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# REMINDER! "Ukrainian Week"

## Advocacy on a Local Level

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Ukrainian National Information Service <unis.sawkiw@gmail.com>  
To: Ukrainian National Information Service <unis.sawkiw@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 19, 2024 at 8:00 PM



Dear Friends of Ukraine,

## REMINDER!

Presidents' Week is upon us and Congress is currently on its traditional February recess. As a reminder, the first **#SupportUkraine "Ukrainian Week"** advocacy fete for 2024 will be held this week from February 20-23, 2024 in local congressional districts and states throughout the country. During this time, Senators and Representatives are back in their home states and districts. This provides a perfect opportunity to interact with your elected officials in a local setting.

Sponsored by the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington, DC public affairs bureau of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), this advocacy event remains a very important endeavor for the Ukrainian American community as we prepare for the second anniversary of russia's brutal war of aggression against Ukraine. The in-district and in-state weeklong event will be crucial for advocating for continued support needed for Ukraine to defend its territory against invading russian forces.

The weeklong advocacy event from February 20-23, 2024 will be used as an opportunity to meet in-person with your Representative and Senators in their local district and state offices, respectively. The goal is to acquaint them with our concerns for increased security assistance for Ukraine; expanding sanctions against Russia; designation of Russia as a State Sponsor of Terrorism; and, other important issues related to the war of Russian aggression in Ukraine.

Please find below an infographic for the "Ukrainian Week" initiative and sample social media posts. Also attached is a Meeting Tracker template and briefing notes on the most critical issues facing Congress. In addition, attached is a useful analysis and talking points entitled *The Fourteen Facts about U.S. Aid to Ukraine*, written by Luke Coffey, Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute.

**JOIN IN THIS EFFORT THROUGHOUT PRESIDENTS' WEEK AND ADVOCATE FOR GREATER SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE!**



**ISSUES OF CONCERN:**

Supplemental Assistance  
Russia Sanctions/Sovereign Debt  
Genocide  
Russia War Crimes  
Abduction of Ukrainian Children

In-District/State



February 20-23, 2024

**Ukrainian  
Week**

@UNISdirect @uccaorg



For more information: [UkraineDaysDC2024@gmail.com](mailto:UkraineDaysDC2024@gmail.com)

## SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS






- **#UkrainianWeek** brings advocacy to a local level: **#AdvocacyForUkraine**.
- For 2 years, Ukrainians have led the global fight for freedom and democracy – support Ukraine during the **#UkrainianWeek** campaign.
- The Ukrainian people have faced unimaginable devastation, shown incredible resilience, resisted an imperial invasion, and proven NATO worthiness in the past 2 years.
- **#UkrainianWeek** to support Ukraine!  
Advocate for U.S. national security interests in supporting Ukraine during the **#UkrainianWeek** event.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) at: [unis.sawkiw@gmail.com](mailto:unis.sawkiw@gmail.com).

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### 3 attachments

-  **Meeting Tracker UkrWeek Feb2024.docx**  
41K
-  **UkrWeek Feb2024 Briefing Papers.pdf**  
3668K
-  **Hudson 14\_Facts\_Ukraine Nov2023.pdf**  
229K

# UKRAINIAN WEEK

FEBRUARY  
2024

*Local Districts  
and States*



**UNIS**

RUSSIAN WAR OF  
AGGRESSION IN  
UKRAINE

#SupportUkraine



@UNISdirect @uccaorg



# War in Ukraine

It is in America's national security interest to have Ukraine emerge from this war of Russian aggression as a resilient sovereign and democratic state, in charge of its own foreign policy, militarily strong, with secured borders, and economically viable.

After two years of war, Ukraine's defenders will need a continued supply of American and NATO defensive weaponry, as well as economic and humanitarian assistance.

## Issues

### Assistance

Recent passage in the U.S. Senate for the \$60b supplemental bill provides Ukraine crucial military and humanitarian assistance.

All efforts must be exerted in the House of Representatives to pass the bill.

### State Sponsor of Terror

The designation of Russia as a State Sponsor of Terror would instill additional sanctions for its aggression against Ukraine.

Recognition of the Wagner Group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) would also instill crippling sanctions.

### Sanctions

A Russia-sanctions regime should include more banks banned from SWIFT, a REPO "freeze & seize" program, as well as applying additional sanctions of the financial and energy sectors.

### War Crimes/Genocide

Measures expanding programs to assist Ukraine in the prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide are important signs of political and judicial support.



# About Ukrainian Week

## Your Voice in Local Districts and States

This local endeavor is critically essential as we advocate issues of immediate importance for Ukraine including continued defensive security and humanitarian assistance. Our presence will reflect in a lasting cooperation with congressional offices, especially during this critical time in Ukraine's history!

There has been tremendous bipartisan support for Ukraine in the past two years since the kremlin's war of aggression was expanded in February 2022. We must sustain that support and build upon it.



@UNISdirect @uccaorg



# GENOCIDE IN UKRAINE

*Article I of the Genocide Convention confirms “that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law...”*



**H.Res.154 and S.Res.72 - Recognizing russian [sic] actions in Ukraine as a genocide** - explicitly condemns the genocide of Ukrainians and “supports tribunals and international criminal investigations to hold russian [sic] political leaders and military personnel to account...”

# RUSSIA SANCTIONS REGIME

## REBUILDING ECONOMIC PROSPERITY AND OPPORTUNITIES (REPO) FOR UKRAINIANS ACT

- **H.R.4175 and S.2003** authorizes the Secretary of State to provide additional assistance to Ukraine using assets confiscated from the Central Bank of the russian federation [sic] and other sovereign assets of the russian federation [sic]; and,
- The extreme illegal actions taken by the russian federation [sic], including an act of aggression, present a unique situation, requiring and justifying the establishment of a legal authority to compensate victims of aggression by the russian federation [sic] in Ukraine.

PUTIN'S  
KLEPTOCRACY

WHO OWNS RUSSIA?

KAREN DAWISHA



**RUSSIA  
IS A  
TERRORIST  
STATE**



## AN OVERVIEW

For two years, the world has watched in horror as Russia continues to launch unspeakable horror upon Ukrainian civilians, as recently witnessed by massive rocket attacks on Ukrainian cities. These Kremlin war tactics can be clearly classified as terrorist acts.

Currently, there are four countries listed as state sponsors of terror: Cuba, Syria, Iran, and North Korea. The Secretary of State determines countries that "have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism...include a ban on defense exports and sales; certain controls over exports of dual use items; and miscellaneous financial and other restrictions."

### **H.R.3979 - To provide for the designation of the Russian Federation [sic] as a state sponsor of terrorism**

"The United States has a range of tools available to hold the Russian Federation [sic] accountable, reduce its war machine, and isolate it economically and diplomatically, including by designating it as a state sponsor of terrorism and imposing corresponding sanctions."

### **H.R.506 & S.416 - Holding Accountable Russian [sic] Mercenaries (HARM) Act**

"To designate the Russian-based [sic] mercenary Wagner Group as a foreign terrorist organization...The Wagner Group and its affiliated entities have committed, or are credibly accused of committing, terrorist activity through their involvement in: (A) the massacres, rape, and torture of civilians in Bucha, Ukraine."

# TERRORISM

# WAR CRIMES, GENOCIDE & CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

## RUSSIA WAR CRIMES

*Definition: an action carried out during the conduct of a war that violates accepted international rules of war. Source: Oxford Dictionaries*

### KIDNAPPING/ILLEGAL ABDUCTION OF UKRAINIAN CHILDREN

**S.RES.158**...A resolution condemning the deportation of children from Ukraine to the russian federation [sic] and the forcible transfer of children within territories of Ukraine that are temporarily occupied by russian [sic] forces.

**H.RES. 149**...Condemning the illegal abduction of children from Ukraine to the russian federation [sic].

### INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR RUSSIA WAR CRIMES

**H.RES.81**...Calling on the President to support the creation of a Special Tribunal for the Punishment of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine.

**S.RES.227**...A resolution that "would not limit or affect the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, including its exercise of jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity, and possible genocide committed in the context of russia's [sic] ongoing aggression against Ukraine."

POLICY MEMO

# The Fourteen Facts about US Aid to Ukraine

LUKE COFFEY  
SENIOR FELLOW, HUDSON INSTITUTE

November 2023

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Since Russia invaded Ukraine for the second time in eight years, Russian troops have ravaged Ukraine's cities, raped its women, and stolen its children. Russian missiles and Iranian drones strike Ukrainian cities daily, often hitting civilian targets. Russia is the aggressor. Ukraine is the victim.

For Americans who believe in respect for national borders, the primacy of national sovereignty, and the right to self-defense, support for Ukraine is natural. Ukrainians are not asking for, nor do they want, US troops to help them fight Russia. All they ask for is the resources required to give them a fighting chance.

Meanwhile, Russia is among America's top geopolitical adversaries. As former Secretary of State and Hudson Distinguished Fellow Mike Pompeo said last week, a Russian victory "would be felt well beyond Ukraine's borders, including by strengthening a Russia-China-Iran alliance that aims to weaken the US and our allies across the globe."<sup>1</sup>

As Congress debates additional support for Ukraine, detractors will spread false and misleading information. It is important to understand the facts.

**Fact:** The US is not writing "blank checks" to Ukraine, and most of the money allocated to help Ukraine never leaves the US.

- Every dollar spent in support of Ukraine is authorized by Congress and used for a specific purpose. There has never been a "blank check" to Ukraine.
- Approximately \$70 billion of the aid authorized for Ukraine will never leave the US. Instead, it supports our world-leading defense industry and creates well-paid jobs across 38 states.<sup>2</sup>
- After witnessing the effectiveness of US military equipment in Ukraine, European countries alone have placed \$90 billion in orders for American-made military hardware. This makes America safer and creates well paid jobs for Americans.<sup>3</sup>

**Fact:** For a relatively modest amount of money, US aid helps Ukraine dismantle Russia's armed forces without a single American firing a shot or being shot at.

- Russia is a top geopolitical adversary of the United States, and a close ally of China, Iran, and North Korea.



- Estimates vary, but up to 300,000 Russian troops have been killed or wounded in Ukraine. The original Russian invasion force from February 2022 has effectively ceased to exist.<sup>4</sup>
- Open source reporting has collected visual evidence that Russia has lost more than 12,900 major pieces of equipment in Ukraine by the time of this writing.<sup>5</sup> Since this number is limited to visually confirmed losses, the actual number is likely far higher.
- These losses include: 2,439 main battle tanks, 1,026 armored fighting vehicles, 2,977 infantry fighting vehicles, 368 armored personnel carriers, 914 pieces of artillery, 201 multiple rocket launchers, 93 aircraft (including three strategic bombers), 132 helicopters, and likely thousands of other pieces of military hardware.<sup>6</sup>
- Ukraine has destroyed or damaged 16 ships and submarines, including the guided missile cruiser *Moskva* (previously the flagship of the Black Sea Fleet) and the submarine *Rostov-on-Don*.<sup>7</sup> Their destruction supports broader US security objectives outside the Black Sea. For example, Russia has used both vessels to support Bashar al-Assad in Syria.<sup>8</sup>

**Fact: There has never been more accountability for US military assistance than what is available for Ukraine aid.**

- Soon after Russia's invasion, the US government established the Ukraine Oversight Interagency Working Group. More than 160 officials across 20 federal oversight agencies monitor US aid to Ukraine.<sup>9</sup>
- To date, Congress has allocated \$50 million for the inspectors general of the Department of Defense, Department of State, and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to increase oversight through the working group.<sup>10</sup>
- The groups have completed dozens of reports, with dozens more in the works.<sup>11</sup> According to the working

group, "Investigations related to the Ukraine response have not yet substantiated significant waste, fraud, or abuse."

- The White House's proposed Ukraine supplemental will add another \$15 million to fund additional oversight activities. Among other things, this additional funding will allow the State Department's Office of the Inspector General to "increase inspections and investigations beyond its 27 current and planned projects that span foreign assistance, management, and operational activities."<sup>12</sup>

**Fact: Europe has spent more than the US on Ukraine aid.**

- According to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy's Ukraine aid tracker, total European commitments are now more than double those of the US after totaling all aid (military, economic, humanitarian, and refugee).<sup>13</sup>
- Twenty European countries have given more to Ukraine than the US as a percentage of GDP.<sup>14</sup>

**Fact: A victorious Ukraine means a safer Taiwan.**

- The choice between security in Europe or security in the Indo-Pacific is a false dichotomy. In terms of US national interests, the two regions are intimately linked.
- Russia is China's junior partner. A weakened or defeated Russia means a weaker China. Beijing is watching how Western powers support Ukraine, so a strong and victorious Ukraine makes Taiwan stronger and deters Chinese aggression.
- It's no coincidence that earlier this year, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida visited Ukraine while Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Russia.<sup>15</sup> During this visit, Xi told Vladimir Putin, "Now there are changes that haven't happened in 100 years. When we are together, we drive these changes."<sup>16</sup>
- In Kishida's own words, "The security of the Indo-Pacific region cannot be separated from European security."<sup>17</sup>

**Fact: European stability, which Russia is trying to undermine, affects the American worker.**

- North America and Europe account for approximately 48 percent of the global economy.<sup>18</sup>
- Europe is America's largest source of foreign investment. In 2021, Europe accounted for \$3.19 trillion out of a total of \$4.98 trillion of foreign capital investment in the US, or about 64 percent.<sup>19</sup>
- The US and Europe are each other's largest export markets. In 2022, 45 out of 50 states—including the largest single-state economy, California—exported more goods to Europe than to China.<sup>20</sup>
- Europe matters to the American heartland too. Arkansas, Kentucky, and Oklahoma each export five times more to Europe than China.<sup>21</sup>
- When Americans build something to be exported, that protects American jobs. European stability brings untold benefits to the US economy and, by extension, to the American worker. Aiding Ukraine helps preserve that stability.

**Fact: The lessons the US learns from Ukraine will make America stronger in the Indo-Pacific.**

- Supporting Ukraine has exposed major shortcomings in the American defense industrial base, which the US is now addressing. Thankfully, these shortcomings were uncovered when America was not directly at war.
- Deployment in Ukraine has tested American-made military hardware in a way that is impossible in peacetime. The US is learning what works, what doesn't work, and how to make improvements. This prepares America for future warfare to a degree that is unachievable through exercises alone.
- The US is replacing all the weapons it gives to Ukraine with newer, more effective systems.
- As Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen said, "Russia's invasion of Ukraine was a wake-up call to us all."<sup>22</sup> Because

of their support for Ukraine, US allies and partners in East Asia are spending more on defense to better prepare for future threats.

**Fact: The weapons the US is sending to Ukraine do not impact America's ability to fight an Indo-Pacific conflict.**

- Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) rockets, older AGM-88 and AGM-88E air to surface anti-radiation missiles, and AIM-7 and AIM-9M interceptors, which the US is sending to Ukraine, are either irrelevant to an Indo-Pacific fight or are expiring anyway.
- The most effective way to use these weapons is to send them to Ukraine. The 10,000 Javelins or the 2,000 Stingers that the US has given to Ukraine will not be a determining factor in whether the US can deter a Chinese invasion of Taiwan. But they were the determining factor that allowed Ukraine to defend Kyiv in the beginning weeks of the war.
- America's weapons of choice in a conflict against China will be torpedoes, the AGM-158 JASSM and AGM-158C LRASM strike missiles, naval mines, and Tomahawk cruise missiles. None of these have been provided to Ukraine.

**Fact: Because of lessons the US learned by arming Ukraine, Taiwan is receiving weapons sooner.**

- For the first time, the presidential drawdown authority (PDA), which has been used so effectively for Ukraine, is being used to arm Taiwan.<sup>23</sup> Had the US not supported Ukraine, it is unlikely that Washington would have used the PDA to arm Taiwan.
- Congress has authorized up to \$1 billion in weapons for Taiwan using PDA.<sup>24</sup>
- In July 2023, the US announced a \$345 million military aid package for Taiwan as part of the \$1 billion in PDA approved by Congress.<sup>25</sup>
- Even though the lethal High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is in high demand from US allies and partners,

Taiwan's order for additional HIMARS will now arrive one year earlier than planned because the US reprioritized the sale.<sup>26</sup>

**Fact: Iran and North Korea enable Russia to attack Ukraine. Russia supports Hamas.**

- Some of America's top adversaries, and the enemies of America's closest allies and partners, have aligned with Russia.
- By the end of 2022, Iran had provided more than 1,700 drones to Russia for use in Ukraine.<sup>27</sup> Earlier this year, Moscow and Tehran agreed to start producing around 6,000 Iranian-designed drones in Russia.<sup>28</sup> Meanwhile, Iran and its proxies are using the same drones to threaten Israel and attack US troops in the Middle East.
- North Korea has reportedly delivered more than one million artillery rounds to Russia for use in Ukraine.<sup>29</sup> There have also been reports that North Korea has provided ballistic missiles to Russia.<sup>30</sup>
- Russia regularly votes in the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly to protect Hamas—even as Hamas commits atrocities against Israel.<sup>31</sup> In October, only weeks after the group's terrorist attack against innocent Israeli civilians, Russia received a Hamas delegation in Moscow.<sup>32</sup>

**Fact: Ukraine is not a new "forever war."**

- Not a single US service member is fighting against Russia in Ukraine.
- The US is not a belligerent in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.
- Ukrainians are not asking for, nor do they want, US troops to help them fight Russia. All they ask for is resources, which the US is more than capable of providing.

**Fact: The US is not engaged in a proxy war against Russia.**

- The definition of a proxy war is a war "fought by states acting at the instigation or on behalf of other states."<sup>33</sup>

- The US has never instigated Ukrainians to fight. The US is not forcing the Ukrainians to fight on its behalf. The US is merely fulfilling Ukrainians' requests for weapons and assistance as they fight a war of self-defense.
- Ukrainians are fighting a war of national survival. Russia invaded Ukraine, not the other way around. Russia is the aggressor and Ukraine is the victim.
- If Russia stops fighting, the war will be over. If Ukraine stops fighting, Ukraine as it is known today will be over.

**Fact: The US needs to provide both military and nonmilitary aid to achieve the greatest effect.**

- Some propose providing only one type of aid as a compromise with those who do not want to provide any aid to Ukraine. However, this proposal is a half measure and would yield disappointing results.
- The Ukrainian military is not the only actor defending against Russia. As shown by Russia's indiscriminate targeting of civilians with ballistic missiles and Iranian drones, the whole of Ukrainian society is at war.
- The first year of Russia's invasion eliminated almost 30 percent of Ukraine's economy.<sup>34</sup> Even so, Ukraine's government and essential public services (law enforcement and first responders, diplomats, utility workers, etc.) need to function properly for the nation to remain on a total war footing.
- US support needs to be broad in scope. Those who call for the US to give only military support fail to see the bigger picture in Ukraine.

**Fact: Claims that US aid to Ukraine has cost "\$900 per American household" and that the newly proposed aid package will add "over \$1,000" to the tax burden of "every family of four in America" are wildly misleading.**

- These numbers are often used to mislead Americans into thinking that they are shouldering an unnecessary financial





burden to help Ukraine amid economic difficulties and high inflation at home.<sup>35</sup>

- These numbers are misleading because federal income tax is not levied evenly across households.
- In 2020, the most recent year for which data is available, the top 1 percent of earners paid 42.3 percent of all federal

income tax. The bottom 50 percent of taxpayers (those making \$42,184 or less) paid only 2.3 percent of all federal income tax.<sup>36</sup>

- Approximately 60 million tax returns reported income of \$30,000 or less. The effective average tax rate for this group was 1.5 percent before any tax credits were applied.<sup>37</sup>

## Endnotes

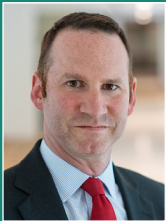
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## About the Author



**Luke Coffey** is a senior fellow at Hudson Institute. His work at Hudson analyzes national security and foreign policy, with a focus on Europe, Eurasia, NATO, and transatlantic relations. Coffey was previously director of the Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies at the Heritage Foundation from 2015 to 2022, in which role he oversaw and managed a team covering most of Heritage's foreign policy and international affairs work. From 2012 to 2015, he was the Margaret Thatcher fellow at Heritage, focusing on relations between the United States and the United Kingdom and on the role of NATO and the European Union in transatlantic and Eurasian security.

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