



RECOGNIZE THE HOLODOMOR AS GENOCIDE

The 1932-33 man-made Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, known as the Holodomor - meaning 'murder by starvation' - is one of the least-known genocides in the world. Each November Ukrainians worldwide commit to sharing the historical truth of this heinous crime through awareness campaigns and educating the world about the Holodomor as a tragic episode in world history. And, as a genocide, the Holodomor is critically important for a full understanding of how and why autocratic regimes destroy innocent populations.

More than seventy-five years ago, the UN Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was ratified as an international treaty that criminalizes genocide and obligates states to pursue its enforcement. Raphael Lemkin, who coined the term 'genocide,' referred to the Holodomor as the classic example of Soviet genocide against the Ukrainian nation. Much like other human tragedies around the world, the Ukrainian Holodomor must be recognized as a genocide, thus ensuring that history does not repeat itself.

This year, the relevance of the theme for the 91st anniversary commemoration of the Ukrainian Holodomor could not be more poignant: *Holodomor Then; Genocide Now; Justice When?* Understanding the kremlin's use of 'food as a weapon' during the Holodomor, as well as the current weaponization of Ukrainian foodstuffs during the 1000+day war of russian aggression against Ukraine is a crucial indicator in preventing future genocides and crimes against humanity.

The **Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA)**, the representative umbrella organization of Americans of Ukrainian descent, and the **U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness**, appeal to President Biden to recognize the Ukrainian Holodomor as genocide by the United States government as exemplified by other recognized genocides, most recently the Armenian genocide of 1914-1915.

In the United States, a majority of states have already recognized the Holodomor as genocide, while passage of U.S. Senate and House of Representatives resolutions in 2018 reinforced the 1988 U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine report to Congress that "Joseph Stalin and those around him committed genocide against Ukrainians in 1932-1933." Support and recognition of the Ukrainian Holodomor as genocide by the U.S. Executive Branch would help to rectify an historical injustice and promote greater awareness of current russian war crimes against Ukrainians.

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