

203 SECOND AVE
NEW YORK, NY
10003
TEL: (212) 228-6840
FAX: (212) 254-4721

UCCA BULLETIN



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

TWO CONGRESSIONAL BILLS NEED/DESERVE OUR COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT

"STAND FOR UKRAINE ACT" - H.R.5094

A new bill introduced in the House of Representatives by the Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), addresses the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. This comprehensive legislation, titled, "STAND for Ukraine Act" tightens sanctions on Russia and rejects any form of recognition of Russian rule over Crimea, as was American policy toward the 50-year Soviet occupation of the Baltic States. It also promotes investment in Ukraine and directs the U.S. State Department to implement a strategy to respond to Russian propaganda and disinformation.

Joining Reps. Engel and Kinzinger as cosponsors of the STAND for Ukraine Act are Representatives Sander Levin (D-MI), Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Ralph Abraham (R-LA), Jim Costa (D-CA), Randy Weber (R-TX), Ted Deutch (D-FL), Mike Pompeo (R-KS), David Cicilline (D-RI), John Shimkus (R-IL), Bill Keating (D-MA), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Steve Cohen (D-TN), and Reid Ribble (R-WI).

If you do not see your member of Congress on the list provided above, the UCCA/UNIS urge you to contact your congressman's offices and request their support for this initiative. Your congressman can be contacted on the U.S. House website at: www.house.gov

"COUNTERING FOREIGN PROPAGANDA AND DISINFORMATION ACT" S.2692

Senators Rob Portman (R-OH) and Chris Murphy (D-CT), have sponsored S.2692, the Countering Foreign Propaganda and Disinformation Act. The bill would establish a Center for Information Analysis and Response for the purpose of coordinating a U.S. response to propaganda from foreign sources such as Russia, China, and other countries. It is an essential piece of legislation that would strengthen U.S. security interests by disseminating truthful information about worldwide issues, in particular Russia's disinformation and propaganda about Ukraine and the war in Eastern Ukraine.

Your advocacy is needed to advance this bill for countering malicious propaganda from state-sponsored sources. Please contact your senators' offices and request their support for this initiative. Your congressman can be contacted on the U.S. Senate website at: www.senate.gov

Should you have any questions regarding the above mentioned bills, please contact the Ukrainian National Information Service at 202 547-0018, or by e-mail at unis@ucca.org.

UCCA STATEMENT ON UKRAINE'S DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE CRIMEAN TATAR GENOCIDE

Every 18th of May, communities across the world pause to reflect on the mass murder of over 100,000 Crimean Tatars, a genocide conceived of and perpetrated by Josef Stalin...in 1944...This Sürgün, or "violent expulsion," remains hidden in the annals of 20th century atrocities...

This May 18th, the UCCA, joins the Ukrainian World Congress and the Government of Ukraine, not only to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of one of the most tragic pages in the history of the Crimean Tatar people, but in calling on the United States, U.N. and E.U. member states to recognize the mass expulsion of Crimean Tatars, organized by the Soviet Union in 1944, as an ethnic genocide of the Crimean Tatar people.

After Ukraine regained her independence, indigenous Crimean Tatars were allowed to return to their traditional, ancestral homeland...only to be violently interrupted once again by Putin's Russia...

The UCCA does not, has not, nor will ever recognize Russia's March 2014 staged plebiscite in Crimea. Russia's military invasion and current illegal occupation of Ukrainian territory has shed Ukrainian blood from day one ...

Seventy-two years ago, in the 20th century, Stalin hid his genocidal crimes. Now, in the 21st century, Putin glorifies his violation of international borders with parades and fireworks. Russia's claim over Crimea is without contemporary precedent, breaks numerous international doctrines and agreements, and must be reversed in the eyes of the rest of the world. The Russian occupation is quite simply an attempt to erase any semblance of the indigenous Crimean Tatar identity from their homeland...

...the UCCA acknowledges the "eternal memory" of Stalin's victims in Crimea, and calls on the international community to intensify their condemnation of Russia's illegal occupation of Ukraine. Ukraine and its international partners can and should devote all efforts to the restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity and rule of law to Crimea. The only hope for returning basic human rights to the people of Crimea is the end of Russia's military occupation. It is only then that the Crimean Tatars will be able to openly mourn for their ancestors in peace, senselessly slaughtered in the course of that "violent expulsion."

To read the full text, please visit our website.

UCCA STATEMENT ON THE RELEASE OF 1ST LT. NADIYA SAVCHENKO

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the representative organization of over one million Americans of Ukrainian descent, joins Ukrainians and defenders of liberty worldwide in celebrating the release of Iraq War Veteran, Ukrainian Air Force pilot, and Member of Ukraine's Parliament, Lt. Nadiya Savchenko. Breaking all international convention, this delegate to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe had been held in detention by Russian authorities since her abduction on June 17, 2014.

The stunning international abduction, imprisonment and unlawful prosecution of Nadiya Savchenko by Russia clearly violated human rights standards, and her treatment as a prisoner of war was in direct violation of the Geneva Convention. Human Rights Watch called her show-trial "unsound"; "Simply put, Nadiya Savchenko did not get a fair trial," said Hugh Williamson, Europe and Central Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

Throughout this harrowing period, numerous U.S. leaders spoke out in public against Lt. Savchenko's detainment, for which we express our gratitude. At the same time, over 100 political prisoners are still illegally detained by Russia's invading forces and we call on the world to demand their immediate release as well.

Earlier this morning, Ervin Ibrahimov, a member of the regional Crimean Tatar Mejlis in Bakhchysarai, was reported missing after his abandoned car was discovered in the middle of a road. Mr. Ibrahimov is one of dozens of indigenous Crimean Tatars who have been imprisoned by Russian authorities since the invasion and illegal occupation of Crimea. The world must condemn these actions and call for the release of ALL of Putin's political prisoners.

Lt. Savchenko's journey back to freedom is not yet complete. After months of psychological torture and physical degradation, following some of the most extensive hunger strikes by a political prisoner, Lt. Savchenko is in need of proper medical attention, and the UCCA will seek to make sure that this is provided for her. She will be carrying many physical and mental scars following the tortures inflicted upon her by Putin's regime. The full account of Lt. Savchenko's treatment while a prisoner of Russia must be made public, and those responsible for violating her rights must be brought to justice.

UCCA MEETS WITH THE NEW PRESIDENT OF MANOR COLLEGE

On May 18th, UCCA President, Tamara Olexy, had the opportunity to join UCCA Philadelphia Branch President, Gene Luciw, Providence Association representative Eryna Cvikula-Korchynsky, and Dan Nysch, from Tryzub, for a meeting with Dr. Jonathan Peri, the new President of Manor College.



During the very cordial lunch meeting, the participants discussed ways our Ukrainian community and Manor College could cooperate going forward. Following our discussion, Dr. Peri gave us a tour of the college.

2016 UNF APPEAL

In its 76th year of service to the Ukrainian American Community, the UCCA continues to remain the vanguard umbrella organization representing the interests of our community and supporting Ukraine's fledgling democracy.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of Ukraine's independence and as such the UCCA vows to continue its efforts on behalf of the Ukrainian people to maintain their sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of ongoing Russian aggression. 2016 is also of particular importance to the UCCA as it will convene its XXII Congress of Ukrainians in America in Hartford, CT, during which members will elect a new governing body and adopt Congressional Resolutions which will provide direction for the UCCA's work over the next four years. As the representative organization of over one million Americans of Ukrainian descent, the UCCA will continue to work hard to ensure that Ukraine's interests, and those of the Ukrainian American community are safeguarded now and in the future.

The work of the UCCA is almost entirely dependent on the financial support of its members. Therefore, we ask that you send in your annual membership dues to the Ukrainian National Fund (UNF). Without your necessary financial support, the significant and timely work of the UCCA cannot be successfully accomplished.

*All donations to the UCCA and its Ukrainian National Fund are tax deductible, should be submitted through your local UCCA Branches or to the UCCA National Office:
UCCA, 203 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10003*