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UCCA BULLETIN



April 2016 ... Our 76th Year of Service to the Community

POROSHENKO ATTENDS NUCLEAR SECURITY SUMMIT

On March 31 - April 1, 2016, US President Obama welcomed world leaders from more than 50 nations, including President Poroshenko of Ukraine, to Washington, DC, for the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit. The goal of NSS2016, as with the 3 previous such summits, was strengthening the global nuclear security architecture by advancing tangible improvements in nuclear security behavior. Ukraine demonstrated the greatest act of commitment to nuclear security shortly after its renewed independence, when it voluntarily surrendered the third largest arsenal of nuclear warheads in exchange for security assurances. Ukraine remained a sovereign territory free of nuclear arms for nearly 20 years, until the invasion of Crimea in 2014 enabled Russia to deploy its nuclear arms on occupied Ukrainian soil. The lack of adherence to the promised security assurances of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum weighed heavily on the minds of many participants at NSS2016. During the summit's plenary session, President Poroshenko urged nuclear states to provide concrete guarantees to countries that elect not have a nuclear arsenal. Ukraine promised to uphold its own commitments to nuclear security, following the 2012 elimination of all highly enriched uranium it possessed, and the recent opening of the Neutron Source Facility at the Kharkiv Institute for Physics and Technology.

UCCA CO-HOSTS RECEPTION FOR POROSHENKO

On the day prior to the Nuclear Security Summit, the UCCA co-hosted the "Ukraine in Washington" conference, which featured as its keynote speaker, President Poroshenko. Addressing a packed Congressional Auditorium in the U.S. Capitol, the President pressed the cause of Nadiya Savchenko, Oleg Sentsov and Olexandr Kolchenko, currently in Russian detention, as well as the 1.75 million people currently displaced by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the 2,700 members of Ukraine's armed forces who have been killed by Russian forces – now surpassing the number of US losses in Afghanistan over the past 15 years. Members of UCCA's Executive Board had the opportunity to meet with President Poroshenko following his address.



UCCA HOLDS RALLY TO SUPPORT UKRAINE!

RALLY FOR UKRAINE!
THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 10am
WASHINGTON DC
HOLODOMOR MEMORIAL
Massachusetts Avenue & N. Capital Street NW

Petro **Poroshenko**, President of Ukraine, will be attending the Nuclear Security Summit. He will **honor the victims** of the Holodomor by laying a wreath at the Memorial. President Poroshenko will also **address the community**. There will be an opportunity to ask him questions and share your thoughts.

Embassy of Ukraine
Ukrainian Congress Committee of America
U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness 2932-1933



During President Poroshenko's stay in Washington, he had the opportunity to visit the National Holodomor Genocide Memorial for the first time. The UCCA coordinated for members of the Ukrainian community to be present during this visit, after which the President directly answered their questions.

UCCA CONDEMNS RUSSIAN COURT'S GUILTY VERDICT OF SAVCHENKO

On March 22nd, following Nadiya Savchenko's sentencing, the UCCA released a statement, which read:

"The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representation of Americans of Ukrainian descent, strongly condemns today's sentencing by a Russian kangaroo court of Nadiya Savchenko, former Ukrainian Air Force pilot, Iraq War Veteran, Member of Ukraine's Parliament and delegate to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

In what was a lengthy nine-month trial, shockingly reminiscent to the show trials of the Stalinist period, and despite mounds of evidence of her innocence, Nadiya Savchenko was sentenced today to 22 years in prison.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America will never recognize the Russian court's decision, and calls upon the United States and the international community to demand that the Russian Federation immediately and unconditionally release Nadiya Savchenko."

#FreeSavchenko Now!!

UCCA PARTICIPATES IN GLOBAL #FREESAVCHENKO CAMPAIGN; APPEALS TO PRESIDENT OBAMA

As part of the #FreeSavchenko campaign, UCCA sent a letter to President Obama, imploring him to use all diplomatic efforts to secure the immediate and unconditional release of Nadiya Savchenko, former Ukrainian Air Force pilot, Iraq War Veteran, Member of Ukraine's Parliament and delegate to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, from Russian prison.

As the UCCA's letter stated, "Breaking all international conventions, Lieutenant Savchenko has been held in detention by Russian authorities since her abduction on June 17, 2014; she faces up to 23 years in prison if found guilty of false charges by a Russian court. In what has been described as a political show trial, Russian authorities denied Savchenko a closing statement in her last day in court, prompting her to begin a (dry) hunger strike, the first of which lasted over 80 days."

UCCA highlighted, that the "...abduction, continued imprisonment and unlawful prosecution of Nadiya Savchenko by Russia is a clear violation of her human rights and defies all international standards according to clause 5 of the September 5, 2014 Minsk Protocol, which calls for the immediate release of all unlawfully detained persons. Additionally, her treatment as a prisoner of war is in direct violation of the Geneva Convention. Russia, as a signatory of both of these international agreements, has again shown its flagrant disregard and contempt for international law and must be held accountable for these violations."

The UCCA concluded its letter calling upon "President Obama and the United States government to utilize all diplomatic efforts to ensure the safety of MP Savchenko and secure her immediate release. We urge the international community to intensify its public condemnation of Russia's illegal imprisonment of Lieutenant Nadiya Savchenko, and demand that she and other illegally imprisoned Ukrainians be freed."

#FREESAVCHENKO RALLYS



On March 9th – Global #FreeSavchenko Day - Rallies in support of Nadiya Savchenko were held throughout the entire United States, from Seattle, Washington, to New York City, and dozens of cities in between.

OLES YANCHUK TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES

In April, Oles Yanchuk, renowned film director and CEO of Dovzhenko National Film Studios, will be in the U.S. to introduce his new film, co-produced with the UCCA, "The Secret Diary of Symon Petlura."

Please join us on:

Friday, April 15th - Washington, DC

Saturday, April 16th at 3 pm – The Kuzemsky Room, Ukrainian Educational & Cultural Center, 700 N Cedar Rd, Jenkintown, PA

Friday, April 22nd at 7:30 PM
Ukrainian Cultural Center, 60C North Jefferson Road Whippany, NJ

Sunday, April 24th at 12:30 PM at
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church,
217 President Street, Passaic, NJ

UCCA HOLDS MEETING WITH MP SUSLOVA

On March 16th, UCCA President Tamara Olexy and Executive Board member Andriy Dobriansky, met with Iryna Suslova, Member of Ukraine's Parliament.



During the over one hour cordial meeting, Ms. Suslova, who serves as the Chairperson of the Gender Equality and Non-discrimination subcommittee of the Human Rights, National Minorities and International Relations Committee of Ukraine's parliament, discussed the current crisis in Ukraine and how UCCA can cooperate to strengthen Ukraine's democracy.