



UKRAINIAN NATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICE

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Dear Friends of Ukraine,

U.S. Senate and House congressional proceedings concluded on Friday. Congress is now on recess and will not return until mid-November after the midterm elections. This past week saw many new congressional initiatives; passage of a Continuing Resolution (CR), which funds the U.S. government until mid-December and includes a \$12b supplemental appropriations package for Ukraine; responses to Ukraine-related international events; and, actions regarding russian war crimes in Ukraine.

**** Information of the government's Continuing Resolution (CR):**

Senate passes funding bill to likely thwart weekend shutdown

<https://www.politico.com/news/2022/09/29/senate-avert-shutdown-00059485>

House sends stopgap funding bill to avoid government shutdown to Biden's desk

<https://thehill.com/policy/finance/3668882-house-sends-funding-bill-to-avoid-government-shutdown-to-bidens-desk/>

**** Information on russian "annexation" / violation of Ukrainian sovereignty:**

Below please find a statement issued by the Department of State imposing additional russia-related sanctions; a statement from the G-7; as well as, several congressional statements regarding today's "annexation" of Ukrainian territories to russia.

Imposing Swift and Severe Costs in Response to Russia's Violations of Ukraine's Sovereignty

<https://www.state.gov/imposing-swift-and-severe-costs-in-response-to-russias-violations-of-ukraines-sovereignty/>

G7 Foreign Ministers' Statement on the illegal annexation of sovereign Ukrainian territory <https://www.state.gov/g7-foreign-ministers-statement-on-the-illegal-annexation-of-sovereign-ukrainian-territory/>

Both chambers of Congress introduced legislation prohibiting the United States government from recognizing any "annexed" Ukrainian territory to russia. Below please find the respective descriptions of the Senate and House bills:

S.4937 - A bill to prohibit the United States Government from recognizing the Russian Federation's claim of sovereignty over any portion of the sovereign territory of Ukraine, and for other purposes; sponsored by Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Richard Durbin (D-IL).

H.R.9059 - To prohibit the United States Government from recognizing the Russian Federation's claim of sovereignty over any portion of the sovereign territory of Ukraine, and for other purposes; sponsored by Reps. William Keating (D-MA) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA).

Additional statements from congressional offices are provided below:

Pascrell Condemns Illegal Russian Theft of Ukrainian Territory

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-NJ-09) today condemned Russia's illegal annexation of sections of Ukraine and Russian dictator Vladimir Putin's newest threats against Ukraine and the United States. Rep. Pascrell's Ninth District in New Jersey is home to one of the largest Ukrainian-American communities in the U.S.

"The so-called liberations Russia talked about today are worth less than the blood-drenched papers they're signed on," said Rep. Pascrell, a member of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus. "These lands are a part of a Ukraine. I will not accept Russia's latest illegal annexations and rigged referenda. Vladimir Putin's rabid speech today was the ramblings of a depraved, desperate dictator. He is losing the war he started and he knows it. Putin and the Russian state have committed countless atrocities and war crimes. The butchery of innocent Ukrainians is on Putin's hands. For years – for decades – Putin has bullied and swaggered his way to survival. Neither brave Ukrainians nor Americans will be cowed by his threats.

"Ukraine is fighting a war for the survival of their freedom – and winning. America must continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Ukraine and give her the resources she needs to expel the Russian criminals. That is why I was proud to vote in favor of over \$54 billion in direct support for Ukraine and will be honored to support an additional over \$12 billion for Ukraine today. God bless the brave Ukrainians! Slava Ukraini!"

Portman Statement on Russia's Illegitimate 'Annexation' of Ukrainian Territory

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH), co-chair and co-founder of the Senate Ukraine Caucus and member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, issued the following statement today in response to Vladimir Putin's illegitimate and illegal claims of Russian sovereignty over Ukrainian territory:

"I condemn this latest illegitimate landgrab by President Putin in the strongest possible terms. These actions are just another sign of Russia's increasing desperation as its war effort falters. These illegal Russian claims on sovereign Ukrainian territory, coupled with President Putin's nuclear threats and poorly executed mass mobilization, are frantic attempts to try to stop Ukraine's successful counteroffensive. Russia is trying to claim sovereignty over territory that he barely controls - territory that he is losing every day. This will not help Russia's war effort and only strengthen Western resolve.

“This announcement, and the ‘referendum’ votes that preceded it in Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia Oblasts, are a sham and illegitimate. Just like Russia’s initial invasion of Ukraine, this is a clear violation of the UN Charter, the Hague Regulations of 1907, and the fundamental right of sovereign territorial integrity. In addition, the ‘referendum’ votes were clearly manipulated by Russia in order to manufacture an excuse to declare that the territory belongs to Russia and justify an illegal annexation. Make no mistake: this is straight out of the Kremlin’s playbook from its illegitimate ‘annexation’ of Crimea in 2014. Unfortunately for President Putin, this time Ukraine and its allies in the United States and Europe are ready, united, and prepared to defeat Russian aggression.

“Russia’s actions are being rightly condemned by the Biden administration, the UN, and governments around the world. In the eyes of the international community, this ‘annexation’ will never be recognized and will never have legal standing. As Ukraine’s forces continue to liberate territory, Russia’s ‘annexation’ will continue to be exposed as the farce that it is. Therefore, it is important that the international community stand together to ensure the sovereign borders of sovereign nations, especially those under attack like Ukraine, are not only recognized but protected.

“This is not an act of strength from Russia; it is an act of desperation and weakness. Now more than ever, we must surge support to Ukraine to ensure that Russia’s baseless claims of control over Ukrainian territory never become reality. Like many dictators before him, President Putin is trying to rewrite the borders of Europe with violence. We must ensure that he fails.”

**** Information on war crimes in Ukraine**

Earlier this week, a hearing was held in the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding accountability for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine. The following press release encapsulates the workings of the Judiciary Committee and efforts to seek justice for war crimes committed in Ukraine.

DURBIN DELIVERS OPENING STATEMENT DURING SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING ON UKRAINE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WAR CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL), Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, today delivered an opening statement during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing entitled “From Nuremberg to Ukraine: Accountability for War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity.”

Durbin and Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, previously introduced the bipartisan, bicameral [*Justice for Victims of War Crimes Act*](#), legislation that updates the current war crimes statute to enable prosecution of foreign war criminals in the United States regardless of the location or targets of their atrocities. The bill also extends the statute of limitations for war crimes discovered years after they occur.

Key Quotes:

“On September 14, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky walked into what can only be described as Hell on Earth. It was just days after Ukrainian forces recaptured the city of Izyum and President Zelensky wanted to assess the damage himself. The once picturesque riverside city was now unrecognizable. Mass graves were filled with hundreds of unidentified bodies, including children. Bodies with crushed skulls. Victims’ hands tied behind their backs. Faces mutilated beyond recognition. Many showing signs of

torture... We must not look away. We must bear witness to these heinous acts—which is why we have images of these crimes around the hearing room today.”

“I met with Ukrainian Prosecutor General Andriy Kostin last week. He told me they have documented nearly 35,000 war crimes, like the ones you see in these images, since Russia’s illegal, unprovoked invasion of Ukraine... We must uphold our nation’s legacy from Nuremberg – where the United States led the prosecutions of Nazi war criminals – by bringing today’s perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity to justice.”

“But it is also up to us in this body to ensure that our laws here at home do not enable impunity... Over the years, we had a number of bipartisan accomplishments—including the Genocide Accountability Act, which granted the Justice Department power to prosecute war criminals on American soil who had participated in genocide, and the Child Soldiers Accountability Act, which made it illegal under U.S. law to recruit or use child soldiers.”

“But our work is far from finished: A number of shameful loopholes in our laws continue to enable war criminals and perpetrators of crimes against humanity to find safe haven here in the United States. That may sound unbelievable but in 2006, Marko Boskic, a man who participated in the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia, was discovered living in Massachusetts.”

“Do you want to risk reading a headline ten years from now about a Russian who murdered civilians in Ukraine enjoying impunity in America? I sure don’t.”

**** REMINDER: “Ukrainian Days” – November 15-17, 2022**

The next “Ukrainian Days” advocacy event will be held a week following the congressional midterm elections. There will be many unresolved Ukraine-related congressional bills that will most likely be voted upon in lame duck session. Additional details for the November “Ukrainian Days” advocacy event will be forthcoming.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS) at: unis.sawkiw@gmail.com.

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SAVE THE DATE!

UKRAINIAN DAYS

**Advocacy
Holodomor
War Effort Roundtable**

NOV 15-17, 2022

*For more info and to register:
UkraineDaysDC2022@gmail.com*



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