

**IGOR BUTMAN IS JAZZING UP WAR IN UKRAINE**

In March 11, 2014, certain Russian cultural figures signified their approval of this political approach of using "human shields." They signed a letter titled "Russian cultural figures in support of the President's policy toward Ukraine and Crimea." (<https://www.mkrf.ru/press/news/deyateli-kultury-rossii-v-podderzhku-pozitsii-prezidenta-po-ukraine-i-krymu20171009103201/>. The English translation is available here: <http://russianartists4war.com/letter/>.
Mr. Butman’s signature is number 63).

"Let someone from the [Ukrainian] military dare to shoot at their own people, whom we will stand behind. Not in front, but right behind. Let them dare to shoot at women and children," publicly declared Russian President Putin his tactical methods before he annexed Crimea.

Today the list of the signers is 511 people long. With their signatures, these cultural figures expressed their support of the violations of the rights of Crimean Tatars, the indigenous population of Crimea, the killings and injuring of many thousands of soldiers and civilians in the war, waged by the Kremlin strategists in the Eastern Ukraine; the destruction and the dislocation of the millions of civilians of the neighboring country; the never previously seen scale of spreading false propaganda. And all of the above was presented under the slogan of "our culture and its spiritual beginning, our fundamental values." The letter repeats the word "our" a great deal. Obviously, what is at issue here is not the universal human values.

- How immoral must be the artist openly signing a letter supporting aggression against a sovereign state?
- How immoral must be the artist who supports concealing the numbers of the military fatal casualties, paying bribes to the parents of the deceased, burying soldiers of their own country in the unmarked graves?
- How immoral must be the artist who ignores the Nazi-organized meetings and racist attacks in his own country?
- How unprincipled must be the artist who supports the official anti-American attitude of the Kremlin propaganda, but comes into the enemy territory to earn some cash?
- How hypocrite must be this artist, positioning himself in the West as a messenger of peace and keeping quiet about his support of Putin’s authoritarian policy?
The letter, signed by these artists, clearly manifests their rejection of the universal human values in favor of “their fundamental values.”

We do not protest the culture of Russia.
We do not question the cultural achievements of those who signed the letter.
We want to tell New Yorkers and New York visitors about the immorality and lack of principles of these cultural figures, and about their support of war and authoritarianism.
Civilization is built on respect of one's neighbor's rights.
We protest these cultural figures’ dabbling in civilization.
We want to tell those who signed the letter:  **N E W\_ Y O R K\_ I S\_ N O T\_ Y O U R S**!

[SIGNERBUSTERS]