



UKRAINIAN NATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICE

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December 7, 2022

Dear Friends of Ukraine,

The kremlin's unjustified and unprovoked war of aggression in Ukraine in the past nine months or eight years is not just being waged by the russian military, but also its mercenary units, in particular the Wagner Group. The Wagner Group's brutal activities in Ukraine and in other countries throughout the world have been documented and subsequently the United States government has sanctioned several individuals associated with the mercenary group.

To highlight attention to the brutality of this mercenary unit, the United States Senate and House of Representatives have introduced bills to designate officially the Wagner Group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO). The importance of this designation adds additional reasoning to eventually designate russia as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. The bills' findings include the following: "The PMC Wagner Group, a self-described private actor that undertakes military action and subversive operations at the behest of the Government of the russian federation [sic], is a "terrorist group" that engages in "terrorism." Additional measures of the bills include:

- The PMC Wagner Group and its affiliated entities have committed, or are credibly accused of 20 committing, terrorist activity through their involvement in—
 - (A) the massacres, rape, and torture of civilians in Bucha, Ukraine, in March 2022;
 - (J) efforts to assassinate Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in March 2022.
- The designation...shall equally apply to any affiliated and successor entities to the PMC Wagner Group undertaking malign activities against the United States and its allies and partners, including activities taking place in Ukraine, Africa, and the Middle East.

The Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the Washington, DC public affairs bureau of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), urges you to contact your Senators and Representatives to support S.5164 and H.R.9381 and advocate for the designation of the Wagner Group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization).

Currently the Senate bill (S.5164) has the following co-sponsors:

- Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)
- Sen. Benjamin Cardin (D-MD)

Currently the House bill (H.R.9381) has the following co-sponsors:

- Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN)
- Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC)
- Rep. Mark Veasey (D-TX)
- Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC)

Below please find an infographic. Please contact your elected officials promptly.



S.5164 and H.R.9381

HOLDING ACCOUNTABLE RUSSIAN MERCENARIES (HARM) Act

"To designate the russian-based [sic] PMC Wagner Group as a foreign terrorist organization"



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In additional news from Congress, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) met in a business meeting to review the nominations of U.S. envoys to various countries throughout the world. Of particular note, Lynne Casey has been nominated as the next U.S. ambassador to the Russian Federation, while former Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv Kristina Kvien has been nominated as the next U.S. ambassador to Armenia.

SFRC also reviewed the following Ukraine-related resolutions and bills:

- A resolution recognizing Russian actions in Ukraine as a genocide;
- The Black Sea Security Act of 2022;
- The Ukraine Human Rights Policy Act of 2022; and,
- A resolution recognizing May 28 as “World Hunger Day,” which highlights the 90th anniversary of the Ukrainian Holodomor and re-confirms its designation as a genocide.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives will vote upon the \$860 billion FY2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which would provide \$800 million in security assistance to Ukraine, as well as nearly \$3 billion for the production of additional munitions such as artillery and missiles used in Ukraine.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) met to discuss a resolution “requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to Congressionally appropriated funds to the nation of Ukraine from January 20, 2021 to November 15, 2022;” and the recently-introduced Countering Malign Russian [sic] Activities Globally Act. The bill would direct the Department of State to submit an “implementation plan outlining United States efforts to counter the malign influence and activities of the Russian Federation [sic] and its proxies in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and other regions as appropriate.”

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

Michael Sawkiw, Jr.

UCCA Executive Vice President

and

Director - Ukrainian National Information Service

(Washington Bureau - Ukrainian Congress Committee of America)

311 Massachusetts Avenue, NE Washington, DC 20002

tel: (202) 547-0018

fax: (202) 547-0019

e-mail: unis.sawkiw@gmail.com

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