**Captive Nations Week Proclamation**

Tragically, hundreds of millions of people around the world continue to suffer under repressive regimes. During Captive Nations Week, we condemn the cold grip of tyranny that holds nations under unjust rule, and we reaffirm our commitment to all who are fighting to overcome oppression. We renew our deep devotion to the principles of liberty, justice, and the rule of law, and we know the United States will continue to shine as an unparalleled example for all nations.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower first proclaimed Captive Nations Week in 1959 to declare our Nation’s steadfast support for people throughout the world who are denied fundamental rights by their governments. The belief that a just government’s powers are derived from the consent of the governed is sacrosanct in our country, but it is not shared universally. In many countries, citizens who peacefully speak their views, practice their religion, or strive to hold their governments accountable for abuses experience reckless disregard for their rights. Recently, authoritarian regimes have used the coronavirus pandemic to justify increased restrictions on individual human rights. These regimes have suppressed the free flow of timely and accurate information about the pandemic by censoring or imprisoning people who dare to share unapproved information or opinions. The most notable example today is China, where the virus originated and government suppression led directly to this global pandemic. In addition, the Chinese government has seized upon this opportunity to snuff out freedom in Hong Kong, which had been the only bastion of liberty in that captive nation.

The United States encourages all nations to respect individual liberty, uphold the rule of law, and be accountable to their people through consent-based governments. Authoritarian regimes that do not respect the inherent dignity of every individual hold the dreams and potential of their people captive, enabling poverty, repression, and anguish to flourish as they deny their people their God-given rights. We will never waver in our firm belief that liberty, justice, and the rule of law unleash the fullness of life that God intended for everyone. This week and always, we stand with all people who yearn to live freely, securely, and prosperously under rights-respecting, transparent, and accountable governments rooted in the consent of the governed.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved July 17, 1959 (73 Stat. 212), has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation designating the third week of July of each year as “Captive Nations Week.” NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 19 through July 25, 2020, as Captive Nations Week. I call upon all Americans to reaffirm our commitment to supporting those around the world striving for liberty, justice, and the rule of law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.

President DONALD J. TRUMP

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**Get HOLODOMOR included in the Dictionary**

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), which unites and advocates in the name of nearly 30 fraternal, educational, religious, cultural, veterans and humanitarian organizations in the Ukrainian American community, joins with the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor Genocide Awareness, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), and the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) in asking our community and all friends of Ukraine to sign the petition to get the word *Holodomor* included in all major English-language dictionaries.

This petition is part of the #DeepTruth campaign, launched on July 21 by the Holodomor National Awareness Tour (HNAT), a project of the Canada Ukraine Foundation. It features a 75 second video made using deepfake technology and revealing the truth of former Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin’s role in ordering the forced starvation of untold millions of Ukrainians, and the subsequent cover-up of this atrocity.

To Sign the Petition please click link below:


Please take the time to sign the petition and please share the links to the campaign widely.
In May 2020, President Trump nominated Lt. Gen. Keith Dayton (ret.) to be the next U.S. ambassador to Ukraine. Ukraine has been without a full-fledged U.S. ambassador since May 2019. Lt. Gen. Dayton is a retired lieutenant general from the U.S. Army and currently serves as the director of the George C. Marshall Center in Germany. His 40-year career has included positions within the Defense Intelligence Agency and he also served as defense attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

As is customary in ambassadorial nomination processes, the nominee must undergo a hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Though a date for the hearing hasn’t been scheduled, UCCA initiated a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sens. James Risch and Robert Menendez, respectively, to express the Ukrainian community’s support for the lieutenant general’s nomination. “Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity clearly serve U.S. national interests,” pens the UCCA. “It is vital to uphold and strengthen the strategic partnership which exists between the United States and Ukraine. While diplomacy is the key to successfully implementing a mutually beneficial dialogue, it is unfortunate that Ukraine has been without a U.S. ambassador for a lengthy period of time.”

UCCA thanked the Chairman and Ranking Member for their continued support for Ukraine-related issues in the U.S. Senate including a Russia-sanctions regime; support for non-recognition of the illegal Crimean annexation; defensive military support for Ukraine; and, financial assistance to Ukraine as that country undergoes necessary economic reforms. The letter to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee leaders concludes: “Chairman Risch and Ranking Member Menendez, the Ukrainian community endorses the Administration’s nomination of Gen. Dayton and seeks your support in expediting the nomination process. Once again, UCCA is truly grateful for your constant support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, free from all forms of foreign aggression.”

Six years ago, Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, a scheduled passenger flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, was shot down while flying over eastern Ukraine. All 283 passengers and 15 crew were killed by a Russian-made Buk surface-to-air missile launched from Russian occupied territory in Ukraine. Today, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the representative organization of the over 1.5 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, joins the world community in solemnly commemorating the tragic anniversary of the downing of MH17 and the 298 innocent lives lost on July 17, 2014.

Since the horrific crash, the Joint Investigation Team, led by the Netherlands, Australia, Belgium, Malaysia and Ukraine, have concluded that the missile system involved in shooting down MH17 came from a Russian military brigade. The Boeing 777 was hit by a Russian-manufactured Buk 9M38, surface-to-air missile fired from the territory controlled by Russia’s terrorists in Ukraine, using a mobile launcher trucked in from Russia and hastily returned there. A similar conclusion is widely accepted by Western intelligence.

“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 applauds the Dutch government’s decision to bring Russia before the European Court of Human Rights for its role in the downing of Flight MH17,” he added. On this solemn sixth 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.

On this 29th Anniversary of Ukraine’s renewed Independence, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America sends its warmest greetings to Ukrainians throughout the world.

May the Lord watch over the Ukrainian people and grant them the strength to secure their sovereignty and restore their territorial integrity against Russia’s continued aggression. May Ukraine continue to possess the fortitude and wisdom to continue in their EuroAtlantic path to true democracy.

Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the Heroes!