ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF #MH17

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representative organization of Americans of Ukrainian descent, joins the world community in solemnly commemorating the 5th anniversary of the downing of flight MH17. On July 17, 2014, 298 innocent passengers and crew, flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur aboard Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, were murdered by a Buk anti-aircraft missile launched from Russian terrorist-controlled territory in Ukraine.

Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки (УККА) єднається зі світовою спільнотою в жалібному вшануванні 5-ої річниці збитого MH17. 17-го липня, 2014 року, 298 пасажирів і членів екіпажу, що летіли з Амстердаму до Куала-Лумпурі на борту Малазійської Авіалінії, були збиті зенітною ракетою «Бук», яка була випущена з території України, що в цей час була окупована і під контролем російських терористів.

З часу жахливої аварії, Міжнародна Спільна Слідча Група, на чолі з
Since the horrific crash, the Joint Investigation Team, led by the Netherlands, Australia, Belgium, Malaysia and Ukraine, has provided hard evidence that the missile system involved in shooting down flight MH17 came from a Russian military brigade. According to their investigation, the plane was hit by a Russian-made Buk 9M38 missile fired from territory controlled by Russian terrorists, using a mobile launcher trucked in from Russia and hastily returned there after the attack.

“The downing of MH17 is an egregious example of the Kremlin’s disregard for innocent life”, stated UCCA President Andriy Futey. “Righteousness must be delivered for the victims of this horrible tragedy and UCCA hopes that the Russian Federation will finally accept responsibility and fully cooperate with the international community so that those responsible are brought to justice”, he added.

On this solemn fifth anniversary, UCCA’s thoughts and prayers go out to the victim’s families, including one American citizen, and we ask God to remember all those who perished and grant them eternal peace.

«Збиття МН17 є разючим прикладом зневаги Кремля до втрати життя ні в чому невинних людей», заявив президент УККА, Андрій Футей. «Правда повинна бути доказана жертвам цієї жахливої трагедії і УККА надіється, що Російська Федерація нарешті візьме на себе відповідальність і буде співпрацювати з міжнародною громадою, щоб винуватці були притягнені до правосуддя», додав президент.

В цю сумну п’яту річницю, наші думки і молитви надсилаємо родинам жертв загиблих, у тому числі одного американського громадянина.
In response to the announcement that Ukraine would conduct snap parliamentary elections only three months after electing a new President, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the national umbrella organization which has represented the interests of Americans of Ukrainian descent since 1940, once again turned to the Ukrainian-American community for volunteers to serve as International Election Observers. Following this appeal, UCCA can announce that Ukraine’s Central Election Commission (CEC) has once again registered UCCA, one of the few non-governmental organizations, and the only Ukrainian-American community organization, to monitor the upcoming July 21st parliamentary elections.

Following the CEC’s accreditation of 32 volunteer observers, UCCA’s Election Observer Mission (EOM) will be headed by UCCA’s President, Andriy Futey. Michael Sawkiw, Jr., UCCA’s Vice-President, will serve as Deputy Chair of the mission and Tamara Olexy, former UCCA President and National Office Director, will serve as Mission Coordinator. Long-time UCCA International Election Observer, Reno Domenico, will serve as UCCA’s Chief Observer.

What makes UCCA’s EOM unique is that it is made up of all volunteers – individuals who are committed to Ukraine’s democratic progress and who cover all their expenses related to their participation in our mission. Moreover, UCCA’s observers are the only monitors of the election process at Ukraine’s diplomatic posts in the United States.

In an effort to cover as much territory as possible, UCCA is coordinating its efforts with the Ukrainian World Congress, of which we are an integral member.

UCCA expects to release its findings at a press conference in Kyiv following parliamentary elections. Our methodology, which provides for a contribution by each observer/observer team, is designed to achieve an overall picture of Ukraine’s election-day proceedings. UCCA also uses a one-of-a-kind electronic questionnaire that provides UCCA with an overall profile of polling-station activity throughout the country and at diplomatic posts, from which we draw conclusions based on our collective experience.
The goal of UCCA's Election Observer Mission is to support an open and transparent electoral process in Ukraine and at diplomatic missions in the United States. UCCA supports Ukraine's commitment to OSCE standards for free and fair elections that accurately reflect the will of the electorate, and does not support any one candidate, political party or bloc.

UCCA has conducted comprehensive civic education programs in Ukraine since 1991, including its many Election Observer Missions (EOM) which host delegations of volunteer monitors during Ukraine’s presidential and parliamentary elections. UCCA’s EOMs have monitored every election held in Ukraine since 1991. In 2004, during the historic Orange Revolution, UCCA's EOM, which numbered 2,408 individuals, was the largest delegation of International Election Observers ever registered by Ukraine’s Central Election Commission, surpassing the OSCE's delegation by almost 1,000 observers.

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