruelty of the events led to a situation where a sense of justice prevailed over madness: he decided to dedicate himself entirely to volunteering and to speak out against the war in support of the Ukrainian people at all levels. In March 2022, he decided to leave Kyiv and, after a desperate journey, arrived in Medyka, on the Polish border. From there, he traveled daily between Medyka and Lviv; he organized an emergency assistance point for hundreds of refugees of Ukrainian and Italian origin in a rural house. Every day, he received essential goods for hundreds of refugees continuing to arrive at the Tesco center (Przemyśl). He collaborated with non-governmental organizations in the area to distribute food and provide emergency assistance. He reached out to his friends in Italy and received support in sending a significant number of vans with medical supplies and humanitarian goods, which he delivered to the most war-affected regions. He managed to organize the search and evacuation of people with disabilities from the territories of Kyiv, Sumy, Chernihiv, and Kherson regions. He organized three buses from Krakow to Italy, and subsequently, together with the non-governmental organization *Hopeful Giving* (Onlus), organized weekly transportation of refugees to Italy during the first three months, guaranteeing them assistance in finding safe places and jobs. Upon returning to Kyiv after overcoming the first phase of the humanitarian crisis, he dedicated himself to raising funds to purchase two ambulances: one of which was later sent to the orthopedic department of Kyiv Hospital, and the other to Kharkiv Polyclinic. During the summer of 2022, he assisted a group called "Quasar" (Lviv) in collecting humanitarian aid for internally displaced persons and families in difficult circumstances. Through his art exhibitions, he organized fundraisers aimed at providing proper assistance to civilians. In the winter of 2022-2023, he managed to bring fifteen generators and three additional ambulances to Ukraine. He started various psychological support activities and organized art therapy courses for students of schools, orphans, and hospital patients in the Zhytomyr, Kyiv, and Chernihiv regions. Currently, his activities continue at full speed in the usual continuous mode, with ongoing efforts to collect aid and funds to support those in need.