FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UCCA #StandsWithUkraine

February 20, 2024

24 February marks the 2nd anniversary of the full-scale, unprovoked military invasion of Ukraine, and 10 years since war came to Ukraine in the form of an ongoing brutal occupation that stands in direct violation of all international law. With these crimes against peace, the post-World War II European security architecture has been forever violated.

Throughout this era of war, the brave men and women of Ukraine have stood on the front lines of democracy, defending all of Europe from the advance of tyranny. The human toll has been staggering for Ukraine, with tens of thousands killed, including over 500 children, millions displaced throughout the world and over 20,000 children forcibly kidnapped. These losses don’t include the destruction of over 120,000 buildings, major dams and infrastructure, and multiple cities and towns which have been completely depopulated and leveled to the ground.

This war “against Ukraine” is not a war “in Ukraine” nor a war “between Ukraine and Russia,” it is simply Russia’s war of genocide.

If Ukraine stops fighting, it will cease to exist.

As the world continues to watch in horror, Ukraine remains resolute, Ukraine’s people resilient: they continue to fight because they understand that it is not just their territorial integrity and sovereignty at stake, but the basic tenets of decency and democracy. What happens in Ukraine today, will determine how future generations will live: whether they will live in democracies or in totalitarian states; whether their lives will be free or whether they will live in servitude. If the United States were to abandon our promises to Ukraine, not only would we compromise our moral and ethical standing, but we would profoundly undermine our national security interests. The future of global American leadership rests on living up to security assurances like those made to Ukraine and other strategic allies.

Ukraine and Ukrainians understand better than almost anyone the words the President Ronald Reagan uttered: “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.”

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) continues to stand for the fundamental principles of freedom, decency and democracy and has advocated for 80 years that all who stand for these values, #StandWithUkraine. Recognizing that Ukraine is our frontline of defense, we must provide all the assistance Ukraine needs in her fight for freedom – including military support in the form of all possible munitions, air defense systems and fighter jets – with all haste. There is no alternative.

On this solemn anniversary, let us join together in profound gratitude to all those who have laid down their lives in defense of our common shared values of human rights and democracy.

#ArmUkraineNow

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