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Український Конгресовий Комітет Америки
UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA



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UCCA Calls for International Response to Sham Referenda

The seizure of sovereign Ukrainian territory by force violates, among other agreements, the UN Charter, the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 1994 Budapest Memorandum of Security Assurances for Ukraine and the 1997 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and Russia. Should the global community fail to reverse the Russian occupation of Ukraine, it will undermine the international rule of law, call into question all international agreements, including nuclear arms and international security agreements, and will render the world a much more dangerous place in which to live. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the representative

the existing sovereign borders of Ukraine. As with the russian-led sham referendum in Crimea in 2014, russia's actions this week in the Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine were unconstitutional under both the 1996 and 2004 Constitutions of Ukraine, as well as against international law. By his further announcement on the morning of September 30 that "people living in Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya, and Kherson are now becoming citizens of russia," vladimir putin proclaimed that the russian federation stands in direct opposition to the combined Membership of the United Nations, which is reserved solely for "peace-loving states which accept the obligations contained in the present Charter."

Today, russia's brutal disregard for international law and human rights are evidenced by the atrocities and war crimes it has committed in Ukraine. Russia has committed all types of aggression specified in U.N. General Assembly Resolution 3314. Based on the evidence gathered by the United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, it has already concluded that war crimes have been committed in Ukraine, including crimes of sexual violence, torture, and cruel and inhuman treatment. Among the cases investigated, the age of victims of sexual and gendered-based violence ranged from four to 82 years.

"As the russian federation's actions in Ukraine can clearly be classified as terrorist acts, and President Biden has already identified vladimir putin as a war criminal, UCCA maintains its call for the United States government to classify putins' russia as a 'state sponsor of terror,'" stated UCCA President, Andriy Futey.

By suspending russia from the UN Human Rights Council in April this year, countries around the world chose to hold moscow to account today for gross and systematic violations of human rights in its premeditated, unprovoked, and unjustified war of choice against Ukraine. However, ending that farce was not nearly enough. Today, streets in Ukraine are covered in corpses, some which were found with their hands bound, a sight most Europeans thought impossible to imagine in the 21st century. In response to these actions, UCCA joins with the growing chorus of voices calling for the suspension of russia's rights and privileges of membership in the United Nations in view of its flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and other international obligations in accordance with Article 18.2 of the Charter.

Following such a suspension, UCCA supports the creating of an International Tribunal to indict putin and russian leaders, including each and every military officer involved in breaching Article 2 of the United Nations Charter, to issue warrants for their detention, and pronounce legal sentences. UCCA again calls on the United States and our allies to immediately pass legislation committing to law not to recognize any "annexed" Ukrainian territories, and formally recognize russian actions in Ukraine as a Genocide.



Secretary-General António Guterres' remarks on Russian decision on annexation of Ukrainian territory

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Statement from President Biden on Russia's Attempts to Annex Ukrainian Territory

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Press statement by Antony J. Blinken, US Secretary of State, on Russia's Sham Referenda in Ukraine

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Remarks by Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield at a UN Security Council Briefing on Ukraine

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Chairman Menendez Statement on Putin's Illegitimate and Illegal Annexation of Ukrainian Territory

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Ranking Member Risch on Putin's Illegal Annexation of Ukrainian Territories

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U.S. Helsinki Commission Statement on the Kremlin's illegal attempt to annex Ukrainian territory

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Ukrainian World Congress calls for tougher sanctions against Russia in response to illegal referendums and planned annexation of the occupied Ukrainian territories

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UCCA National Leaders Meet With President Zelenskyy's Top Advisors

On Tuesday, September 27, Andriy Yermak, Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine, held an online meeting with Executive Board members, National Council delegates and Local Branch presidents of the Ukrainian Congress

President of Ukraine, Roman Mashovets, Rostyslav Shurma, and Andriy Smyrnov, also participated in this virtual dialogue, as well as additional Ukrainian American community organizations.

UCCA President Andriy Futey began the meeting by introducing President Zelensky's closest advisors to the assembled community leaders, and remarking that they had only just seen each other in Kyiv when Mr. Futey last met with President Zelensky. In response, Mr. Yermak began by thanking the Ukrainian American community, and its UCCA representatives, for their consistent garnering of bipartisan support for Ukraine in the United States, and for the decades of meetings with elected officials at the Federal, State and Local levels, which had prepared Washington, D.C., to respond forcefully to Russia's latest attempted genocide of the Ukrainian nation. Deputy Head Roman Mashovets, himself a veteran of Ukraine's military intelligence and special forces, detailed the level of Security Assistance already provided to Ukraine by the United States and its allies, and further explained the scale of international support that is needed to further continue the defense of the Ukrainian homeland.

Deputy Head Andriy Smyrnov detailed the efforts underway by Ukraine to an international tribunal to prosecute Russia's long list of crimes committed against Ukraine and its people. Mr. Shurma then updated the community leaders on the latest proposals for a comprehensive plan for the eventual reconstruction of Ukraine's infrastructure and institutions.

Following the presentations, the entire assembled team from the Office of the President of Ukraine remained online to answer questions presented by the community, beginning with the Director of the Ukrainian National Information Service, UCCA's Washington, D.C.-based bureau. Two particular areas of focus were agreed to at the conclusion of the meeting: the need for ever more international attention on the actions of Russia in Ukraine as well as the need to completely ostracize the Russian Federation from any international assembly following their most recent breach of international law. All participants agreed that direct dialogue between Ukraine's presidential administration and the highest leadership of the organized Ukrainian American community should continue in the coming year.

UCCA would like to thank to all the participating UCCA Local Branch representatives for volunteering their time for this meeting, as well as representatives from the Organization for Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, the Women's Association for the Defense of Four Freedoms for Ukraine, the Organization for the Defense of Lemkivshchyna, the "Self-Reliance" Association of American Ukrainians, the Ukrainian American Bar Association, the Ukrainian American Freedom Foundation, the Ukrainian American Veterans, the Ukrainian Human Rights Committee, the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America, UCCA's Council on Aid to Ukrainians, the SUMA Federal Credit Union, the



The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the representative organization of the nearly two million Americans of Ukrainian descent, strongly condemns the heinous crimes of genocide committed 81 years ago at the Babyn Yar ravine, as well as the inhumane atrocities of the Holocaust that resulted in the deaths of millions of innocent victims.

The loss of the tens of thousands of Jews, Ukrainians and others senselessly murdered at Babyn Yar, remains one of the darkest chapters in the history of genocide. Although this was but one site among many of the Shoah that terrorized all Europe's Jews, it is a site of particular tragedy for Ukraine.

Within a 36-hour period, more than 30,000 Jews were forced from their homes in Kyiv, brought to the Babyn Yar ravine, and mercilessly massacred by Hitler's henchmen as part of their Final Solution to rid Europe of the Jewish people. Following this first mass execution, a restricted zone around the Babyn Yar ravine was sealed off with barbed wire. The killings, however, did not end. Over the next several years, the mass grave swelled, and an estimated 170,000 victims – among them Jews, Ukrainians, Poles, Roma, political opponents, clergy, UPA members and Soviet prisoners of war – were ruthlessly murdered.

For years following this tragedy, the Soviet Union barely acknowledged the massacre at Babyn Yar. Not until Ukraine renewed its independence in 1991, were the few survivors of those first days at Babyn Yar, along with the

May tragedy at Babyn Yar continue to be taught to the following generations, so that the memory of these terrible events can never be extinguished.

Never Forget! Вічна пам'ять!



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[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.

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