



## **CIVIL INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE /CIC/**

**on preparation World public opinion to execution  
of First World Congress of Spiritual Unify in New York**

The Civil International Committee

Cic sympathizes with the pain of the Ukrainian people on the 30th anniversary of the disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant (1986).

Dr Ernesto Garcia. President

De Alexander Vasiljev-Muller . Vicepresident

(BBC News)

### **Commemorations are under way in Ukraine to mark the 30th anniversary of the nuclear disaster.**

Media caption Tom Burrige on the ghost town legacy of Chernobyl

Commemorations are under way in Ukraine to mark the 30th anniversary of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl.

Sirens were sounded at the same moment as the first explosion at the reactor, in the early hours of 26 April 1986.

The meltdown at the Soviet plant was the worst nuclear disaster in history.

An uncontrolled reaction blew the roof off, spewing out a cloud of radioactive material which drifted into other parts of the USSR, including Russia and Belarus, and northern Europe.

Relatives of those who died attended candle-lit vigils at several churches, including at Slavutych, a town built to re-house workers who lived near the nuclear plant. A series of events are being held throughout the day.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko laid a wreath and observed a minute's silence in the Ukrainian capital Kiev before heading north for a ceremony at the plant itself, not far from the Belarussian border.

Speaking in Chernobyl, he said the nuclear disaster had been Ukraine's biggest challenge between the Nazi occupation in World War Two and the recent conflict in eastern Ukraine, which he described as "Russian aggression".

"At a time when we still need immense resources to tackle the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, when we need funding for social support to fire-fighters and victims, we have to spend almost one-fifth of our budget expenses on defence and security," he said.

How Chernobyl shook the USSR

Chernobyl's legacy 30 years on

Exploring Chernobyl in virtual reality

In pictures: Chernobyl's eerie exclusion zone

Vasyl Markin, who had been working in Chernobyl at the time of the disaster, attended the midnight vigil in Slavutych.

"This tragedy will stay with us till the end of our lives," he said. "I won't be able to forget it anyway."

## Chernobyl disaster 1986

# 10 days

radiation poured from fourth reactor

# 250,000+

people moved to safety

**200,000 sq km** (77,220 sq miles)

contaminated with radiation, 71% in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine

**31 deaths** among clean-up workers, thousands more linked to disaster

**30km** (19-mile) exclusion zone still surrounds reactor

Source: IAEA, news agencies

Some former residents returned to the area, now derelict and overgrown, ahead of the anniversary.

Zoya Perevozchenko, 66, had lived in Pripyat, the town inhabited by Chernobyl workers which was abandoned in the wake of the accident.

She told Reuters news agency: "I barely found my apartment, I mean it's a forest now - trees growing through the pavement, on the roofs. All the rooms are empty, the glass is gone from the windows and everything's destroyed."

Levels of radioactivity remain high in the surrounding area. A charity, Bridges to Belarus, is warning that a number of

babies in a region close to Ukraine's border **are still being born with serious deformities**, while an unusually high rate of people have rare forms of cancer.

Reuters

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Image copyright

AP

Image caption

Photos of some of those who lost their lives form a memorial display in Kiev



AP

Minsk





the Chernobyl memorial in Kiev

Done around the world pledged €87.5m (£68m; \$99m) on Monday towards a new underground nuclear waste facility in the region. Ukraine will need to commit a further €10m in order to complete the new storage site.

Work began in 2010 on a 25,000-tonne, €2.1bn sarcophagus to seal the uranium left in the damaged reactor, thought to be about 200 tonnes.

Experts fear that if parts of the aging reactor collapse, further radioactive material could be spewed into the atmosphere.

### Ukrainian press remembers Chernobyl

Newspapers in Ukraine carry sombre features looking back at the disaster and discussing ways of rehabilitating the exclusion zone.

**Segodnya** carries a picture of the Chernobyl plant on its front page and highlights plans to create a nature reserve around it. Most of the area is "clean" now, it quotes the Ukrainian environment ministry as saying.

**Ukraina Moloda** daily also says that the area has become

"safer" and is now being promoted as a tourist attraction. Its front page headline recalls that "The nuclear industry brought a lot of sorrow to Ukraine".

**KP v Ukraine**, a tabloid, calculates the disaster's cost and reaches the conclusion that money alone is not enough to estimate it. Mortality rates jumped by as much as 40% in certain parts of Ukraine, and many families were simply afraid to have children. "The Chernobyl disaster has resulted in at least 50,000 children not being born," the paper says.

The number of people killed by the disaster remains disputed. A report in 2005 by the UN-backed **Chernobyl Forum** concluded that fewer than 50 people had died as a result of exposure to radiation, most of them workers killed immediately after the disaster, but some survived until as late as 2004.

The forum estimated up to 9,000 people could eventually die from radiation exposure, although Greenpeace claims the figure could be as high as 93,000.

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