'I'm mentally in Ukraine'

Published 3/30/2022 by Tiffany Hsieh

Anna Kostenko lives near St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto and can often hear the whirling blades of air ambulances overhead. That never used to bother her until Russia invaded Ukraine a few weeks ago.

"Every time I hear a helicopter now, I think I'm under attack," said the Seneca international student. "I'm mentally in Ukraine."

Ms. Kostenko, 19, was born and raised in Ukraine. Kyiv is her home. But her family — parents and five younger siblings — have since fled the capital city and are constantly moving to find safety. For a week, they hid in a bomb shelter and ate expired dairy products.

Read the full story

tags: feature-stories