



UCCA RESPONDS TO TRUMP'S PRESS CONFERENCE WITH PUTIN

In his joint press conference with Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, Finland, President Trump stunned the world when he failed to publicly condemn Russia for attacking the United States' election process. Asked directly if he held Russia at all accountable or responsible for anything in particular, President Trump not only dismissed the findings of U.S. intelligence agencies regarding Russian meddling in U.S. elections, but demonstrated a shocking ignorance of Russia's international crimes, failing to condemn the Russian Federation's continuing war against Ukraine, or reiterate the United States' support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, Georgia, and Moldova's internationally recognized borders. Furthermore, the President did not guarantee that the United States' sanctions regime against the Russian Federation would be maintained until Russia fully complies with their international obligations regarding Ukraine.

The Ukrainian-American community, as do all Americans, look to our Commander-in-Chief to live up not only to his oath of office in defense of our Republic, but to stand in defense of our ideals of Liberty and Democracy when confronted by a foreign adversary. The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representation of Americans of Ukrainian descent, has spoken out for over 75 years in support of United States authorities executing their duties for the common good of our country. President Trump's failure in Helsinki to publicly rebut the excuses of Russia's military intelligence units were a disservice to the legitimate work of United States law enforcement and intelligence officials who serve our country proudly. We further voice our support for the law enforcement officials in the United Kingdom and The Netherlands, who have exposed Russia's crimes against their citizens with the use of the Novichok nerve agent in the U.K. and the downing of the commercial airliner MH17 over Ukraine, murdering 298 innocent men, women and children. We echo the words we sent to the President before his departure to Europe: Vladimir Putin is not an ally of the United States.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine began in 2014, over 10,000 people have been killed and over 2 million civilians have been displaced - the largest wartime displacement in Europe since WWII. Since 2014, the United States government has spoken with one voice in support of Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, and the inviolability of its borders, when it declared as official state policy that the United States will "assist the government of Ukraine in restoring its sovereignty and territorial integrity in order to deter the government of the Russian Federation from further destabilizing and invading Ukraine and other independent countries."

Today, instead of confronting Vladimir Putin, President Trump failed to publicly affirm the United States' declared support of Ukraine. UCCA maintains that the national security interests of the United States include the fulfillment of our country's public and binding security guarantees to Ukraine, and calls on supporters of Liberty and Democracy to condemn the President's failure to confront Vladimir Putin in Helsinki. Only by standing united with our security alliance partners will we prevail over an enemy that remains the greatest existential threat not only to the United States and Ukraine, but to the entire post-World War II global security structure.

UCCA LAUDS CRIMEA DECLARATION

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America welcomed the State Department's July 25th long-awaited declaration affirming as the United States did in 1940 with the Welles Declaration, the non-recognition of "the Kremlin's claims of sovereignty over territory seized by force in contravention of international law." The "Crimea Declaration," as signed by Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, rejects "Russia's attempted annexation of Crimea," and pledges that the United States intends to maintain this policy of refusal to recognize Russia's illegal assertions "until Ukraine's territorial integrity is restored."

UCCA President Andriy Futey responded enthusiastically to today's declaration, stating, "Today the U.S. Government sent a strong message of support to those living under direct threat from Russia's unrelenting aggressive behavior. The United States and Ukraine stand united, as demonstrated by the recently increased U.S. security assistance to the government of Ukraine, which will help deter the government of the Russian Federation from further destabilizing and invading Ukraine and other independent countries."

The United States' refusal to recognize the Soviet Union's occupation of three Baltic countries - Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania - was enshrined in the 1940 Welles Declaration by then-Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles. Doubted by some as a merely a symbolic gesture, the Welles Declaration would go on to outlast the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991, and made clear to our allies that the United States stood with them no matter the circumstances.

UCCA began its advocacy for a "21st century Welles Declaration" for Crimea immediately after the invasion of Ukraine began on February 27, 2014. In previous statements, the UCCA has categorically rejected Russia's March 2014 staged plebiscite in Crimea and forced "annexation" of the peninsula. UCCA continues to call upon elected officials in Congress and the White House to work to aid Ukraine, including those Ukrainian citizens living under foreign occupation. Russia currently imprisons over 60 Ukrainians abducted illegally from their homeland, including the award-winning filmmaker Oleh Sentsov, a native of Crimea. All Ukrainian citizens living under Russia occupation live under constant threat of imprisonment and torture, including the all too common "disappearance" of activists, journalists, or ethnic minorities such as the indigenous Crimean Tatar people, whose language, rights, and culture are being threatened as much today as they were during the Soviet and Tsarist regimes.

UCCA ENCOURAGES INCREASED VOTER REGISTRATION AMONG UKRAINIAN-AMERICANS

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the largest representation of Americans of Ukrainian descent, looks to increase voter participation by the Ukrainian-American community in this year's mid-term elections. UCCA President Andriy Futey stated, "We strongly encourage our Ukrainian-American community to exercise their right to vote and make their voice heard. Do not sit back and watch from the sidelines. Make your voice heard by making sure you and your fellow supporters of Ukraine register to vote this November."

Voter turnout during midterm elections is historically low – in 2014's midterm election, voter turnout was the lowest since World War II. After 3 consecutive years of increased Congressional funding for aid to Ukraine, many House and Senate chairmanships are due to change in 2019 following a historic number of Congressional retirements this year. Only by maximizing the Ukrainian-American presence at the polls will incoming Representatives understand the importance of continued aid to Ukraine.



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

REGISTER TO VOTE

Midterm Elections:

November 6, 2018

"All Politics is Local!"

- Tip O'Neill

The former Speaker of the House of Representatives

Make our Ukrainian-American concerns heard in the polling booths.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

VOTER REGISTRATION

Visit the U.S. Election Assistance Commission www.eac.gov/nvra/ online and select your state to learn about the requirements.



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UCCA members and all supporters of Ukraine who are eligible to vote in November are encouraged to visit the U.S. Election Assistance Commission at www.eac.gov/nvra/ to find out more about registering to vote.

UCCA MOURNS THE PASSING OF LEVKO LUKIANENKO

It is with great sadness that the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America received the news on July 7, 2018 about the passing of Levko Lukianenko, a great Ukrainian politician, dissident, and "Hero of Ukraine."

A principle author of 1991's "Declaration of the Independence of Ukraine," Levko Hryhorovych had earlier endured 15 years of imprisonment under the Soviet regime when he, in 1957, endorsed the idea of Ukraine seceding from the USSR. Later co-founding the Ukrainian Helsinki Group, Lukyanenko was again arrested in 1977 and was not allowed to return to Ukraine from his imprisonment in Siberia until November 1988. After the revival of Ukraine's independence, he was elected to Ukraine's Parliament and stood as the long-time chairman of the Association of Researchers Holodomor in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Congressional Committee of America has shared our deepest condolences to the Lukyanenko family for their loss. Our thoughts and prayers remain with them and the whole Ukrainian community with this loss.

SAVE THE DATES!

SEPTEMBER 22ND

The Ukrainian American community is invited to attend the upcoming Ukrainian Historical Encounters Series, entitled, "*Commemorating the Ukrainian National Republic and Its Legacy*", which will be held on **Saturday, September 22, 2018**, at the Princeton Club in New York City.

The full-day conference will gather several of the world's most knowledgeable students of Ukrainian history, hailing from the U.S., Canada and Ukraine, to examine the scope and ultimate meaning of the Ukrainian National Republic (UNR) – the predecessor of the modern Ukrainian state – and the legacy it engendered.

For further information or to register your participation, please contact either Tamara Olexy, UCCA Executive Director, at tolexy@ucca.org, or Walter Zaryckyj, Forum Program Coordinator, at: waz2102@columbia.edu.

NOVEMBER 17TH

To mark the culmination of the 85th anniversary year of the Holodomor - Ukraine's Genocide of 1932-1933, UCCA will be holding a requiem service (panakhyda) at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. The annual commemoration will be held on **Saturday, November 17th at 4:00PM (please note time change)**. This year's requiem service will be preceded by a solemn march of which details will be forthcoming.

For more information, please contact the UCCA National office at (212) 228-6840.