



UCCA LAUNCHES URGENT ACTION PLAN TO HELP UKRAINE

In recent weeks the fighting in Ukraine has intensified, the death toll is rising and Russian-backed terrorists have begun targeting innocent civilians! In light of this critical situation the UCCA External Affairs Committee has initiated a community-wide action plan and urges the entire Ukrainian American community to join our efforts to help Ukraine!

As you are aware, on December 18th President Obama signed into law the Ukraine Freedom Support Act, which authorizes the United States to send lethal military assistance to Ukraine. Unfortunately, to date no U.S. military assistance has been sent! Therefore we are urging the entire Ukrainian American community to mobilize its efforts to compel the U.S. government to send military assistance, as stipulated by the Ukraine Freedom Support Act.

The time to act is NOW!!

Please call President Obama Daily!

(202) 456-1111 M-F 9AM-5PM

Leave the following or similar message:

Please send military aid to Ukraine, as stipulated by the Ukraine Freedom Support Act you signed into law on December 18, 2014. The United States has a moral (and legal/contractual) responsibility to help Ukraine defend its territorial integrity and to help that country deter continued Russian-sponsored terrorism/aggression.

Please call your Members of Congress Daily!

- * Go to www.house.gov & to www.senate.gov
- * In the upper right-hand corner enter your ZIP CODE/State.
- * Click on your Member of Congress/State.
- * Click on the CONTACT button.

Please call and/or email the following message:

As your constituent, I urge [Name] to make a statement on the recent escalation of violence from Russian-backed rebels in Ukraine and the need for dire military assistance to Ukraine! It is high time for the U.S. to provide Ukraine the economic, political, and military assistance it needs, particularly the defensive military equipment Congress authorized in the Ukraine Freedom Support Act. I request Representative (Name) to contact the White House and Department of Defense asking why the security assistance granted to Ukraine by the Freedom Support Act has yet to be delivered.

The UCCA's Action Strategy also includes ways to support H. Res 50 #FreeSavchenko Resolution and the Crimean Annexation Non-Recognition Act (HR93), among other initiatives. Please contact UCCA or UNIS should you like a copy of the Strategy Plan packet.

UCCA CONDEMNS MASSACRES AND CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE SUPPORT FOR UKRAINIAN MILITARY

On January 26th, the UCCA issued the following statement, which reads in part:

"...The UCCA stands with the rest of the world in strongly condemning Russia's escalating military offensive to occupy more and more of Ukraine's territory. The Russian terrorist assault on Mariupol, a city 15 miles past the Minsk Ceasefire line, violently and senselessly murdered at least 29 civilians, and injured 83 others. Likewise, the rocket attack on a civilian bus in Volnovakha on January 13, callously ended the lives of 10 innocent bystanders and injured 13 others.

The Russian Federation has not only failed to honor international commitments and respect the rule of law, it has now given up even the false pretense that it would abide by the Minsk Ceasefire agreed to on September 5th, 2014, rendering that agreement null and void. We therefore call upon the signatory states of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances to honor their commitment to Ukraine's territorial integrity.

We call upon the United States to:

- *Designate Russia a State Sponsor of Terrorism
- *Supply Ukraine's dedicated fighting forces with the requested arms they need to repel all Russian occupying forces from all of Ukraine's territory, including Crimea.
- *Support Ukraine's full integration into Western structures by accelerating Ukraine's ascension into NATO and the European Union.
- *Escalate the punitive measures against Russia and suspend their access to SWIFT and Dollar transactions.
- *Sponsor a motion to rescind FIFA's decision to hold the 2018 World Cup in Russia
- *Demand that Russia immediately release Nadiya Savchenko and all Ukrainians who have been transnationally abducted and are currently being held in Russia in contravention of the Geneva Convention.
- *Rescind Russia's membership in the G20.
- *Expel Russia from the WTO.

Finally, we ask that the United States live up to the commitment signed into law on December 18th, 2014..."

To read the statement in full, please visit the UCCA's website at www.ucca.org.

UCCA CALLS FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF SAVCHENKO

"The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the representative organization of the over one million Americans of Ukrainian descent, strongly condemns Russia's transnational abduction and subsequent unlawful detention 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, and calls for her immediate release.

Russia's targeted international abduction of M.P. Savchenko, who gained earlier fame for her determination to become Ukraine's first woman fighter pilot, her detention by invading Russian troops and involuntary expatriation out of Ukraine, once again, underscores Russia's contempt for international law. The prosecution by Russian authorities, illegal detention under unsubstantiated charges, involuntary psychiatric evaluation and solitary confinement endured by MP Nadiya Savchenko in Moscow is in clear violation of her human rights and 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. Her treatment as a prisoner of war is in direct violation of the Geneva Convention. Russia is a signatory of both these international agreements and must bear direct responsibility for these violations.

The UCCA is deeply concerned for Nadiya Savchenko, who has been on a hunger strike since December 13, 2014. To date, she is in solitary confinement and has been denied urgently-needed medical attention and communication with her legal counsel. Still, she remains courageously steadfast in her commitment to justice. She recently wrote from her Russian prison: "They (the Russians) hold not only me, but many Ukrainians. If (Putin) releases the other abducted Ukrainians, removes his hands from Crimea and Ukraine, then let them publically, cheerfully execute me."

The UCCA urges the United States, and the international community to intensify its public condemnation of Russia's illegal imprisonment of Lieutenant Nadiya Savchenko, and demand that she and the other illegally imprisoned Ukrainians be freed. The UCCA strongly calls on the United States government to utilize all diplomatic efforts to ensure the safety of her life and their immediate release.

Russia must respect the rule of law and honor its international commitments. The United States and the world's democracies must not remain silent while basic human rights are being violated and the rule of law is so flagrantly ignored."

CONGRESSIONAL EFFORTS TO #FREESAVCHENKO

At the request of the UCCA, Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ) initiated a bipartisan letter signed by 22 Members of Congress urging U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to intensify his efforts to seek Ms. Savchenko's immediate release and public condemnation of her illegal imprisonment by Russia. Signatories of the letter include: U.S. Reps. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ), Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Michael Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Sander Levin (D-MI), Steve Stivers (R-OH), Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), Alcee Hastings (D-FL), Dan Lipinski (D-IL), Mike Quigley (D-IL), Charles Rangel (D-NY), Louise Slaughter (D-NY), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Elizabeth Esty (D-CT), David Schweikert (R-AZ), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Leonard Lance (R-NJ), Steve Cohen (D-TN), David Joyce (R-OH), Albio Sires (D-NJ), Chris Gibson (R-NY), John Larson (D-CT), and Brendan Boyle (D-PA).

The leadership of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus has also introduced a bipartisan House of Representatives resolution calling for the release of Nadiya Savchenko.

The UCCA asks that you please contact your respective Member of Congress and request their co-sponsorship of this important resolution. You may contact your Representative directly by using the House website at: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/>

The UCCA thanks the Members of Congress who have joined the #FreeSavchenko campaign for their unwavering support!

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 4TH - 5TH "UKRAINIAN DAYS"

The UCCA and its Washington, DC public relations bureau, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), is sponsoring the first advocacy event of 2015 on March 4-5 in our nation's capital! During "Ukrainian Days" the Ukrainian community will have an opportunity to express their concerns to Members of Congress and encourage them to continue promoting and supporting a strong and effective U.S. foreign policy towards Ukraine. "Ukrainian Days" will reinforce Ukraine's immediate security concerns of preserving its territorial integrity and sovereignty, maintaining border security, safeguarding its independence, and continuing economic reform. It is critical that our community actively demonstrate its interest in these crucial matters. Further information will be forthcoming on the UNIS Facebook page and the UCCA at www.ucca.org. You may also contact UNIS at unis@ucca.org or by phone at 202-547-0018.