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**TESTIMONY**  
**OF THE UKRAINIAN CONGRESS COMMITTEE OF AMERICA**  
**SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

**NOMINATION HEARING FOR MARCO A. RUBIO**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**

**January 15, 2025**  
**Washington, DC**

*The Ukrainian American community is united in its support for the independence and full territorial integrity of Ukraine. As Americans, we believe that a strong, democratic, and independent Ukraine is in the national security interests of the United States and consistent with our traditions of support for individual freedom and self-determination.*

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, thank you for the opportunity for the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) to comment on the nomination hearing for Secretary of State Marco A. Rubio.

Founded 85 years ago, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, an umbrella organization representing the interests of 2+ million Americans of Ukrainian descent, would like to express our community's gratitude to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for your continued support of Ukraine and its fight for freedom.

Nearly three years into Russia's full-scale war of aggression, the brave men and women of Ukraine continue to defend the values the United States holds dear – freedom, democracy and self-determination. Our continued support for Ukraine's territorial integrity, including accelerating Western integration in the face of revanchist Russian imperialism and enhancing the bilateral relations between the United States and Ukraine, is the focus of UCCA's testimony today.

The UCCA would also like to express the Ukrainian American community's gratitude for the great amount of security, economic, and humanitarian aid from the United States that is helping to bolster Ukraine's ongoing defense of its freedom and independence.

## BACKGROUND

Ukraine is a sovereign, free, European country. Ukraine was first invaded by russia in 2014, and then again in a full-scale invasion in 2022 to prevent Ukraine from integrating into the EuroAtlantic alliance. In the context of United States geo-strategic interests, russia's war in Ukraine cannot be understood without recognizing its far-reaching consequences for global security. The kremlin's imperial policy of expanding a "russkyi mir" ("russian world"), along with the multi-vectored campaign of destabilization against NATO is a direct security threat to the EuroAtlantic community. As a result, russia's behavior is rightly viewed with alarm by our allies, most particularly by those on NATO's Eastern Flank. It is understood to be the most serious threat to the rules-based international order that has emerged since the Second World War.

Eight decades after the conclusion of that war, russia's invasion of Ukraine has killed thousands and left millions of civilians displaced in the largest land war and humanitarian crisis Europe has seen since 1945. The United States government has consistently supported Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and the inviolability of its borders, declaring as official government policy to assist the government of Ukraine in restoring its sovereignty and territorial integrity in order to deter the government of the russian federation.

The Ukrainian American community looks to the United States to not only live up to its public and binding security guarantees to Ukraine but to further develop this strategic relationship as a buffer against rogue nations threatening the collective security order. As such, we strongly believe that the security of the U.S. lies in the expansion of democracy and mutual security guarantees, not in the appeasement of an imperial state.

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Three years into russia's full-scale war of aggression, and ten years after its initial invasion in 2014, russia's continued attempts to erase Ukrainian statehood and national identity have failed. russia's unprovoked attempt to change borders by force is a blatant attack on the post-1945 global order and a grave violation of international law – including the UN Charter, the CSCE Final Act, the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, the 1997 bilateral Ukraine-russia treaty, among others.

Since February 2022, the United States has played a leading role in imposing sanctions on the kremlin, while providing more than \$60 billion in security assistance to Ukraine. This aid is not only essential to Ukraine's continued survival, but it recognizes Ukraine's geo-strategic importance in the overall context of global security. The assistance provided is also strategically important for the United States as it bolsters our domestic military-industrial complex and creates jobs.

russia's war is not only against Ukraine, but also against the whole of NATO and the community of democracies. Concerningly, NATO allies across Europe have reported an increase in hybrid attacks emanating from russia in the shape of disinformation, cyberattacks, acts of sabotage, GPS jamming, attempted assassinations, and border provocations. Other examples include election interference that have recently emerged in Romania, a NATO ally, and in neighboring Moldova. This is all part of russia's campaign to deter, divide, distract, and destabilize Western societies.

Moreover, China has become a decisive enabler of russia's war through its "no limits" partnership and its large-scale support for russia's defense industrial base. Iran is also providing direct military support to russia in the form of ballistic missiles and thousands of Shahed drones that are used to terrorize innocent Ukrainians on a daily basis. The further internationalization of the conflict with North Korean troops is just another sign that putin is not willing to back down. The axis of aggressors is growing stronger and spreading its corrosive effects worldwide.

A russian victory in Ukraine would also embolden China in the Indo-Pacific while encouraging nuclear proliferation worldwide. The cost of defending democratic values later will far exceed the price of helping Ukraine today. Thus, it is in the economic and strategic interests of the United States to continue and deepen our support for the people of Ukraine.

The United States must not be deterred in countering Russian actions that threaten European security and stability. The United States, as a signatory to the 1994 Trilateral Agreement, has an obligation to assist Ukraine in the defense of its sovereignty and territorial integrity and in its efforts to institutionalize democratic and economic reforms. The national security interests of the United States lie in the fulfillment of that obligation and constitute the very foundation upon which the existing relationship between sovereign nations rests.

Ukraine must reestablish its full territorial integrity and be folded into Western economic and security architectures. To do this, there are specific policy measures the United States should support.

The Ukrainian American community urges the United States to take the following actions:

- ❖ Designate Russia as a State Sponsor of Terror;
- ❖ Continue security assistance for Ukraine in its existential war against Russian aggression in a supplemental bill or in the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA);
- ❖ Increase and implement further sanctions on Russian energy, banking, and financial sectors;
- ❖ Impose fines against Western technology firms that sell components found within Russian missiles and rockets targeted against Ukraine;
- ❖ Utilize Russia's frozen sovereign assets for the reconstruction and recovery efforts in Ukraine;
- ❖ Recognize Russia's current war in Ukraine, the kidnapping of Ukrainian children, and the Ukrainian Holodomor of 1932-1933 as genocide;
- ❖ Invite Ukraine to join the NATO alliance; and,
- ❖ Increase pressure on China regarding its support for Russia's war machine.

At the 2024 Washington NATO Summit, allies reaffirmed "Ukraine's future is in NATO." To achieve this goal, the United States must advocate for a clear process for Ukraine's full membership to be achieved as soon as possible, which will deter any future external threats.

*Understandably we all want peace. But Ukraine's victory holds profound geostrategic implications for the global order. Capitulating to authoritarian aggression would embolden autocratic regimes worldwide and imperil the global movement for liberty, while a decisive Ukrainian victory would not only secure its sovereignty but also serve as a resounding affirmation that democratic values can endure and prevail. For the United States, bolstering Ukraine's efforts aligns with its broader strategic interests in preserving a rules-based international order and preventing the rise of revisionist powers. Supporting Ukraine is an investment in a stable, secure, and democratic world.*