

[View this email in your browser](#)



Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA

UCCA LAUDS STATE DEPARTMENT'S "CRIMEA DECLARATION"

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representation of over 1.5 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, welcomes today's long-awaited declaration by the United States Department of State, affirming as the United States did [in 1940 with the Welles Declaration](#), the non-recognition of "the Kremlin's claims of sovereignty over territory seized by force in contravention of international law." The "[Crimea Declaration](#)," as signed by Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, rejects "Russia's attempted annexation of Crimea," and pledges that the United States intends to maintain this policy of refusal to recognize Russia's illegal assertions "until Ukraine's territorial integrity is restored."

UCCA President Andriy Futey responded enthusiastically to today's declaration, stating, "Today the U.S. Government sent a strong message of support to those living under direct threat from Russia's unrelenting aggressive behavior. The United States and Ukraine stand united, as demonstrated by the [recently increased U.S. security assistance](#) to the government of Ukraine, which will help deter the government of the Russian Federation from further destabilizing and invading Ukraine and other independent countries."

The United States' refusal to recognize the Soviet Union's occupation of three Baltic countries - Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania - was enshrined in the [1940 Welles Declaration](#) by then-Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles. Doubtful by some as a merely a symbolic gesture, the Welles Declaration would go on to outlast the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991, and made clear to our allies that the

UCCA began its advocacy for a “21st century Welles Declaration” for Crimea immediately after the invasion of Ukraine began on February 27, 2014. In previous statements, the UCCA has categorically rejected Russia’s March 2014 [staged plebiscite in Crimea](#) and forced “annexation” of the peninsula. UCCA continues to call upon elected officials in Congress and the White House to work to aid Ukraine, including those Ukrainian citizens living under foreign occupation. Russia currently [imprisons over 60 Ukrainians](#) abducted illegally from their homeland, including the [award-winning filmmaker Oleh Sentsov](#), a native of Crimea. All Ukrainian citizens living under Russia occupation live under constant threat of imprisonment and torture, including the all too common “disappearance” of activists, journalists, or ethnic minorities such as the [indigenous Crimean Tatar people](#), whose language, rights, and culture are being threatened as much today as they were during the Soviet and Tsarist regimes.

Download this statement -
Word

Download this statement -
PDF

Support UCCA With A Monthly Or 1-Time Donation

[WHAT IS UCCA?](#)

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-profit, non-partisan community-based organization that has represented the interests of Ukrainians in the United States since 1940.

[ЩО ТАКЕ УККА?](#)

Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки (УККА) є неприбутковою, безпартійною громадською організацією, яка представляє інтереси українців у Сполучених Штатах Америки з 1940 року.



Copyright © 2018 UCCA, Inc., All rights reserved.

Media Contact: Andrij Dobriansky

National Office

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

