**An open letter to Viktor Sadovnichiy, rector of Lomonosov Moscow State University!**

**OR**

**Mogilyanka, Lomonosov and S-300 missiles**

**Victor Antonovich!**

You were born in Krasnopavlovka village, Kharkiv region, which is now being actively attacked by your present countrymen. I think that you, as a native Ukrainian and rector of one of the most famous universities in the world, will be interested to know what is really happening.

History often combines things, which seem to be almost incompatible, in a weird way giving the impulse to the civilizational processes development. However, sometimes “nature mistake” or “society mistake” leads to the situation when everything positive is overscored. The only thing left is shell crater, hatred of foreign country and inapprehension, how the war can be supported by, supposedly, civilized people, not zombies, e.g. employees of Lomonosov Moscow State University. It seems to me, for some reason, the founder would have been ashamed of you.

I want to tell you a short story about Mogilyanka, Lomonosov and, unfortunately the S-300 missiles.

Mikhail Lomonosov is one of the greatest Russian scientists, known as an encyclopedist, the founder of Moscow University named after him. In 1734 he had been studying for several months in Kiev-Mohyla Academy.

Kiev-Mohyla Academy was founded in 1632 and closed in 1817. In 1991, according to the order of the Chairman of Ukraine Verkhovna Rada “About Kyiv-Mohyla Academy revival”, it was restored as University of “Kiev-Mohyla Academy”. In 1996 the branch of National University of “Kiev-Mohyla Academy” was opened in Nikolaev, headed by rector Leonid Klimenko. Since 2016 it has been Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University. According to top list it is the best University in Nikolaev, one of the best universities in the South of Ukraine and takes the 55th place among all universities in Ukraine.

Everything is clear with Mogilyanka, but you may ask: “What does Lomonosov have to do with it?” Though Mikhail Lomonosov is a very important person in our narrative. In 1899 the City Council of Nikolaev decided to open two specialized schools named after Lomonosov and Lermontov. To make these schools personalized, the military governor of Nikolaev, Vice Admiral S. Tirtov personally applied to the ministry, reasoning that the names of such great people would improve the level of education. And indeed, they did!

The building of Lomonosov specialized school has survived to this day, though not at its best “thanks” to the war or to the special operation, as you call it. This building was renovated; the rector’s office, the museum and Academic Council Hall of Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University were located there. The Academic Council hall was decorated with large portraits of historical figures and scientists connected with Kiev-Mohyla Academy, such as: Petro Mohyla, Grigoriy Skovoroda, and of course, Mikhail Lomonosov.

However, Russian invasion since February 24, 2022, has made significant adjustments to the renovation of this building. On August 17, 2022 the administrative building of the university was damaged by two Russian S-300 missiles. On August 19, two more missiles hit the building that led to the partial destruction of the same building and its roof. And finally, on August 29 – just before the beginning of the academic year, the fifth missile hit the middle of the building of the former Lomonosov specialized school close to the rector’s office and Academic Council hall, almost reaching the university museum.

And what is about the portrait of Lomonosov? We are trying to save it from the ruined Academic Council hall, from the basement filled up with water, just because it is the memory of great scientist, who would probably be ashamed of his descendants, who are at war with civilians, educational and cultural institutions.

And quoting M. Lomonosov:”…if you make something evil with pleasure, pleasure will pass, and the evil will stay.”

Rector of Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University

Leonid Klimenko