

# BRITISH HUMANITARIAN AID NEWS JANUARY 2017

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**BRITISH HUMANITARIAN AID**  
Wishes you all  
a Happy and Successful 2017

Dear Friends, included with this newsletter is that from October 1916, which we only sent by email to save expenses, and our Annual Report.

We would like to express our gratitude to all who made such valuable contributions to us during the latter part of the year, especially to The King's School Premises Department, Little Gaddesden Church and Village, Wellingborough School and Boden's of Leicester. Like most people we have had a quiet period over the festive season. Philip's traditional trip to Ukraine mid-December had to be delayed as the changes to documentation for the aid loads, demanded by the Customs, meant that none was available for distribution. However, Aratta was busy with many people seeking help from the emergency supplies held in their warehouse.



**Aratta in Action**

## HOSTEL COLLAPSE

On 12 December at 16.20hrs four floors and a side wall of a hostel, near the railway station in Chernihiv, killing one person and injuring a second. Following the collapse the end of the building was demolished.



All 200 residents were excluded from the building and many lost all of their belongings. Although temporary accommodation was provided for a few days and 7000 grivnas (£200) were given as compensation this help was pitifully inadequate. The council say that if they redecorate the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of a student hostel there will be 35 rooms available to house the people. Rumours say that there had complaints about feeling tremors before the collapse.



People suspect that corrupt developers had skimmed on proper materials during the construction in the 1950s. Aratta has been helping many of those involved.

## NEW LEGISLATIONS

Recently introduced laws are having a disastrous effect. Firstly, the government has raised the minimum wage to from 1600 to 3200 grivnas (£100) per month. Now while that sounds good, the effect is that many private businesses, unable to raise the extra cash are reducing their staff or even closing. A second disaster for these businesses is that their taxation will no longer be based on their profits. Even if they make a loss they will still have to pay tax if they are registered as a business. Many are now "deregistering" and will enter Ukraine's huge shadow economy which is currently reckoned to be 60% of GDP.

Causing BHA and Aratta considerable concern, is the new legislation regarding trade-marks and

logos on imported goods, apparently including the aid even though items are second-hand. There is a list of 3000 makes which will all be due for taxation! We have no idea how this will work out.

## SEASONAL FESTIVITIES

Unfortunately, there has been a serious "flu" epidemic in Chernihiv, the schools closed early for the holidays, and gatherings of children have been banned. Fortunately, Aratta, which always celebrates St. Nicholas Day, were able to have their children's party as usual.



Parents' Voice, have also been working really hard since getting access to their new building with a little help from BHA.. Some rooms are already being used and they are to be congratulated on their industry. They made a ceremonial statement by walking in procession to their new home. A video can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/GolosRoditelej/videos/10200947389828767/>



All Best Wishes, Philip G. Edmonds