

## SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON UKRAINE... UCCA SUBMITS TESTIMONY

A delegation of UCCA Executive Board members attended a hearing on the current crisis in Ukraine. Making good on his promise to leaders of the New Jersey Ukrainian Community on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Senator Robert Menendez called for a full committee hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on January 15<sup>th</sup> entitled, "Implications of the Crisis in Ukraine."



"Let me say that I met earlier this month with members of New Jersey's Ukrainian diaspora, and they asked me to bring attention to the thousands of protestors in Maidan Square who want a voice in the future of their country. I'd like to assure them today that. . . Senate Foreign Relations Committee. . . isn't deaf to those brave people whose capacity for hope and appetite for freedom has compelled them to take to the streets.

"The world is, indeed, watching."

*Senator Robert Menendez*

*Photo: UCCA Delegation L to R: Roksolana Lozynskyj, Chair of UCCA External Affairs Committee; Tamara Olexy, UCCA President; Senator Chris Murphy; Stepan Kaczaraj, UNA President and Chair of UCCA National Council; Andrij Futey, UCCA Executive Vice President; and Michael Sawkiw, Jr, UNIS Director.*

Senator Menendez officially opened the hearing, held in the Senate Dirksen Office, before asking his colleagues to provide remarks. Minority Chair, Senator Bob Corker (R-TN), Senator John McCain (R-AZ), Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT), Senator Jim Sheehan (D-NH) all provided remarks and questions to the panelists. Testifying before the Committee were: Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs at the State Department [her full testimony can be found at: [http://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Nuland\\_Testimony1.pdf](http://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Nuland_Testimony1.pdf)] and Mr. Thomas Melia, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor [his full testimony can be found at: [http://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Melia\\_Testimony4.pdf](http://www.foreign.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Melia_Testimony4.pdf)].

During the second panel of the hearing, Dr. Zbigniew K. Brzezinski, Former U.S. National Security Advisor Counselor and Trustee Center for Strategic and International Studies, provided testimony to the Committee. Dr. Brzezinski succinctly outlined recommendations for the United States and emphasized the need for U.S. support for Ukraine.

The UCCA delegation had an opportunity to meet with Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) during the hearing, at which time they thanked the Senator for his continued support and for meeting with the Connecticut Ukrainian community. They also urged him to support sanctions.

Following the hearing, UCCA Board members were invited to meet with Senator Menendez. The UCCA thanked the Senator for all of his effort in organizing the hearing and for his strong words of support. Senator Menendez acknowledged that he relied on the UCCA recommendations provided at the earlier January 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting with leaders of the Ukrainian community and in the written testimony submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee [which can be found on the UCCA website at: [http://www.ucca.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=362%3Atestimony-to-the-senate-foreign-relations-committee&catid=8%3Aucca-statements&Itemid=23&lang=en](http://www.ucca.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=362%3Atestimony-to-the-senate-foreign-relations-committee&catid=8%3Aucca-statements&Itemid=23&lang=en)]. Senator Menendez thanked the community for their unwavering support and reassured us of his support and that he will continue closely monitoring the situation in Ukraine.

To view the entire hearing, please visit: <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/TurmoilinU>

## UCCA HOLDS MEETING IN WASHINGTON, DC TO DISCUSS CRISIS IN UKRAINE

On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, UCCA Executive Board members held a series of meetings in Washington, DC to discuss the current political crisis in Ukraine. The UCCA Officers **addressed** a myriad of issues during their meetings including: targeted sanctions against Ukrainian government officials, especially those responsible for the violence; ongoing violations of human and national rights; Russian pressure on Ukraine; foreign assistance funds for media and NGOs; and the urgent need for the United States to stand with the peaceful protestors in Kyiv and throughout Ukraine.

UCCA Executive Vice President Andriy Futey and UNIS Director Michael Sawkiw met with former US Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst to discuss UCCA activities with the US Congress and the US State Department. Ambassador Herbst supported the action plan and discussed his own efforts. Both Executive Board members also met with representatives of the Jewish American community to discuss the current crisis in Ukraine. The discussion with William Daroff, Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Director of the Washington Office of the Jewish Federations of North America and Mark Levin, Executive Director of the NCSJ, was very constructive and addressed concerns of provocative anti-Semitic acts in Ukraine. The representatives agreed to continue sharing information and communications with each other to quell additional human rights abuses in Ukraine by government authorities.



*L to R: W. Daroff and UCCA VP A. Futey*

UCCA President, Tamara Olexy, joined Futey and Sawkiw for a meeting with Eric Rubin, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs at State Department, and Lyn Debevoise at National Security Council.

Deputy Secretary Rubin reassured UCCA that the State Department is actively engaged in the unfolding situation in Ukraine, and is doing its utmost to help resolve the crisis peacefully. He also stated that in the worst case scenario, if the situation deteriorates and there is more violence, the United States would downgrade their relationship with Ukraine.

## UCCA CALLS FOR COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

For the last two months, the Ukrainian people have been pleading with the West to support their right to live in a country with values and human dignity. Beyond issuing verbal admonishments to the Yanukovich regime, the West has done little. Today, Putin's proxy regime has attempted to establish a dictatorship and has unleashed unprecedented violence against the peaceful people of Ukraine and yet, nothing but words from the West. The thugs running Ukraine understand one thing – SANCTIONS.

Therefore, the UCCA urges the Ukrainian American community to FLOOD the White House, the State Department and your representatives on Capitol Hill with emails/phones/faxes demanding sanctions – freezing of assets and visa restrictions – against the thugs ordering the attacks on the people of Ukraine. You don't need to explain the issue. The U.S. government already knows the issue. They know who should be on the list of sanctions. You just need to add your voice in support of the people of Ukraine. The Executive Branch can impose sanctions. E-mail the White House and the State Department in support of sanctions.

Email President Obama at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments>

Email Secretary of State Kerry at: <http://contact-us.state.gov/app/ask/session/L3RpbWUvMTM5MDI3NTQyMi9zaWQvUUZfb0lVS2w%3D>

**YOUR IMMEDIATE ACTION IN THIS REGARD IS NEEDED. UKRAINE IS IN PERIL!**

## UCCA DETROIT BRANCH REVITALIZED!

After years of inactivity, the UCCA Executive Board is pleased to announce that the Detroit, Michigan Branch has been revitalized!



Newly-elected members of the board include from LtoR: Michael Andriaschko; Andrij Duzyj, Vice President; Vasyl Perets, President; Eugene Repeta Treasurer; Second row: Met Wroblewski, Myron Fedoriv, Fr. Valeriy Kandyuk, Roman Pavliv. Vira Kutcyj - Secretary (Not pictured).