

Professor Vasyl Kladko shot during the evacuation of besieged Irpen near Kyiv

Obituary



Professor Vasyl Petrovich Kladko (1957 – 2022)

With deep sadness we are communicating the news that on March 13th Professor Vasyl Petrovich Kladko was killed by Russian aggressors in Irpin, Ukraine, while evacuating his family from the conflict zone.

Professor Kladko was a famous experimental solid-state physicist and crystallographer specialising in the application of high-resolution X-ray diffraction to low-dimensional systems. He was shot during an attack of Russian soldiers on noncombatants while evacuating his family from the besieged Vorzel/Irpin settlement near Kyiv. His wife and grandchildren were able to safely escape. Unfortunately, Vasyl did not. Vasyl Kladko was born in the village of Ozero in Rivne district. He obtained his Masters Degree in Chernivtsi University in 1979, completed his Ph.D. in 1986 and D.Sc. in 2000. He was awarded the title of professor in 2007 and was elected a corresponding member of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in 2015. He was a department head, group leader, and a deputy director of the V.E. Lashkaryov Institute of Semiconductor Physics in Kyiv. His scientific interests prominently involved high-resolution X-ray diffraction and the defect structure of low-dimensional systems, as well as optical properties of infrared detectors.

He was a great scientist, a person with warm character, and a friend of Poland. Since the 1990s he happily collaborated with several groups from the Polish Academy of Sciences, at the Institute of Physics and the Institute of High Pressure Physics. With his death, Ukrainian and world science have lost a person of significance in solid state physics. We shall all sorely miss him. Our thoughts go to his wife Galyna, his children and his whole family.

Present and former collaborators from the Institutes of Physics and High Pressure Physics at the Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw, Poland)