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# UCCA BULLETIN

## September 2015 ...Our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

### UCCA HOLDS HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS

Over the course of this last month, UCCA Executive Board members held a host of meetings in both Washington, DC and New York City.



On July 31<sup>st</sup>, UCCA President Tamara Olexy and UCCA Director of External Affairs, Ronya Lozynskyj, met with Ukraine's Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin to discuss Ukraine's current foreign policy challenges and plans for the future. The meeting was held during the Foreign Minister's working visit to the United Nations, which included bilateral and multilateral meetings with the heads of diplomatic missions of countries that initiated a joint request to the Security Council to create an international tribunal to investigate the circumstances of the tragic downing of Flight MH17.

On July 22<sup>nd</sup> UCCA VP Andrij Futey, President Tamara Olexy and UNIS Director Michael Sawkiw met with the former head of the Ukrainian Security Service, Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, who was in town to provide members of Congress with the most up-to-date information regarding Russia's aggression in Ukraine. The frank discussion addressed how best the Ukrainian American community can assist Ukraine in spreading the truth about the on-going war and fighting corruption.



That same day, members of the UCCA Executive Board also met with Ukraine's newly appointed Ambassador to the U.S., Valeriy Chalyi. The forthright discussion was a unique opportunity afforded to the UCCA, as it was the Ambassador's first meeting upon arriving in Washington, DC. The UCCA was able to share its concerns with the Ambassador and discuss ways to format a closer working relationship. Following the almost two hour long meeting, the UCCA expressed its gratitude and sincerest wishes for Ambassador Chalyi's future endeavors as Ukraine's top diplomat in Washington, DC and pledged our community's cooperative efforts during his tenure as Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S.

During the evening, the UCCA met with Odessa's former Mayor Edward Hurvitz who expounded upon the importance of securing Odesa against the Russian-backed terrorists.

During the third week of July, UCCA President and UNIS Director also attended the Annual Captive Nations Week commemoration held at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC. The luncheon, which was attended by representatives of former and current captive nations, highlighted the importance of marking Captive Nations Week, which has been officially proclaimed since 1959 by every American president from Dwight Eisenhower to Barack Obama.

### UCCA DELIVERS GREETINGS AT CRIMEAN TATAR WORLD CONGRESS

On August 1-2, 2015, UCCA Executive Board Member Andrij Dobriansky delivered the following address at the 2nd World Congress of Crimean Tatars in Ankara, Turkey. The statement read, in part...

"Shortly after masked gunmen stormed the Supreme Council of Crimea in a pre-dawn raid, the world awoke to the reality that the world's largest country, Russia, which possesses the largest known arsenal of nuclear warheads, had yet again militarily invaded a sovereign territory. Russia not only blatantly violated the UN Charter with its actions in February of 2014, but also the Helsinki Final Act, the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, and at least 2 bilateral agreements between Russia and Ukraine, not least of which was the so-called "Friendship Treaty."

Immediately after the invasion began, the UCCA, the nation's largest representation of Americans of Ukrainian descent, began its campaign of advocacy for the liberation of Crimea. In short order, the UCCA condemned the invasion, called upon its resources to entreat similar condemnations from elected officials in Congress and the United States, proposed numerous military and non-military responses that the United States could initiate, and advocated for an immediate high-level US delegation to visit Ukraine.

Over the past year, the UCCA has continued to underscore the plight of the indigenous Crimean Tatar people and occupied Crimea in our repeated condemnations of Russia's crimes, as well as in our advocacy work in Washington, D.C., where we mobilized to support initiatives such as the Crimean Annexation Non-Recognition Act. We welcome the incredible level of cooperation within our US communities, with ethnic Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars working together, alongside a coalition of Central and East European Diaspora organizations representing over 20 million Americans, demanding Russia's complete and permanent withdrawal from the Crimean peninsula.

On the auspicious occasion of the 2nd World Congress of Crimean Tatars, the UCCA once again calls on our President and our leaders in the US House and Senate to...stand together with all the people of Ukraine, to further military cooperation with Ukraine and enact sectoral sanctions against Russia. To our Crimean Tatar brethren who gathered in Ankara, we wish you great success in achieving your Congress' resolutions, firm in our belief that through our combined efforts we will see the Congress return to the Crimean Tatars' indigenous homeland in the future.

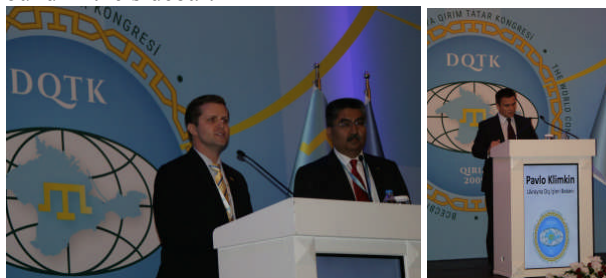
We take this opportunity to affirm our friendship and cooperation with the World Congress of Crimean Tatars. Know that we stand united against our common foe for the benefit of all freedom-loving people of Ukraine. Slava Ukrayini! Slava Krymu!"

To read the entire text of the statement, please visit our website at [www.ucca.org](http://www.ucca.org).

## UCCA ATTENDS 2<sup>ND</sup> WORLD CONGRESS OF CRIMEAN TATARS

On August 1-2, an auspicious gathering took place in the Turkish capital of Ankara. With their indigenous homeland under occupation, the Second World Crimean Tatar Congress - Dünya Qırım Tatar Kongresi – was forced to gather outside Crimea, in the country with the largest Crimean Tatar Diaspora population - Turkey. This World Congress, only the second in history, attracted 184 Tatar groups from 12 countries, representing some 200 Crimean Tatar organizations. The total of 410 registered delegates, 80 invited guests and 110 additional attendees, while smaller in number than the first Congress, certainly defied the expectations of even the organizers, as Russia had mobilized all of its best efforts to prevent the World Congress from taking place.

One of the invited guests, and the sole representative of the Ukrainian Diaspora, to address the Congress was Andrij Dobriansky, UCCA Executive Board Member. Mr. Dobriansky was afforded every opportunity to meet with Crimean Tatars from around the world, many of whom were both fluent speakers of the Ukrainian language as well as students of Ukrainian history and culture. His remarks to the Congress can be found in the sidebar.



L to R: A. Dobriansky & Foreign Minister Klimkin address Congress

The Congress began with Friday arrivals in Ankara, a mix of longtime friends reuniting while at the same time trading news on who had made it out of Crimea. The next morning, the Convention Center ballroom was teeming with international press as attendees applauded the entrance of Ukraine's Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin; leader of Tatar National Movement and the Chairman of Assembly of Crimean Tatar People Mustafa Dzhemilev; Head of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis Refat Chubarov; Deputy Speaker of the Turkish Parliament Naci Bostanci; and Deputy Turkish Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus. As the delegates remained standing, the strains of Ant Etkemmen, the Crimean Tatar national anthem began, followed by boisterous renditions of both the Ukrainian and Turkish national anthems.

Ukraine's Foreign Minister Klimkin declared the so-called annexation as "temporary-- because it is illegal" and then read a statement from President Petro Poroshenko who affirmed that "Ukraine will never in any circumstances accept the violation of the rights of the Crimean Tatar people to live freely on their own land." Ukraine, together with its international partners, "will devote all its efforts to restore legality on the peninsula and the return of Ukrainian power to Crimea." The President's statement closed with a mention of the "road map" being prepared by government and Crimean Tatar officials which would confer the status of national-territorial autonomy within the Ukrainian state. Poroshenko's statement was one of the most powerful of the Congress, eliciting a standing ovation and cries of "Slava Ukrayini! Slava Krymu!"

**A complete overview of the Congress can be read on our website.**

## HOLODOMOR MONUMENT INSTALLED; WEBSITE LAUNCHED

On August 4th, the long-awaited Holodomor Memorial was installed in the heart of our nation's capital. The monument, which depicts a fading field of wheat, is accompanied by the text: "Holodomor 1932-1933. In memory of millions of innocent victims of a man-made famine in Ukraine, engineered and implemented by Stalin's totalitarian regime." The event was attended by Ukraine's newly appointed Ambassador to the U.S., Valeriy Chaliy, the artist of the memorial, Larysa Kurylas; and Chair of the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor Genocide Awareness 1932-1933, Michael Sawkiw. Representatives of Hartman-Cox Architects, Forrester Construction Company and Laran Bronze Foundry, were also present at the installation.

On August 11<sup>th</sup> the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness 1932-33 announced the launch of its new website [www.ukrainegenocide.com](http://www.ukrainegenocide.com). The revamped website was developed in preparation for the unveiling of a Holodomor memorial and features an overview of the Holodomor, including rare historic photos and footage. The site is a reference resource about the Holodomor and provides up-to-date information on the dedication ceremony of the Ukrainian Holodomor Memorial on **November 7, 2015**. Donations to support the continued work of the U.S. Holodomor Committee may also be made directly from the site which features links to the U.S. Holodomor Committee's social media campaign – Twitter, Instagram, Vine, Tumblr, and Facebook.

## SAVE THE DATES: SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> & 17<sup>TH</sup>

The UCCA and its Washington, DC public relations bureau, the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) will sponsor its third "Ukrainian Days" advocacy event of 2015 on **Wednesday-Thursday September 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>**. This "Ukrainian Day" event is extremely vital given the continued critical situation in Ukraine. Our community needs to make its voice heard in Congress - as Ukraine's most pressing need continues to be security assistance! Help us do all we can to help preserve Ukraine's territorial integrity and independence! Join us in Washington on September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>!

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact UNIS at [202 547-0018](tel:2025470018), or by e-mail at [unis@ucca.org](mailto:unis@ucca.org).