

85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HOLODOMOR MARKED IN NEW YORK CITY

On November 17th thousands gathered at St. Patrick's Cathedral for an ecumenical requiem service and program dedicated to the 85th anniversary of Ukraine's Holodomor, Stalin's Famine Genocide of 7-10 million Ukrainians in 1932-33. The Memorial Service was led by Archbishop Anthony, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in the USA, Bishop Andriy Rabyi, Apostolic Administrator of the Metropolitan Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia, as well as Bishop Paul Chomnycky, OSBM, Eparch of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Stamford, with the sung responses by the Ukrainian Chorus "Dumka" of New York, under the direction of Vasyl Hrechynsky. Just prior the service, a solemn procession through the nave of the cathedral was organized by Ivanka Zajac, president of UCCA NYC Branch. With the Dumka Chorus singing, students from St. George Academy, the "Samopomich" School of Ukrainian Studies in New York City and the Jersey City chapter of the Ukrainian American Youth Association, followed a Ukrainian American Veteran (UAV) Color Guard led by CDR (Ret.) Carl Harvey. At the very front of the procession, escorted by UAV National Commander Ihor Rudko as well as her grandson, Bill Wieting, was Holodomor survivor Nadia Severyn, who laid a sheaf of wheat at the base of a candle bearing the flame of remembrance.



Following the requiem service, attendees were addressed by UCCA President Andriy Futey, who served as the program's MC. To begin the program, he clearly underlined that the Holodomor was a "deliberate act within the attempt to destroy the Ukrainian nation" and that Ukrainians around the world have advocated with greater and greater success for their governments to "recognize the genocide of the Ukrainian nation." Mr. Futey went on to highlight that "under the leadership of the UCCA working together with the Embassy of Ukraine," the U.S. Senate passed Senate Resolution 435 by unanimous consent this year, recognizing that "Joseph Stalin and those around him committed genocide against the Ukrainians in 1932-1933."

The next to speak Ambassador Yelchenko thanked the member states of the UN for their support, explaining that "today, as 85 years ago, we face the same aggressor, who spares no effort in trying to destroy Ukraine as a nation." In Ambassador Chaly's absence, Consul General of Ukraine in New York, Oleksii Holubov delivered his remarks, thanking the US government for its support, while also highlighting the actions of "governors, mayors, state and local legislators of 18 U.S. states, including New York and New Jersey" who added their voices in recognizing the Holodomor as genocide. Bishop Paul Chomnycky concluded the program by stating, "we, gathered in St. Patrick's Cathedral, to remember those who had no one to remember them, weep for those who had no one to weep for them, and pray for those who had no one to pray for them."

With a sincere gratitude to Archbishop Timothy Cardinal Dolan, for graciously allowing the Ukrainian community to commemorate the Holodomor at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the congregation rose for the singing of the spiritual anthem of Ukraine, "Oh God, Almighty and Only."

UCCA ISSUES OPEN LETTERS TO CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS AND SECRETARY POMPEO

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representation of Americans of Ukrainian descent, has sent urgent letters of appeal to the co-Chairs of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, the Senate Ukraine Caucus, the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, requesting they "hold congressional hearings about Russia's blatant use of force against Ukraine." Explaining that while the Ukrainian-American community is grateful for the many "recent statements and stalwart support for Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence," from leaders in Congress, UCCA's letter underscores that Ukraine stands at "a watershed moment in its history." In explaining the urgency of the letter, UCCA President, Andriy Futey, highlighted the plight of the 24 Ukrainian sailors who are currently being held in Russian captivity, a move that violates International Maritime Conventions. "We must take every available measure to secure their immediate release," stated Mr. Futey.

At the same time, UCCA forwarded an open letter to U.S. Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, as he departed to Brussels, Belgium, to attend the semi-annual meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers. Echoing UCCA's previous statements condemning Russia's premeditated and deliberate act of aggression against Ukraine on November 25, 2018, the letter to Secretary Pompeo requests that he propose a collective call by NATO member states for the immediate return to Ukraine of the captured Ukrainian warships and military personnel. The letter goes on to reference the stalled NATO Black Sea Action Plan in the planning since the 2016 NATO Warsaw Summit, which proposed to "substantially increase in NATO's presence and maritime activity" in the Black Sea. Following on Senator John Barasso's call to action on Meet the Press, UCCA's letter also asks the Summit leaders to consider "the immediate deployment of naval vessels from NATO member states to Ukrainian and NATO ally ports in the Black Sea."

As the bastion of democracy in the free world, the United States bears a moral obligation to take the lead in promoting international norms, defending basic human rights and freedoms, and charting a course of geopolitical stability. The Ukrainian-American community believes that the national security interests of the United States lie in the fulfillment of that obligation.

UCCA CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION IN RESPONSE TO RUSSIA'S CAPTURE OF UKRAINIAN SOLDIERS

On November 25th, UCCA, the nation's largest representative body of Americans of Ukrainian descent, issued an immediate statement of condemnation following the Russian Federation's premeditated and deliberate attack on three unarmed Ukrainian Naval vessels. This outrageous violation of a sovereign State's right of *innocent passage* - impeding Ukraine's lawful transit through the Kerch Strait - followed by the ramming of Ukrainian vessels, opening fire on them in international waters, before ultimately seizing the ships and arresting the sailors on board, is the latest brazen violation of international law by Russia's criminal regime.

Following the Russian Federation's refusal to return Ukraine's Naval vessels as required under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and the continued imprisonment and unlawful interrogations of 24 Ukrainian seamen in contravention of the European Court of Human Rights' orders, UCCA today calls upon the United States and the international community to not simply condemn the actions of the Russian Federation, but to take immediate action to reinforce their commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and the restoration of its territorial integrity.

Instead of giving Vladimir Putin a free pass to once again escalate his illegal war against Ukraine, Ukrainian-Americans and the entire Global Ukrainian Diaspora stand united in demanding the following actions:

- The immediate release of all 24 Ukrainian prisoners of war, as well as over 70 Ukrainian political prisoners illegally held in Russian captivity;
- The deployment of naval vessels from NATO member states to Ukrainian and NATO ally ports in the Black Sea;
- The immediate return of the two unarmed Ukrainian naval artillery vessels, the *Nikopol* and *Berdiansk*, and one military tugboat, the *Iany Kapu*;
- Increasing military assistance to Ukraine by utilizing measures already authorized by the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act, which would bolster Ukraine's naval capabilities, as with the recent transfer of the two excess Island-class cutters from the United States Coast Guard to the Ukrainian military.
- Strengthening sanctions against the Russian Federation - and specifically sectoral sanctions - including banning Russia from the SWIFT international payments system, and restricting the rights of anonymously-owned "shell" companies to buy property or access the financial system;
- The announcement of a temporary ban by Ukraine's allies on the issuance of official and business visas for citizens of the Russian Federation until such time as the captured seamen are returned.

UCCA also calls for US Congressional Hearings to be convened on the situation in the Black Sea as well as the state of the Ukrainian political prisoners. We continue to urge our community to action in support of Ukraine on the local level.

UCCA DELEGATES TO UWC IX CONGRESS MEET WITH AMBASSADOR YOVANOVITCH

On November 27th, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch hosted the U.S. Delegates to the XI Congress of the Ukrainian World Congress, in Kyiv, Ukraine. The reception, held at the Ambassador's residence, afforded UCCA and other U.S. Delegates an opportunity to discuss a variety of issues, including the current Russian attacks on Ukraine's naval vessels, and ways to explore opportunities to support anti-corruption and humanitarian efforts.



UCCA would like to sincerely thank Ambassador Yovanovitch and the U.S. Embassy officers for their hospitality and warm reception.

PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR CHRISTMAS WITH UCCA!

As Christmas is quickly approaching, we would like to remind you that UCCA has several items for your holiday shopping needs.

A variety of colorful *Ukrainian Christmas Cards* (artwork by Myroslawa Stojko) - \$1/each or \$10 for 12.



Zoloty Pavuchok - a beautifully illustrated children's Christmas story in the Ukrainian language - \$10/copy.

And the gift that keeps on giving for only \$50/year - a subscription to the English language scholarly journal *The Ukrainian Quarterly*.

To place an order please send a check/money order to the UCCA National Office or contact us by phone or email.

All prices listed include shipping and handling.