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# Sewa International

Service to Humanity is Service to the Divine

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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## Sewa International Plays Key Role in Evacuating 467 African Students from Ukraine



H E Ambassador of Nigeria Mr. Shina Alege, praised Sewa International's efforts in coordinating the evacuation of stranded African students at Sumy State University from Ukraine.

The Nigerian Ambassador to Ukraine, Shina Alege, thanked Sewa International Europe for helping evacuate 470 African students from Sumy, Ukraine (left). Students from various African countries waiting to board buses to reach the Ukrainian border (right).

Houston, TX (March 09, 2022): Sewa International Europe played a key role in evacuating 467 African students, including 367 from Nigeria, and another 100 from Namibia, Zambia, and South Africa, from Sumy, the northern region of Ukraine bordering Russia, on Tuesday, March 8. Sewa volunteers coordinated the evacuation efforts responding to a request by Shina Alege, the Nigerian Ambassador to Ukraine.

Nigeria’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyema, thanked Sewa International Europe for “their amazing facilitation and coordination”. In his message, he also thanked the Government of Ukraine for providing the buses, and Shina Alege, Nigeria’s Ambassador, “for his determination and perseverance”.

Sewa Europe volunteers received the request on March 5 from the ambassador and worked closely with the Sumy State University coordinators, Sumy city administration, and the Nigerian Student Representative, Moses Fehintola. The evacuation took place around 1:20 PM Ukrainian time. The students were taken from Sumy to the Romanian border where they are expected to board flights to their countries.



Sewa International volunteers in Europe have helped nearly 12,000 individuals in the last sixteen days since the war started. Over 100 Sewa volunteers are working within Ukraine, and fifty volunteers are working in the border locations assisting people to cross the border. So far, Sewa has helped stranded people from twelve nations.

Sewa helplines continue to receive calls from stranded people and 350 volunteers from 25 countries across the globe are involved in answering the helplines and arranging for food, shelter, transportation, and other types of help in Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Finland, the United Kingdom, and Germany. Sewa is receiving outstanding support and cooperation from many Hindu religious (*dharmic*) organizations such as the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) and Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) as well as citizens in bordering countries such as Poland and Romania. Volunteers from ISKCON and BAPS are working together with Sewa volunteers in serving food, providing shelter, and in reaching out to people who need help.

← Thread



**Geoffrey Onyeama** ✓

@GeoffreyOnyeama

1/2 A million thanks to the Government of Ukraine @MFA\_Ukraine for providing the buses, Sewa International Europe @herambk, and @Sewa\_intl @sewauk\_official for their amazing facilitation and coordination....

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**Geoffrey Onyeama** ✓ @GeoffreyO... · 8M

2/2 ...and our indefatigable Ambassador to Ukraine, Shina Alege for his determination and perseverance. They all delivered for our Sumy students.

@NigeriaGov.

#savesumystudents



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**Nigeria's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Geoffrey Onyema, thanked Sewa International for coordinating the Nigerian students' evacuation from Sumy, in the northern region of Ukraine on March 8 2022.**

“It is really heartening to see that Sewa’s efforts to help the African students have been fruitful and they have been evacuated from Sumy. We thank the Ukrainian Government for providing the buses and a green corridor to help these students leave the war zone. We thank Ambassador Shina Alege for providing Sewa an opportunity to serve these students who were stuck in Sumy and facing danger,” Sewa volunteers Atul Sethi from Ukraine, Nilesh Solanki from the United Kingdom, Divyang Pandya from Norway, and Heramb Kulkarni from Finland said over a WhatsApp call.

Sewa Europe is continuing its efforts to help stranded people and people affected by the war in Ukraine.

To volunteer or for information on Sewa’s efforts, please visit <https://sewaeurope.org>, <https://fr-fr.facebook.com/SewaEuropeOfficial/> or call +35 8504839418.



**About Sewa International**

Sewa International ([www.sewausa.org](http://www.sewausa.org)) is a 501 (c)(3) Hindu faith-based charitable nonprofit that works in the areas of disaster recovery, education, and development. Sewa has 43 Chapters across the USA, serves in 16 countries across the world regardless of race, color, religion, sex, gender, age, disability, or national origin.