



UCCA Co-AUTHORS JOINT LETTER TO PRESIDENT OBAMA

Following a series of ongoing discussions with the AJC, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the representative organization of the over one million Americans of Ukrainian decent, initiated a joint letter, together with other ethnic organizations, to underscore the fact that the risks for the “United States and the wider democratic world could not be higher in the ongoing aggression by the Russian Federation and its proxies against Ukraine’s territorial integrity.” The letter, addressed to President Barack Obama, underscored the belief that “the United States must prevail in defending the rights of Ukraine and other nations in the region to live free of unwanted outside involvement, to protect their sovereignty and independence.”

The joint letter, which generated broad based support, was signed by Executive officers of 13 national organizations, including: AJC; Armenian Assembly of America, Belarusian-American Association, Czechoslovak National Council of America, Estonian American National Committee, Georgian Association in the United States, Hungarian American Coalition, Joint Baltic American National Committee, Lithuanian American Community, Inc., Lithuanian American Council, Polish American Congress, Slovak League of America and Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

The signatories also urged the President to consider additional measures to demonstrate U.S. support for Ukraine by providing additional financial assistance, lethal defensive military equipment to help Ukrainians defend themselves, and multilateral sanctions against Russia to raise the price for its unjustifiable behavior against Ukraine.

As the situation remains critical in Ukraine, the Ukrainian American community, together with other ethnic communities, remains steadfast in its support of Ukraine and calls upon the United States to recognize the urgency of the crisis in the region and fortify its support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.

To read the entire letter, please visit the UCCA website at www.ucca.org

UCCA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS HOLD MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON

On Thursday, April 23rd UCCA Executive Board Members, including: President, Tamara Olexy; Executive Secretary, Marie Duplak; and UNIS Director, Michael Sawkiw met with Michael Carpenter, Special Advisor for Europe and Eurasia in the Office of the Vice President at the White House to discuss Ukraine and related security issues. The discussion focused on steps the United States has taken and plans on taking in response to Moscow’s aggression against Ukraine. The UCCA shared thoughts on various options in augmenting border security for Ukraine and the need for defensive weapons to help Ukraine defend its territorial integrity.

UCCA Executive Board members also met with Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Eric Rubin, during which they discussed Ukraine’s reform efforts, humanitarian assistance programs, and other pressing issues.

UCCA Executive Board Members also had an opportunity to meet with His Grace, Metropolitan Stefan Soroka.



During the cordial meeting, plans were discussed for the upcoming unveiling of the Holodomor Monument in November of this year, as well as maintaining better communications between UCCA and our churches.

That evening the UCCA Board members attended a Farewell Reception for Ambassador Oleksandr Motsyk who has been recalled to Kyiv.

UCCA HOSTS MEETING WITH MAYOR VITALI KLITSCHKO

On April 26th, the UCCA hosted an intimate working luncheon between Kyiv Mayor Vitaliy Klitschko and leaders of the Ukrainian American community. The nearly two hour meeting was a cordial and open discussion that addressed several issues of concern.

The mayor presented his administration's effort to tackle the troubling issue of inherited and continuing corruption by underscoring his top priority of making sure that all dealings with his administration with regards to reforms and investment was done in a transparent manner. Community leaders emphasized the critical nature of such reforms and acknowledged the difficulty of this task. The Mayor recognized the adverse effect that corruption and Russia's continued aggression against Ukraine have on the general investment climate and the efforts to attract Western investment to Kyiv and pledged his reputation in the battle against corruption.

Ukraine's growing internal refugee crisis was also discussed. With some 2 million citizens now displaced within Ukraine due to Russia's illegal annexation and occupation of Crimea and Russia's ongoing invasion of the Donbas, Ukrainian American leaders expressed their concern and reviewed aspects of continued and extensive community humanitarian support. Mr. Klitschko stated that officially Kyiv has 20,000 Internally Displaced Persons for which the city is providing many social services to alleviate their hardships.



The issue of combating Russia's well-funded propaganda machine was also addressed. While acknowledging the determined and almost entirely volunteer community efforts in this propaganda war, it was recognized that in order for these efforts to remain successful, they must be actively supported. It was happily noted that the Mayor's brother's fight on Friday was one small way of providing positive PR about Ukraine.

Mayor Klitschko was in NYC for his brother Volodymyr's boxing match at Madison Square Garden against Bryant Jennings, where he successfully defended his world heavyweight championship title for the 18th time. This week, the Mayor has a number of high level meetings scheduled in Washington D.C.

UKRAINIAN NATIONAL FUND

This year's UNF Appeal reads in part:

"This year, in the 75th anniversary of the UCCA, the focus of Ukrainian communities worldwide is fixed on the ongoing war in Ukraine. Since the conflict began in 2013, the Ukrainian nation has seen tremendous historical upheavals from revolution, to illegal annexation, to outright invasion! . . . Yet, for all the horror and destruction that Ukraine has endured, the people have remained undeniably steadfast in their stand against Russian aggression. Ukrainian citizens have given of themselves and sacrificed without reservation during this particularly difficult war, so that Ukraine can remain a free and democratic nation. The admirable bravery and unquestionable fortitude of the Ukrainian people continue to inspire the world today as they battle for freedom against Russian and Russian-backed terrorists in Eastern Ukraine..."

We urge you to submit your annual UNF dues to the UCCA National Office today! Without the financial support of dedicated and patriotic individuals like you, the significant and timely work of the UCCA cannot be accomplished.

UNF donations should be sent to the UCCA National Office at 203 Second Avenue, NY, NY 10003. The complete UNF Appeal can be read on our website at www.ucca.org.

NOVEMBER 7TH & 8TH

Save the Date!
Holodomor Memorial Dedication

November 7-8, 2015
Washington, DC

Запишіть у календарі!

Відкриття
пам'ятника жертвам Голодомору

7-8 листопада 2015 р.
м. Вашингтон

