

**INSIDE:**

- Euro-Maidan not satisfied with pace of reforms – **page 4**
- Fear rife among Crimea's Tatar population – **page 5**
- Ruslana honored by U.S. secretary of state – **page 10**

# THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

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\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

## G-7 tells Russia to stop 'annexation' of Crimea or face action

RFE/RL

Leaders of the G-7 group of advanced economies told Russia on March 12 it risked facing international action unless it stops its moves toward the "annexation" of Crimea, as U.S. President Barack Obama prepared to host Ukraine's prime minister at the White House.

A statement from the seven nations released from the White House says a referendum on joining Russia, scheduled for this weekend, "would have no legal effect" and they won't recognize its results. It said Russia must "cease all efforts to change the status of Crimea."

The statement from the leaders of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States – along with the European Council and the European Commission – said "further action, individually and collectively," will be taken against Russia if it proceeds with what it called the "annexation" of Crimea.

The statement did not elaborate on the nature of the action Russia was facing. But earlier on March 12, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso told the European Parliament in Strasbourg that such action would have "far-reaching" effects.

"If meaningful negotiations do not begin within the next days and produce results within a limited time frame, this will trigger additional measures," Mr. Barroso said. "And a further deterioration of the situation could lead to far-reaching consequences, which, I sincerely hope, can be avoided."

Mr. Barroso also said the 28-nation bloc will discuss next week an additional \$1.39 billion in assistance for Ukraine.

Meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on March 12 that the political part of a key agreement between Ukraine and the European Union could be signed as early as next week. Speaking after talks in Warsaw with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, Merkel said the Association Agreement would be signed "probably at the next EU summit" scheduled for March 20-21.

Deposed Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's sudden decision not to sign the agreement last November sparked mass protests that led to the toppling of his government and the subsequent Russian intervention in Crimea.

(Continued on page 18)

## Thousands in Washington protest against Russian aggression



Yaro Bihun

Protesters gather in front of the White House to condemn Russian aggression in Crimea and Ukraine.

by Matthew Dubas

WASHINGTON – More than 2,000 people gathered on March 6 in front of the White House in Washington, D.C., at the residence of the president of the United States of America, Barack Obama, to protest against the Russian invasion of Crimea and President Vladimir Putin's violation of international laws.

Among the protesters, who came by the busload from Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Boston and from

across New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Maryland and the surrounding Washington area, were Crimean Tatars, Poles, Estonians, Lithuanians, Latvians, Turks, Circassians, Hungarians, Czechs, Slovaks, Georgians and, of course, Ukrainians.

The protest, which ran from 1 p.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m., was organized by the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA).

Following the singing of the Ukrainian, U.S. and Crimean national anthems, an opening prayer was led by Metropolitan-

Archbishop Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and Bishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the U.S.A., who were joined by clergy from both the Orthodox and Catholic Churches. "Let none surrender to evil and mistrust," they prayed, asking for prayers for Ukraine's oppressors who are "lost souls." Prayers were offered also for the human sacrifices of those in Ukraine, who, through their demonstration on the Maidan, showed "no

(Continued on page 11)

## Ukraine presses its case at the United Nations

by Roma Hadzewycz

NEW YORK – Since Russian forces invaded Ukraine's Crimean peninsula on February 28, Ukraine has been the topic of five meetings in the course of 10 days of the United Nations Security Council. The number of Russian troops in Crimea has since grown to 30,000, according to Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev, Ukraine's envoy to the U.N.

Yet another meeting of the Security Council was scheduled for the afternoon of March 13 as Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk was to address that body a day after he met with U.S. President Barack Obama in Washington.

Mr. Sergeyev, whose formal title is Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations, has been at the forefront in pressing Ukraine's case at the United Nations. In addition, he has been presenting Ukraine's position to numerous news media, giving some 80 interviews in the two weeks since the crisis began.

Russia's actions in Ukraine, he said at a



Roma Hadzewycz

Ambassador Yuriy Sergeyev, Ukraine's envoy to the United Nations, speaks at a press conference on March 7.

news conference on March 7, have been recognized by the U.N. Security Council as acts of aggression under the provisions of U.N. Resolution 3314 (adopted in 1974), which defined aggression. Ambassador Sergeyev noted that 14 of the 15 members of the Security Council agree that Russia has violated the U.N. Charter, as well as the principles of the Security Council. Russia, of course, is the lone holdout and, since it is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, it holds veto power.

Furthermore, Mr. Sergeyev said, Russia is telling "bald-faced lies" as it continues toward its goal of taking over Crimea. Such lies include references to the Russian-speaking population being threatened and its rights violated; the presence of anti-Semites and Nazis in the interim government of Ukraine; and statements that refer to Russian self-defense forces, and not Russian military, as being on the ground in Ukraine.

Russia, he explained is employing "the

(Continued on page 18)



## ANALYSIS

# Russian forces in Crimea: Who are they and where did they come from?

by Ron Synovitz  
RFE/RL

*There has been much speculation about Russian forces deployed in Crimea since February 28. The West says they're Russian combat troops. Russian President Vladimir Putin says they're just local defense folks. So just who are they? This article, dated March 4, attempts to answers some pertinent questions.*

## How many Russian troops are now thought to be in Crimea?

Ukrainian authorities have said there are about 16,000 Russian troops in the Crimean Peninsula – with more pouring into the country every day by air and by naval ships.

Independent military analysts agree that there are at least this many troops in Crimea.

Tim Ripley, from Jane's Defence Weekly, says most reports suggest about 6,000 to 7,000 Russian troops have freshly deployed to Crimea since February 28 when the intervention began.

Mr. Ripley says the normal Russian troop level at Black Sea Fleet facilities in Crimea historically has been about 11,000. But most are seamen or support personnel – not the kind of ground combat forces that have fanned out on the Crimean Peninsula.

One exception is about 2,000 members of Russia's 810th Marines Infantry Brigade, which is attached to the Black Sea Fleet and has been identified at some Russian military blockades in Crimea.

## What do we know about the freshly deployed Russian forces in Crimea?

The bulk of freshly deployed Russian combat troops in Crimea appear to have come directly from Russia – rather than already being based at Black Sea Fleet facilities there.

Mr. Ripley says that assessment is supported by increased air and naval activity from Russia.

"Crimea is isolated by land from Russia by the mainland of Ukraine," he said. "So all of these troops have had to come by air or by ship from Russia. There seems to be a constant stream of aircraft flying in. The Russians have control of a number of air bases in Ukraine which they have to support their fleet. And also, they have seized a ferry port in the east of Crimea, which is only a couple of miles across the straits to the Kuban [region] in Russia. So they have been shuttling ships full of troops and vehicles into the Crimea from there. A couple of units have been identified as being in Russia's special forces rapid reaction airborne forces from around Moscow."

Christopher Langton, director of London-based Independent Conflict Research and Analysis, suggests most of the recent deployments are from Russia's Southern Military Command, headquartered in Rostov-on-Don.

"If we look at those uniforms, most of them seem to be, from what can be seen, brand new," Mr. Langton said. "There is no insignia. This is a tried and tested [Russian] practice in, for instance, the August war in Georgia in 2008. When Russian peacekeepers were used to move into Georgia proper, they changed their uniforms. They put away their peacekeeping insignia, etc. Now what are the options? There is a naval infantry brigade – these are highly trained commandos – at Novorossiisk, also part of

the Black Sea Fleet, but in Russia just down the coast from Crimea. Also, in the same military command structure... there are two special forces brigades and a designated airborne division."

## What are the limitations for Russian forces on the Crimean peninsula under its Black Sea Fleet agreements with Ukraine?

Under various agreements between Russia and Ukraine, Russia is allowed to keep up to 25,000 troops on the Crimean Peninsula. Those troops are allowed outside of their bases for operations considered normal to maintaining the facilities. But there are limitations on deployments – even for training operations.

[Editor's note: According to Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations Yuriy Sergeyev, although Russia is allowed up to 25,000 troops, each year Russia must notify Ukraine's authorities in advance about the number of troops that will be based in Crimea for the coming year. In December 2013, Russia said there would be 11,000 troops in Crimea for 2014. Speaking with journalists in New York on March 7, Ambassador Sergeyev said there were now 30,000 troops in Crimea.]

Under any interpretation, surrounding Ukrainian military bases in the Crimea is seen as an overt offensive activity, regardless of whether shots are fired, and appears to violate the terms of their basing agreements.

## Is there any evidence that Russian private security firms have engaged in operations with Russian military forces?

Mr. Ripley says security camera footage of the seizure of the Crimean Parliament by uniformed pro-Russian gunmen is the most interesting evidence of Russian private security firms playing a role.

"You saw some really fit athletic guys with quite extensive military equipment – assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades – and they were carrying big [containers] full of spare ammunition and spare rockets," he said. "They had on identification tape so they could recognize each other in the dark. These were pretty well-organized guys. But they weren't in the same uniforms as the Russian troops that we saw blockading the Ukrainian bases, which suggests that [some of them were] contractors. The best description I've had of them is that they are former Russian special forces who have set themselves up in the private sector. Many of them work under contract to companies that have close links to Russian oligarchs who, of course, have close links to the Russian president. So we see a [Russian] state-private sector synergy there."

Mr. Langton points out that much work appears to have been done before Russia's intervention to raise small local units among Crimea's ethnic Russians that could be activated in times of tension.

He says that could have been done through Russia's private military sector or by trained special-force operators working in Crimea.

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# NEWSBRIEFS

## NATO to deploy AWACS

BRUSSELS – NATO will start flying AWACS reconnaissance missions over Poland and Romania as part of the alliance's efforts to monitor events in Ukraine. NATO ambassadors on March 10 endorsed the proposal from the alliance's top military commander, U.S. Air Force General Philip Breedlove. A NATO official said the flights would "enhance the alliance's situational awareness." The official made clear all the flights "will take place solely over alliance territory." (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Reuters and Agence France-Presse)

## EU offers Kyiv trade benefits

BRUSSELS – The European Commission has adopted a proposal to extend unilateral trade benefits to Ukraine worth nearly 500 million euros (\$693 million) a year. EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said the move was "a concrete, tangible" measure of support for Ukraine after the ouster of President Viktor Yanukovich. Once member states and the European Parliament have given their approval, the decision will unilaterally remove or reduce import duties on a wide range of agricultural and other goods. European Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht said the tax breaks would run until at least November 1 this year, by which time the European Union expects to have signed a full free-trade agreement with Ukraine. "This unilateral system is not a substitute for the deep and comprehensive free trade-area that from the outset we have proposed to Ukraine. The EU-Ukraine complete trade deal is still the goal. In the medium and long term, only the complete trade deal will modernize Ukraine's economy, provide it with new lease on life and build the trade ties to Europe that offer a brighter economic and stable future for all Ukrainians," Mr. De Gucht said. He explained that the proposal includes safeguards to prevent "abuse from third countries," therefore, it includes "certain conditions to prevent abuse from third countries. So, if Russian products would come through Crimea to Europe, of course they would be excluded. But if they are products from Crimea as such, they would benefit from cuts in tariffs." The EU has already decided to "immediately" sign the political chapters of an Association

Agreement with Ukraine, while also offering Kyiv an economic aid package worth \$15 billion over the next few years, amid the standoff with Russia over Crimea. In addition to seeking to prop up Ukraine's economy, the EU is seeking to apply pressure on Moscow to withdraw forces from Crimea. The EU has already canceled negotiations with Moscow on visa cooperation and a new trade and investment pact. It is also preparing targeted sanctions including asset freezes and travel bans. (RFE/RL)

## World Bank proposes \$3 B for Ukraine

WASHINGTON – The World Bank says it is prepared to offer \$3 billion to Ukraine this year to help it advance reforms and support crucial development projects. Bank President Jim Yong Kim said in Washington on March 10, "We are committed to supporting the people of Ukraine in these difficult times and very much hope that the situation in the country stabilizes soon." The bank said Ukraine's economy faces some serious challenges that will require "urgent action in the short term," as well as sustained reform over the longer term. It mentioned key priorities of restoring macroeconomic stability, shoring up the country's banks, reforms to the energy sector and "seriously tackling corruption." The \$3 billion for 2014 would be in addition to an ongoing multiyear World Bank investment and guarantee program in Ukraine totaling about \$3.7 billion that supports development of crucial infrastructure services including water supply, sanitation, power and roads. (RFE/RL, based on reporting by Agence France-Presse and Deutsche Presse-Agentur)

## Kyrgyzstan: Yanukovich not president

BISHKEK – Kyrgyzstan's Foreign Affairs Ministry says ousted Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich cannot be considered the legitimate leader of the country. In a statement issued on March 11, the ministry said the current crisis in Ukraine was caused by corruption and wrong decisions by the former authorities of that country when Mr. Yanukovich was president. "The only source of power in any country is its people, and a president who lost his peo-

(Continued on page 12)

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# NEWS ANALYSIS: Russia wags the dog with Ukraine disinformation campaign

by Robert Coalson  
RFE/RL

Getting the real story of what is going on in Ukraine is hard enough. And the Russian media seems intent on making it even harder.

With Russian forces controlling Crimea and with Moscow contemplating further military action in Ukraine, Russian media and leading political figures have been shrill in their denunciations of “fascists” in Kyiv and their claims of anti-Semitic incidents, of attacks on ethnic Russians in the eastern reaches of Ukraine, and of floods of beleaguered refugees streaming across the border into Russia.

But much of this information is demonstrably false, emerging from unsourced media reports, then making its way into the statements of Russian politicians, and even into Western media reports. Events are echoing the 1997 U.S. film “Wag the Dog,” in which spin-doctors use the media to whip up support for a nonexistent war.

“This is how wars get started. As they say, ‘truth is the first casualty of war’ and we are really seeing that with the way Russia is handling this,” says Catherine Fitzpatrick, a writer and translator who has been live-blogging events in Ukraine for Interpretermag.com. “I think they are really irresponsible. They are inciting a lot of hatred and whipping up a lot of panic. People in places like Kharkiv are watching Russian TV. They may be watching also local TV, but they are dependent on Russian TV and a lot of it is not checking out.”

Ms. Fitzpatrick adds that everything, from reasons cited by Russian lawmakers in authorizing President Vladimir Putin to use force to the justifications for it, offered to the United Nations Security Council this week by U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin, has been based on falsehoods.

“The whole premise for the Federation Council’s agreement to give its authorization for the use of force and the whole premise being put forth in the U.N. by Ambassador Churkin is that they have to intervene to save and protect ethnic Russians and Russian speakers, who they fear are in danger,” she explains. “But they have based this whole premise on false contentions about attacks.”

## ‘Creating provocations’

In his comments at the United Nations, Mr. Churkin also cited an alleged attack on the famous Monastery of the Caves (Pecherska Lavra) in Kyiv that was widely reported in the Russian media. The monastery has said no such attack took place, and Ms. Fitzpatrick said she was “stunned” to hear the Russian envoy citing the debunked report.

Russian media also widely reported that more than 650,000 Ukrainians have crossed out of southeastern

Ukraine into Russia since the beginning of the year. However, the U.N.’s High Commissioner on Refugees says it has seen no evidence of unusual migration on the border.

Ukrainian bloggers uncovered the fact that Russian media illustrated their reports with an undated photograph that was actually taken at the Shehyni border crossing between Ukraine and Poland.

Other stories have a basis in fact, but are unjustifiably spun by Russian media accounts. For instance, on the night of February 27-28, unknown vandals defaced a synagogue in Symferopol.

Russian media blankly reported this as an anti-Semitic attack by the ultranationalist Right Sector group, although Right Sector denied it and the local Jewish community leader Oleksandr Hendin told RFE/RL: “I don’t think it was Right Sector. I think someone did this using their logo in order to destabilize Crimea.”

Ukraine’s chief rabbi, Yaakov Dov Bleich, said on March 4 that the main threat to Ukrainian Jews was “provocations” staged by Russia, saying it’s “the same way the Nazis did when they wanted to go into Austria and [they] created provocations.”

## Fighting the spin machine

Ukrainian journalist Oleh Shynkarenko, who has written about the efforts of Russia’s “propaganda machine” for TheDailyBeast.com, tells RFE/RL that the campaign has two main purposes: “to provoke hatred toward Ukrainians to make Russia go to war with us” and to produce “justification for aggression,” such as that presented to the U.N. by Ambassador Churkin.

Mr. Shynkarenko names Russian television journalist Dmitry Kiselyov, a rising star of Russian journalism who in December was named to head the Russian state media conglomerate Rossia Segodnya, as “the most lying” of Russian journalists. Ukraine’s Commission on Journalism Ethics has filed a complaint with Moscow about Mr. Kiselyov’s inflammatory reports.

Serhiy Balbeko is a 25-year-old journalist from Kharkiv who got fed up with the disinformation and created a website called Fake Control to fight back. “I got the idea to run this project with a few of my friends because we realized the amount of disinformation that was coming from media, from social networks, from news and press and some others,” he explains.

Fake Control was one of the first sites to debunk the Ukrainian refugees story and has recently debunked Russian media claims that Kyiv intends to jail people with Russian passports and reports that a U.S. aircraft carrier is steaming to the Black Sea to attack Crimea.

Mr. Balbeko says his group doesn’t use any special techniques to unmask the false reports. They merely examine pho-

tographs closely, use search engines to access publicly available information and make phone calls. He sees what is going on as more than just unprofessional or jingoistic journalism. “I really feel there is some sort of campaign to show what is going on in Ukraine in an absolutely different way,” he says.

Blogger Ms. Fitzpatrick says that the Russian media-spin machine has met with considerable resistance from sites like Fake Control and StopFake.org. “We’ve gotten to the point where they can orchestrate these planted rumors, but citizen journalists have gotten pretty savvy, so there is a kind of counternarrative where people – they film the buses with the Russian license plates, they film the troops that have the Russian arms that only Russian units have, and the story begins to unravel,” she says. “And, I don’t know, maybe that’s part of what is making the Kremlin propaganda mills work overtime and get even more bizarre. Because they are facing a pretty sturdy citizens’ journalist corps.”

## Flood of disinformation

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, in comments to Interfax on March 5, said that photographs of military vehicles in Crimea with Russian license plates were “complete crap” and a provocation. He repeated the official Russian position that Moscow does not know where the armed troops in Crimea have come from, even as Ukrainian journalists posted a video interview with a soldier who admitted he was in the Russian military and cited media reports as the reason for his presence in Ukraine.

Journalist: “Why don’t you have any insignias? Where are you from?”

Soldier: “Because that’s the kind of uniforms we have, without insignias.”

Journalist: “Are you Ukrainian or Russian?”

Soldier: “I’m a Russian soldier.”

Journalist: “A Russian soldier?”

Soldier: “Yes.”

Second journalist: “What are Russian soldiers doing on Ukrainian territory?”

Soldier: “Because... don’t you watch television?”

Some Ukrainians have countered the propaganda with humor, such as a widely circulated graphic showing a Russian-speaking woman who appeared in at least five dif-

(Continued on page 8)

## OSCE says situation in Crimea is alarming

OSCE

KYIV – OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Astrid Thors said on March 6 that she is alarmed about the situation in Crimea.

On her return to Kyiv, the representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said: “I am alarmed about the risk of violent conflict on the Crimean peninsula and the effects this could have on all communities, particularly the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar groups.”

Ms. Thors said the situation remains precarious. “Rash decisions on the future status of Crimea are a major source of tension and expose divisions between the peninsula’s communities that have been left unaddressed for decades. Like the Ukrainian community, Crimean Tatars have taken a different position to the majority population, which increases their vulnerability. Relations between ethnic groups on the peninsula are characterized by a growing climate of fear,” she said.

“I remind the authorities in effective control of the Crimean peninsula that they are obliged to ensure security and respect for human rights, including minority rights, for all those present on the territory, regardless of whether they are of Russian, Ukrainian or Crimean Tatar or other origin.”

“There is a real risk of bloodshed. All decisions on essential issues, such as the status of Crimea, language policy or national minority policy, must be taken in dialogue with all parties and be consistent with international law,” said Ms. Thors.

During her visit to Kyiv and Crimea, the high commissioner found no evidence of violations or threats to the rights of Russian speakers.

## FOR THE RECORD

# Canada’s PM comments on situation in Ukraine

On March 3, while in Toronto, Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada delivered the following remarks on the troubling situation in Ukraine.

The situation in Ukraine remains extremely serious for global peace and security. Canada and its G-7 partners have spoken with one voice in condemning President Putin’s military intervention in Ukraine.

We call once again on President Putin to immediately withdraw his military. President Putin’s actions have put his country on a course of diplomatic and economic isolation that could well see Russia exit the G-8 entirely.

Canada has suspended our engagement in preparations for the G-8 Summit planned in Sochi. We have also recalled our ambassador to Russia, cancelled any government representation at the Paralympic Games, and I’ve instructed officials to review all planned bilateral interaction with Russia.

I would also note the resolution put before Parliament today and encourage its immediate passage by all political parties.

We will continue to work closely with our G-7 partners and our allies.

I’ve also spoken today with the prime minister of Ukraine, and I’ve said the following to the people of Ukraine on behalf of Canadians: Canada pledges ongoing friendship and steadfast support for your efforts to defend your sovereignty, and to restore economic and political stability.

\* \* \*

In Ottawa on March 5, Prime Minister Harper issued the statement below, announcing additional steps taken by Canada.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is a clear violation of international law.

As such, today I am announcing that we are suspending our participation in the Canada-Russia Intergovernmental Economic Commission (IEC), established to promote economic relations between Canada and Russia.

Also, at Ukraine’s request, Canada, along with a number of other member countries of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), will participate in an important military observer mission, which has been formed to report on military activities in the Crimean peninsula.

Canada is contributing two military observers who are deploying to Ukraine now.

And at the request of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine, we will freeze the assets of members of the Yanukovich regime.

Our actions with respect to the IEC, the freezing of assets of corrupt Ukrainian officials held in Canada, and our involvement in the OSCE mission are further examples of our support for Ukraine and our goal of stabilizing the tense situation in Crimea.

President Putin must now immediately withdraw his forces to their bases and refrain from further provocative and dangerous actions.



# Euro-Maidan not satisfied with pace of reforms

by Zenon Zawada

KYIV – At first glance, the interim government that emerged in late February appears to be the force for reform that had been hoped for by the Euro-Maidan protest movement.

Internal Affairs Minister Arsen Avakov eliminated the Berkut special forces division responsible for terror and murder. Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk on February 27 ordered an end to cars (about 3,000) and perks for state officials. He flew to Brussels on March 5 on economy class instead of a charter flight.

"I have been flying that way since my days as foreign minister and parliamentary speaker, so there's nothing new here," Mr. Yatsenyuk said at a March 7 press conference, calling the approach, "Economy class in an economy country."

"And that's how all the Cabinet of Ministers members are going to fly because in Ukraine, about 70 percent of the people live below the poverty level. Only those who are simply insolent towards their own people can fly on charter planes," he added.

Yet, Euro-Maidan civic leaders aren't impressed, asserting the reforms are only window-dressing for corrupt politicians, who are back to business as usual. In terms of the Berkut, none have been arrested and many are now serving the Russian-backed Crimean government.

Former Kharkiv State Oblast Administration Chair Mykhailo Dobkin has been placed under house arrest, but only for his calls to split Ukraine. Neither he nor other politicians have been charged with corruption offenses. The lone exception is former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, who fled the country.

Legislation has yet to surface to amend the oppressive tax code that sparked the 2010 tax protests on the Maidan, or to reform state organs, which are reportedly being filled with corrupt politicians, some of whom are from the Orange era and some even drawn from the Yanukovich administration, critics said.

"We understand that no reset has occurred. Only the names have changed," Andrii Tarasenko, the head of Kyiv's Pravyi Sektor organization, told a March 7 press

conference at which he announced its leader, Dmytro Yarosh, will compete for the presidency in May.

"The state apparatus is towing forward at full speed and that's unacceptable for us. We won't stop at our gains because for us a revolution isn't a change in surnames and name plates in offices, but a full reset of government and a full change in the system in this country," Mr. Tarasenko said.

When the Parliament did seek to amend legislation, it was counterproductive, such as the Svoboda nationalist party's initiative leading parliament on February 23 to repeal the controversial language law of 2012. Drawing widespread criticism for further inflaming ethnic tensions, Verkhovna Rada Chair and acting President Oleksandr Turchynov announced on March 3 that he wouldn't sign the repeal.

But the appointment of corrupt politicians has been of particular disappointment to Euro-Maidan activists, such as former Internal Affairs Minister Yuri Lutsenko, leader of the Third Ukrainian Republic civic movement.

"These appointments don't stabilize the



Dmitry Chigrin

**Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk speaks on his cellphone as he waits for an economy-class flight to Brussels at Boryspil International Airport on March 5. He called the approach, "Economy class for an economy country."**

power structure and don't lead to new standards in the activity of the Ukrainian government," he told Hromadske TV in a March 10 interview. "The amount of disgraceful appointments is over the top. They need to be stopped immediately."

Among the more shocking appointments by Mr. Turchynov was that of Mykhailo Bolotskykh on March 3 to lead the Luhansk State Oblast Administration, which is the regional representative organ of the Presidential Administration.

Serving as the head of the State Emergency Situations Service of Ukraine, he provided tents, mobile kitchens and food to the Anti-Maidan protests organized by the Yanukovich administration, all at the state's expense, reported Iryna Gerashchenko, a national deputy with the Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform (UDAR).

"Instead of being appointed to such a high position, this person should be testifying and sitting behind bars," said Anatoliy Grytsenko (who also uses the spelling Hrytsenko), a former defense minister. "On December 10 and 11, before my eyes at the barricades on the side of Mykhailivska [Street], when the Internal Army forced out peaceful citizens and then provided a corridor for the Berkut, after them came the so-called 'psychologists' of the Emergency Situations Ministry, as written on their backs. They went and crushed the barricades, causing people to fall and break their arms and legs. Bolotskykh did all that."

Incidentally, an attempt was made on March 9 to make Mr. Bolotskykh resign by signing a statement. Yet it was done by an estimated 3,000 pro-Russian separatists, who stormed and took control of the administration building, rather than Euro-Maidan activists, several dozens of whom were beaten by the chauvinists.

The separatists couldn't care less that Mr. Bolotskykh was supported by Mr. Yanukovich, said Petro Oleshchuk, a political science lecturer at Taras Shevchenko State University in Kyiv. They had the task of creating a vacuum in the local government as a formal pretext for Russian intervention, he said.

"Yanukovich is not an authority for



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HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**NEW DATE: March 27, 2014, 3-6pm**

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Chamber  
United Nations Building, New York City

**Program marking the bicentennial of the birth of Ukraine's national poet:**

Address by Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon  
Address by President of the 68th General Assembly of the United Nations John W. Ashe  
Address by Eugene Czolij, President of the Ukrainian World Congress  
Address by Orysia Sushko, President of the World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations  
Keynote by Prof. Maxim Tarnawsky, University of Toronto  
Prometheus Ukrainian Male Chorus • The Dobriansky Brothers Trio  
Ludmyla Hrabovsky and bandurist Alla Kutsevych • Readings of Shevchenko's poetry  
Readings of Shevchenko's poetry by Sofika Zielyk and Xenia Ferencevych  
Peter Fedynsky, Master of Ceremonies, translator of Shevchenko's *Kobzar*



If you registered for February 27, there is no need to RSVP again.  
New RSVPs will be accepted at: [ukrainersvdpday@gmail.com](mailto:ukrainersvdpday@gmail.com)  
(provide your name with the words "new registration") by March 20, 2014.

There is no charge for admission.  
Please arrive by 2:30pm to allow time for UN security procedures at the 47th Street access on First Avenue.



# Fear rife among Crimea's minority Tatar population

by Ron Synovitz, Dilewer Osman  
and Nail Khisamiev  
RFE/RL

BAKHCHYSARAI, Ukraine – Nurie, a 48-year-old Tatar woman in the central Crimean town of Bakhchysarai, was sitting in her home this week when a group of Russian-speaking Crimean men came walking down her street with truncheons.

One of the men had a list that appeared to contain the names and addresses of Tatars in the area – a neighborhood called Aqchuqra where most residents are either Crimean Tatars or ethnic Kazakhs.

Next door, Nurie's Tatar neighbor Ava had just returned from picking up her 7-year-old son from school.

Ava could see the men checking their list and marking the gates of houses where Crimean Tatar families live. As the men approached her, brandishing their truncheons, Ava ran inside with her son to hide.

The men didn't follow. But they scratched an ominous "X" into the front gates of both Ava's and Nurie's homes – filling in the marks with white chalk before leaving.

"My neighbor who saw them was so scared and tried to hide in her house immediately. She called me. We went outside and saw the mark on our doors also," Nurie said. "Those people were gone. The door is scratched by a screwdriver. There also were marks made by chalk but we've washed them off. The scratches still remain."

Ava called local police to report the incident. But Nurie says authorities can do nothing to ease the growing fears of Crimean Tatars who say their community is being intimidated by gangs of pro-Russia thugs.

The Muslim indigenous Tatars of Crimea have historical experiences to justify their fears – especially since Russian forces were deployed on the peninsula on February 28.

It is within living memory of Crimea's oldest generation that Moscow ordered the "Surgunlik" – a Crimean Tatar term for "exile" that refers to the forced deportation of most Crimean Tatars during World War II.

Under orders of Soviet ruler Joseph Stalin and Soviet secret police chief Lavrentii Beria, more than 200,000 Crimean Tatars were loaded onto cattle trains in 1944 and moved from Crimea to other parts of the Soviet Union – mostly to Uzbekistan or Siberia.

At the same time, most Crimean Tatar men in the Soviet Red Army were pulled from the fight against the Nazis and sent to forced labor camps in Siberia or in the Ural mountains.

That history looms strongly in Nurie's mind. Her parents were both among those sent to Uzbekistan's Ferghana Valley, where she was born.

Tens of thousands of Crimean Tatars died of thirst or starvation during the first week of the poorly organized state-run deportation. About half of all "Surgunlik" deportees – more than 100,000 – died by the end of 1946.

Crimean Tatar activists today are campaigning to have the Surgunlik recognized around the world as genocide.

## Returning home

It was only in the late 1980s that Nurie and other Crimean Tatars were allowed to return to their Crimean homeland. By then,

both of Nurie's parents had died in Uzbekistan.

When Nurie arrived in Bakhchysarai, the historic seat of the Crimean Tatar Khanate in the 1500s, she found that most Tatar homes vacated by the mass deportations of 1944 had since been occupied by ethnic Russians.

To accommodate the thousands of Tatars who were returning to Bakhchysarai, especially after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, a new "Sixth District" was built with more than 1,000 households – almost all Tatar families.

Following reports of Russian-speaking thugs marking Tatar homes, fears of Tatars in the Sixth District of Bakhchysarai were stoked on March 5 when two masked gunmen broke into the home of a Tatar couple.

Suin, a 50-year-old resident there, told RFE/RL the culprits spoke "in clear Russian" and ransacked his place, destroying their property. He said the intruders did not steal anything. But they threatened Suin and his wife at gunpoint before fleeing.

The next day – after Crimea's Parliament voted to join Russia and hold a regional referendum to confirm the move – neighborhood fears were fueled further when men in a car with license plates from eastern Ukraine were seen photographing the homes of Crimean Tatars.

Sixth District resident Server is a Crimean Tatar in his mid-50s whose parents were among those deported to Uzbekistan from Bakhchysarai in 1944.

Server says Crimean Tatars will never accept an annexation of Crimea by Russia – regardless of the results in Crimea's region-

al referendum on the issue on March 16.

"They deported us once. They also deported the Chechens, and they deported us. We don't trust them. Ukraine has been helping us. Not much, but still, it was help," Server said.

Yakub, a child of Surgunlik survivors who returned to Bakhchysarai after his parents died, agrees with Server. "We don't want to join Russia because it's a police state. These new Crimean authorities – the government and the Parliament – are relying on military force only. They ask nobody when they make their decisions," Yakub said.

So far, there hasn't been a mass exodus of Tatars from Crimea. But hundreds have left for western Ukraine or have taken boats to Turkey, where they have visa-free entry rights.

In the meantime, the Tatar communities in Bakhchysarai have set up neighborhood patrols to keep an eye out for armed Russian speakers who they say are either trying to scare them into leaving, or to provoke violence that could be used by Russian forces to justify a crackdown against Tatars across the peninsula.

*Written by Ron Synovitz in Prague, with reporting by RFE/RL Tatar-Bashkir Service correspondents Dilewer Osman and Nail Khisamiev in Bakhchysarai, Ukraine.*

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# Turkey torn over 'brothers' in Crimea, good ties with Russia

by Glenn Kates  
RFE/RL

ISTANBUL – Serkan Sava's ancestors left Crimea in a mass exodus some 150 years ago, after the Ottoman Empire staved off Russian pressure in the Crimean War but could not reverse the slow tumble that would lead to its dissolution after World War I.

A century later, the 35-year-old IT consultant's grandparents, by then rooted in the post-Ottoman Turkish Republic, would hear of Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin's deportation of hundreds of thousands of Crimean Tatars to Central Asia, in 1944, that cost the lives of more than 100,000 people.

This week, Mr. Sava stood under a steady rain at a protest of about 250 people – mostly Turkish Crimean Tatars – outside the Russian Consulate in Istanbul. Noting that Crimean Tatars "have bad memories" of life under Moscow's thumb, Mr. Sava argued that Turkey should use its influence to ensure that the Black Sea peninsula remains a part of Ukraine and is not annexed by Russia.

With Crimea now occupied by Russian forces, the peninsula's Russian-majority Parliament clamoring to join the Russian Federation, and a referendum on the issue scheduled for March 16, Crimean Tatars are fearful of what another chapter of life under Russian rule could mean.

But if the Crimean Tatar relationship with Russia is rife with tragedy, the Turkish reaction to any potential conflict with Moscow is one of trepidation. It recalls a past marked by a series of demoralizing military defeats and recognizes a present in which the country enjoys deep trade ties with its Black Sea neighbor, on which it relies for half of its natural-gas supplies.

"Russia is the only neighbor that Turkey

really fears for historic and contemporary reasons," says Soner Cagaptay, author of "The Rise of Turkey: 21st Century's First Muslim Power" and director of the Turkish program at the Washington Institute, a U.S.-based think tank. "Historically, there's a deep-rooted fear among many Turks about not waking up the Russian bear."

The Crimean Tatars, an ethnic-Turkic people with millions of its diaspora living inside Turkey, would appear to fit in with the role Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has carved out for himself.

Mr. Erdogan, the leader of the Islamist-rooted Justice and Development party (AKP), has spent much political capital casting Ankara as a protector of Muslims along its periphery. Mr. Erdogan was a harsh critic of the overthrow of Muslim Brotherhood leader and Egyptian President Muhammad Morsi, and was one of the first world leaders to call for military intervention in Syria against the regime of Bashar al-Assad in the Arab Spring uprising.

Amid the recent political upheaval in Ukraine, Ahmet Davutoglu, Turkey's foreign affairs minister, was the first envoy to meet with Ukraine's new government in Kyiv, following months of protests that led to the ouster of the country's pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovich.

With an eye on the past, Mr. Erdogan himself has promised not to "leave Crimean Tatars in the lurch." But Mr. Erdogan, who has appeared at times to relish conflict with other world leaders, has carefully nurtured his relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin and appears unlikely to stake out a position that would put Ankara-Moscow ties at serious risk.

"If you look at Erdogan's mercurial political style, he has pretty much yelled at

every and any head of government he has dealt with with the exception of the Russian and the Iranian presidents," Mr. Cagaptay says, "not because he likes them necessarily but because Turkey gets about three-quarters of its gas and oil from Iran and Russia."

Ottoman-Russian history is also a factor, says Mr. Cagaptay, who wrote in a recent paper that, over a period of almost 400 years, the Ottoman Empire fought in at least 17 wars with Russia and lost all of them.

Further complicating matters is that the 1936 Montreux treaty, which gives Turkey control over the straits that link the Black Sea to the Mediterranean, also limits the weight of warships that would be allowed to pass through from states not located on the Black Sea.

Any adaptation of this restriction by Turkey in favor of its NATO partners would put the treaty at risk.

But as Celal Icten, the president of the Istanbul branch of Turkey's Crimea Tatar Association, points out, it may be that the current domestic political climate provides the main hindrance to a greater role by Ankara in helping resolve the crisis in Ukraine.

Mr. Erdogan, who has been embroiled in a months-long corruption scandal, is fighting for his political career, and municipal elections at the end of March are seen as a barometer of the remaining strength of his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP).

Mr. Icten says Erdogan and President Abdullah Gul are doing all they can, given the circumstances. "Turkey's current political climate is hectic and that's why the president and prime minister's support for Crimean Tatars gets lost among other things on the political agenda," Mr. Icten says. "But [they've] given support to Crimean Tatars and continue cooperation

with Western powers in Europe."

Mr. Cagaptay agrees that Ankara will cooperate with Europe, which has proposed limited sanctions, but is unlikely to take a leading role unless serious violence is inflicted on the Crimean Tatar population.

That might not assuage Crimean Tatars like Mr. Sava, who say the protection of a Turkic minority that is under threat should outweigh any political concerns.

While Moscow refuses to recognize Ukraine's new government because it is led by "fascists" who pose a threat to ethnic Russians, Tatars in Crimea – some of whose homes have reportedly been marked with an ominous "X" – say they are being singled out by Russian "self-defense" brigades.

At the Istanbul demonstration, protesters chanted, "Turkey, help your brothers!" and, "We are shoulder-to-shoulder against the enemy!"

Erugrul Toksoy, a 47-year-old account manager sporting a blue scarf with the Crimean Tatar insignia, says Mr. Erdogan "has done nothing" to help Crimean Tatars, who make up 12 percent of the peninsula's population.

Mr. Sava, the IT consultant, riffing on a quote from the late British statesman Winston Churchill about the dangers of appeasement, warns that waiting for action will have its own costs. "The one who tries to protect the current state [of affairs] is hopeful that the crocodile will eat him last."

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## THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

# Russia's acts of aggression

As tensions heat up due to Russia's continuing acts of aggression on Ukraine's territory, it is more important than ever for the United States and the world to take action to stop the dismemberment of Ukraine in violation of international law, the United Nations Charter and the 1994 Budapest Memorandum.

As noted by acting President Oleksandr Turchynov in an op-ed article in the print edition of The New York Times on March 12, Russia's "brazen and unjustified aggression, thinly veiled as 'protecting Russian speakers,' pursues an obvious goal: to weaken and dismember Ukraine, to create another zone of instability in Europe and to arrest the process of European integration. Moscow's purpose, in other words, is to prevent the final demise of the Soviet empire."

Mr. Turchynov underscored: "In 1994, Ukraine surrendered its nuclear weapons in exchange for security guarantees from the United States, Russia and Britain, and for their pledge to respect its sovereignty and territorial integrity. If this agreement is violated, it may lead to nuclear proliferation around the world. The rule of law and the credibility of international institutions would also be severely undermined as deterrents to military aggression."

In view of the current situation, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America issued the following statement on March 12. We publish it here as a guest editorial.

## Bipartisanship needed in U.S. policy to stand up to Russian aggression

The crisis in Ukraine is again refocusing the attention of the American public and government on the need for unity and bipartisanship in U.S. foreign policy. Today, Russia's resurgent empire is taking center stage, as never before, since the implosion of the USSR in 1991 and the re-emergence of the Captive Nations of Eastern Europe and Central Asia as sovereign and independent states.

Russia's occupation of Crimea, together with the looming threat of Russian troops invading and occupying mainland Ukraine, is the immediate concern. For the Ukrainian people, not since 1921 – when Soviet Russia invaded and occupied the Ukrainian National Republic and subjugated the Ukrainian nation for four succeeding generations – have the stakes been higher. For the other European nations, not since 1938 – when Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia created an alliance to invade, occupy and divide Europe among themselves and, thereby, launched World War II – have the stakes been any higher. And for our country, the United States of America, that has borne the weight of leading the free world in defending freedom and opposing tyranny – because this core value of America's *raison d'être* is an inherent and vital national security interest of our nation – the stakes have never been more critically important.

The president of Russia, Vladimir Putin, has brought the world to the brink. During his rule that spans several Republican and Democrat administrations, Russia has worked diligently, consistently and openly in reconstituting its empire. Belarus and Kazakhstan are again vassals of Moscow. Central Asian countries of the former USSR are in varying stages of subservience. Georgian and Moldovan sovereign territories are under Russian military occupation. Even little Armenia has been bullied into submission. President Putin has spoken clearly, unambiguously about his mission to retake Ukraine, as it is the final and most important part to the restoration of the Great Russian Empire.

(Continued on page 14)

March  
18  
1994

## Turning the pages back...

Twenty years ago, on March 18, 1994, on the eve of parliamentary elections and a referendum on the status of the Crimean Republic, Oleksander Chalyi of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), concluded a midnight-hour discourse with the electorate of the Ukrainian peninsula.

Mr. Chalyi spoke in Russian, to be better understood by the local population of Crimea, reminding voters that the Ukrainian Constitution, like its Soviet predecessor, did not provide a mechanism for the legal secession of its constituent autonomous republics, and Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov was doing little to transform Crimea's status in a legal manner.

Mr. Meshkov had blatantly disregarded selected tenets of the Constitution of Ukraine, by appointing Russian citizens to a Ukrainian government post, which had caused the MFA of Ukraine to take a stand, Mr. Chalyi underscored.

The Crimea issue was not only a regional affair, affecting relations with Ukraine's neighbors, Mr. Chalyi explained, but a territorial one with international ramifications. As a witness of the signing of trilateral agreements signed in Moscow and bilateral agreements signed in Washington in early 1994, Mr. Chalyi, holding the originals in his hands, reiterated that the agreements all point to maintaining the territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Imploring residents of Crimea – who in 1991 voted for Ukraine's independence – Mr. Chalyi asked them to recall how Ukraine's independence was so hard won, urging them not to snub the central Ukrainian government, while Ukraine's statehood was still fragile.

In addition to setting the precedent for secession and the Crimean republic functioning outside of the Ukrainian Constitution, the move would not only shift the balance of power within Ukraine, but would challenge the Russian Federation's respect for Ukraine's borders.

On March 15, 1994, President Leonid Kravchuk issued a presidential decree calling the planned referendum for March 27, 1994, unconstitutional. Voters were asked if they favor "an independent Republic of Crimea in union with other states."

(Continued on page 14)

## DOCUMENTS RELEASED BY THE U.S.

# Setting the record straight on Ukraine

*The information below was released by U.S. Embassies in Kyiv and Moscow on March 5.*

**CLAIM:** We need to return to the February 21 agreement, which the opposition failed to implement.

**RESPONSE:** As part of the agreement, the Ukrainian Parliament (the Rada) passed a bill to return Ukraine to the 2004 Constitution. Under the terms of the agreement, [Viktor] Yanukovich had 24 hours to sign this legislation, after which the protesters would need to evacuate certain government buildings and take other de-escalatory steps. Instead of signing the legislation, Yanukovich left Kyiv and ultimately Ukraine. Yanukovich is the one who failed to implement the February 21 agreement. Yanukovich's party has moved on, voting in favor of legislation removing him from office and establishing a new government.

Ambassador Samantha Power: "It was Yanukovich who failed to abide by the terms of that agreement, fleeing Kyiv, and ultimately Ukraine."

**CLAIM:** Ukraine's government is illegitimate or not representative.

**RESPONSE:** The new government was approved by the Rada with 371 votes, an overwhelming majority of Ukraine's Parliament, with the support of all political parties except the Communists. Even Yanukovich's Party of Regions (POR) voted in favor of the new government just days after he disappeared. While POR is not rep-

resented in the current government, this is a political decision and does not indicate lack of support for the policies of the government. In fact, almost all legislation passed by Parliament since Yanukovich's departure has enjoyed majority support from POR.

**CLAIM:** The Rada is under the influence of extremists or terrorists.

**RESPONSE:** The Rada is the most representative institution in Ukraine, and recent legislation has passed with large majorities, including from representatives of eastern Ukraine.

**CLAIM:** The streets of Kyiv are dangerous.

**RESPONSE:** Since the security forces pulled back 10 days ago and the new government has been established, calm has returned to Kyiv. Ukrainian and other media present report that there has been no surge in crime, no looting and no retribution exacted on political opponents.

**CLAIM:** There is a humanitarian crisis and hundreds of thousands are fleeing Ukraine to Russia and seeking asylum.

**RESPONSE:** We have seen absolutely no evidence of this. The best means to prevent such a crisis from happening would be to cease all provocative actions and allow observers into the region to monitor and lower tensions.

Ukrainian Border Guards: "Migration of Ukrainians remained approximately at the same level that was one week, two, three

(Continued on page 8)

# President Vladimir Putin's fiction: 10 false claims about Ukraine

*The fact sheet below was released by the U.S. Department of State, Office of the Spokesperson, on March 5.*

As Russia spins a false narrative to justify its illegal actions in Ukraine, the world has not seen such startling Russian fiction since Dostoyevsky wrote, "The formula 'two times two equals five' is not without its attractions."

Below are 10 of President Vladimir Putin's recent claims justifying Russian aggression in Ukraine, followed by the facts that his assertions ignore or distort.

**1. Mr. Putin says:** Russian forces in Crimea are only acting to protect Russian military assets. It is "citizens' defense groups," not Russian forces, who have seized infrastructure and military facilities in Crimea.

**The facts:** Strong evidence suggests that members of Russian security services are at the heart of the highly organized anti-Ukraine forces in Crimea. While these units wear uniforms without insignia, they drive vehicles with Russian military license plates and freely identify themselves as Russian security forces when asked by the international media and the Ukrainian military. Moreover, these individuals are armed with weapons not generally available to civilians.

**2. Mr. Putin says:** Russia's actions fall within the scope of the 1997 Friendship Treaty between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

**The facts:** The 1997 agreement requires Russia to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity. Russia's military actions in Ukraine, which have given them operational control of Crimea, are in clear violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

**3. Mr. Putin says:** The opposition failed to implement the February 21 agreement with former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich.

**The facts:** The February 21 agreement laid out a plan in which the Rada, or Parliament, would pass a bill to return Ukraine to its 2004 Constitution, thus returning the country to a constitutional system centered around its Parliament. Under the terms of the agreement, [Viktor] Yanukovich was to sign the enacting legislation within 24 hours and bring the crisis to a peaceful conclusion. Yanukovich refused to keep his end of the bargain. Instead, he packed up his home and fled, leaving behind evidence of wide-scale corruption.

**4. Mr. Putin says:** Ukraine's government is illegitimate. Yanukovich is still the legitimate leader of Ukraine.

**The facts:** On March 4, President Putin himself acknowledged the reality that Yanukovich "has no political future." After Yanukovich fled Ukraine, even his own Party of Regions turned against him, voting to confirm his withdrawal from office and to support the new government. Ukraine's new government was approved by the dem-

(Continued on page 8)



## FOR THE RECORD

## Ambassador's letter to Congress delineates Ukraine's position

*The following letter to members of the U.S. Congress was sent by Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States Olexander Motsyk. It was posted online on March 6.*

Dear Members of Congress:

I would like to begin by thanking the United States of America, and specifically the U.S. Congress, for the unwavering support of Ukraine at these challenging times.

For the past couple of months Ukraine has been in the world's headlines.

The whole world saw the determination of hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians who took to the streets to stand for a better life, for freedom, democracy and an end to the blatant corruption that stifled our country for far too long.

Yet the Yanukovich regime tried to silence the protesters with guns. Peaceful and unarmed demonstrators were met by special forces with snipers, who shot dead almost 100 people and wounded hundreds more.

In an attempt to prevent further bloodshed and resolve the crisis, on February 21, 2014, leaders of the opposition Vitali Klitschko, Oleh Tiahnybok and Arseniy Yatsenyuk on one side and Viktor Yanukovich on the other signed an agreement that had been negotiated with the help of foreign ministers of Poland, Germany and France. Russia's special envoy, Vladimir Lukin, was present but refused to sign it (therefore, the suggestion by the Russian side that the opposition failed to implement the agreement is groundless).

The agreement called for an end to violence, restoration of the Ukrainian Constitution of 2004 and early presidential elections.

However, on February 22, 2014, Viktor Yanukovich fled the capital and de facto removed himself from his constitutional authority.



Olexander Motsyk

Therefore, on February 22, 2014, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, which was the only legitimate authority in Ukraine at the time, given the resignation of the government and the president's self-removal from exercising his functions, restored the 2004 Constitution (approved by 386 votes out of 450), recognized that Viktor Yanukovich removed himself from his constitutional duties through unconstitutional means by 386 votes, including 140 votes from the pro-Yanukovich Party of Regions, and set the early elections of the president of Ukraine for May 25, 2014 (328 votes).

According to Article 112 of the Constitution of Ukraine of 2004, in case of early termination of powers of the president of Ukraine the functions of the president of Ukraine shall be carried out by the speaker of the Parliament until a new president is elected and inaugurated; the only

(Continued on page 9)

## Embassy of Ukraine in U.S. appeals to the world

*The following statement was released on March 8 by the Embassy of Ukraine to the United States.*

Ukraine is under attack – blatant and unprovoked. The Crimean peninsula, an integral part of Ukraine, is being occupied by foreign troops.

Fully armed military personnel stream in thousands on Ukrainian territory. They use military vehicles with foreign license plates. They use foreign uniforms and foreign military equipment. It is an act of aggression. It is an act of violation of all thinkable international conventions.

The legitimate government of Crimea was violently removed from power. A man with criminal background was installed as a puppet prime minister.

Being aware that their time is short-lived, the criminal junta called out a referendum that is to be conducted within 10 days. There is no doubt about the "results" to be achieved at gunpoint of the aggressor and in violation of Ukrainian and international laws.

In this extraordinary situation it is necessary to make a number of points: (a) Crimea is Ukraine. We won't accept any kind of staged "referendum" under the guns of an aggressor. We will never give up

on Crimea and never put up with this kind of violent behavior.

(b) We urge the world not to budge to pressure of the aggressor who broke its signature under fundamental international agreements. If this can be done to Ukraine, anything can be done to anyone. If this is allowed to happen, there are no rules and no laws.

(c) We appeal to Russia. Don't destroy the bonds that connect our peoples! Don't create another hotbed of tension in your surroundings! We are not the enemies of Russia. We don't want to be the enemies of Russia.

There is still a chance to stop this. Ukraine is ready to talk. Ukraine is ready to involve international negotiators.

But there is one thing for which Ukraine will never be ready: to give in to aggression. We will never budge. We will never compromise our sovereignty.

And we appeal to the world: support us in this, in your words and in your deeds. Don't be silent. Don't ask for whom the bell tolls. It tolls for you.

For it's not only about Ukraine. It's about the rules the world abides by.

The decisions you make today will shape the world in which we live tomorrow. Ukrainian Crimea is the only thing that separates us from a world based on lawlessness.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

## Trauma and bereavement care in Ukraine

by Robert van Voren

Over the past three months, the world has witnessed momentous events in Ukraine. What started as a protest by students in favor of an Association Agreement with the European Union, turned into a people's uprising against an autocratic and corrupt regime. After three months of mass demonstrations at the Maidan in Kyiv, and later in cities all across Ukraine, the old rulers fled the country. What happened before our eyes is not as much a choice between "East" or "West" but a revolution led by the first post-Soviet generation.

The revolution came at a very high cost. Thousands of demonstrators were wounded, some losing eyes or limbs, and at least 100 activists were shot dead by riot police and snipers operating from buildings around the square. Undoubtedly, the number of dead will rise considerably, as many people are unaccounted for and there are fears dozens might have been killed and left in mass graves in the forests.

During this period, hospital services were set up at the Maidan for a very urgent reason: wounded demonstrators who were delivered to regular medical services were abducted by riot police, beaten up and in some cases killed. For example, on February 19, riot police broke into the intensive care unit of the Emergency Hospital in Kyiv, turned off all the equipment and abducted the critically wounded demonstrators who were undergoing medical care to an unknown destination. And even on the Maidan the wounded were not always safe. On February 18, Berkut riot police set fire to the Trade Unions Building in which the Maidan hospital was located, blocking the exits purposely. Some 40 wounded fighters are feared to have burned alive that night.

The Maidan medical teams – all volunteers of various ages and backgrounds – performed heroic deeds. They worked on the front line, rescuing wounded activists while they themselves were under constant attack. In violation of all rules of engagement and conventions, riot police and snipers specifically targeted medics. They were wounded by snipers, they were beaten, abducted or even arrested for performing their professional responsibilities. They put the Hippocratic Oath into effect and deserve our support and admiration.

While their work can now gradually be taken over by regular medical services, both in Ukraine and abroad, the main challenge now is to take care of those traumatized by the events. These include activists who fought on the front line and who saw their buddies being wounded or killed; these include the relatives of those killed; these also include the volunteers of the Maidan hospital, who saw the wounded

and killed being brought in by the dozen, and who had to perform operations in hotel lobbies and churches, and treat the wounded right in the battle zone.

Together with the Ukrainian Psychiatric Association, we are trying to help those dealing with trauma and grief by providing specialized trauma care, offered by experts from the region who know the circumstances and environment, and who speak the language of those affected. Our Georgian partner organizations have a long experience in working in this field and are experts in psychotrauma care. They have worked on the front line in Georgia during military conflicts and combine high professionalism with knowledge of both the post-Soviet region and the Russian language.

The president of the Ukrainian Psychiatric Association, former political prisoner Dr. Semyon Gluzman, a world-renowned psychiatrist and human rights activist, has called upon his foreign colleagues to help make the trauma services possible.

In his appeal he writes:

"My country is going through hard times. Some 20 years after obtaining independence the people of Ukraine are now seriously embracing democratic values. Our main victory is the liquidation of an authoritarian regime in the country. Unfortunately, this victory came at a considerable human cost, more than 100 people were killed and thousands were wounded. But there are also other victims; some of the Maidan activists find themselves now in a state of post-traumatic stress. They need qualified psychological and psychiatric help. The state structures are not able to provide them with the full range of such services.

"We would be very grateful to Western colleagues who are willing to help us in establishing such services in Ukraine, by developing a network of specialized services and providing professional training to its personnel, as well as developing outreach programs to reach those who do not seek professional help by themselves. What is now a priority is to develop our capacity to deal with these issues ourselves, Ukrainian mental health professionals, but we can only do so with your support."

People who want to make donations can do so by transferring their donations to the bank account of the Federation Global Initiative on Psychiatry. We will make sure all your donations find their way to the right destination. Our partner on the ground is, among others, the Ukrainian Psychiatric Association, with whom we have worked for more than 20 years.

Our information is: bank account number: NL46 INGB 0006 0707 13, Federation Global Initiative on Psychiatry, Hilversum, the Netherlands, ING Bank - BIC code: INGBNL2A.

If you are a U.S. citizen and want to send us a check, please make it out to "GIP-USA" and send it to our postal address: FGIP, P.O. Box 1282, 1200 BG Hilversum, The Netherlands.

The Federation Global Initiative on Psychiatry also has a paypal account. To use that please visit the website [www.gip-global.org](http://www.gip-global.org).

For more information readers may e-mail this writer at [rvvoren@gip-global.org](mailto:rvvoren@gip-global.org) or see Robert van Voren on Facebook.

*Robert van Voren (born in 1959), a Sovietologist by education, has been a human rights activist since 1977 with a special interest in mental health issues. He is chief executive of the Federation Global Initiative on Psychiatry (GIP) and professor of Soviet and post-Soviet studies in Kaunas (Lithuania) and Tbilisi (Georgia). He has written extensively on Soviet issues and, in particular, issues related to mental health and human rights, and has published a dozen books.*



## President Vladimir...

(Continued from page 6)

ocratically elected Ukrainian Parliament, with 371 votes – more than an 82 percent majority. The interim government of Ukraine is a government of the people, which will shepherd the country toward democratic elections on May 25 – elections that will allow all Ukrainians to have a voice in the future of their country.

**5. Mr. Putin says:** There is a humanitarian crisis and hundreds of thousands are fleeing Ukraine to Russia and seeking asylum.

**The facts:** To date, there is absolutely no evidence of a humanitarian crisis. Nor is there evidence of a flood of asylum-seekers fleeing Ukraine for Russia. International organizations on the ground have investigated by talking with Ukrainian border guards, who also refuted these claims. Independent journalists observing the border have also reported no such flood of refugees.

**6. Mr. Putin says:** Ethnic Russians are under threat.

**The facts:** Outside of Russian press and Russian state television, there are no credible reports of any ethnic Russians being under threat. The new Ukrainian government placed a priority on peace and reconciliation from the outset. President Oleksandr Turchynov refused to sign legislation limiting the use of the Russian language at the regional level. Ethnic Russians and Russian speakers have filed petitions attesting that their communities have not experienced threats. Furthermore, since the new government was established, calm has returned to Kyiv. There has been no surge in crime, no looting and no retribution against political opponents.

**7. Mr. Putin says:** Russian bases are under threat.

**The facts:** Russian military facilities were and remain secure, and the new Ukrainian government has pledged to abide

by all existing international agreements, including those covering Russian bases. It is Ukrainian bases in Crimea that are under threat from Russian military action.

**8. Mr. Putin says:** There have been mass attacks on churches and synagogues in southern and eastern Ukraine.

**The facts:** Religious leaders in the country and international religious freedom advocates active in Ukraine have said there have been no incidents of attacks on churches. All of Ukraine's Church leaders, including representatives of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church–Moscow Patriarchate, have expressed support for the new political leadership, calling for national unity and a period of healing. Jewish groups in southern and eastern Ukraine report that they have not seen an increase in anti-Semitic incidents.

**9. Mr. Putin says:** Kyiv is trying to destabilize Crimea.

**The facts:** Ukraine's interim government has acted with restraint and sought dialogue. Russian troops, on the other hand, have moved beyond their bases to seize political objectives and infrastructure in Crimea. The government in Kyiv immediately sent the former chief of defense to defuse the situation. Petro Poroshenko, the latest government emissary to pursue dialogue in Crimea, was prevented from entering the Crimean Rada.

**10. Mr. Putin says:** The Rada is under the influence of extremists or terrorists.

**The facts:** The Rada is the most representative institution in Ukraine. Recent legislation has passed with large majorities, including from representatives of eastern Ukraine. Far-right wing ultranationalist groups, some of which were involved in open clashes with security forces during the Euro-Maidan protests, are not represented in the Rada. There is no indication that the Ukrainian government would pursue discriminatory policies; on the contrary, they have publicly stated exactly the opposite.

## Setting the record...

(Continued from page 6)

years ago." (<http://www.unian.net/politics/892071-massovogo-vyiezda-ukraintsev-v-rossiyu-net-pogranichniki.html>)

**CLAIM:** Ethnic Russians are under threat.

**RESPONSE:** There are no confirmed reports of any ethnic Russians being threatened, only allegations in the Russian press and on Russian state television. The new Ukrainian government has placed a priority on peace and reconciliation from the outset. President [Oleksandr] Turchynov refused to sign the legislation limiting the use of the Russian language at the regional level. The U.S. and others, including the EU, have welcomed the Ukrainian government's inclusive approach.

Ambassador Power: "There is no evidence that ethnic Russians are in danger. On the contrary, the new Ukrainian government has placed a priority on internal reconciliation and political inclusivity. President Turchynov – the acting president – has made clear his opposition to any restriction on the use of the Russian tongue."

Assistant Secretary [Victoria] Nuland: "The OSCE has the tools to address any legitimate concerns with regard to security on the ground, with regard to minority rights, and with regard to preparations for this democratic transition to lead to free and fair elections."

Kazakhstani MFA spokesperson Zhanbolat Usenov: "Kazakhstan calls on all parties to renounce options that imply the use of power and make maximum political efforts to resolve the current crisis by means of negotiations."

**CLAIM:** Russian bases are under threat.

**RESPONSE:** Russian military facilities were and remain secure, and the new Ukrainian government has pledged to abide by all existing international agreements, including those covering Russian bases.

Ambassador Power: "The central issue is whether the recent change of government in Ukraine constitutes a danger to Russia's legitimate interests of such a nature and extent that Russia is justified in intervening militarily in Ukraine, seizing control of public facilities and issuing military ultimatums to elements of the Ukrainian military. The answer, of course, is no."

**CLAIM:** Kyiv is trying to destabilize Crimea.

**RESPONSE:** On the contrary, Russian troops moved out of their bases to seize political objectives and infrastructure in

Crimea. Ukraine's government, in contrast, has acted with restraint and sought dialogue. The government in Kyiv immediately sent the former chief of defense to defuse the situation. The latest emissary, Petro Poroshenko, was prevented from entering the Crimean Rada to talk.

**CLAIM:** There have been mass attacks on churches in Eastern Ukraine.

**RESPONSE:** We have seen no evidence of this. All of Ukraine's Church leaders, including representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, have come out in support of the new political establishment, calling for national unity and a period of healing.

Ambassador Power: "There is no evidence, for example, that churches in eastern Ukraine are being or will be attacked; the allegation is without basis."

Eight Ukrainian Churches and religious organizations issued an appeal for peace and against foreign aggression; their letter is on the website of the Institute for Religious Freedom of Ukraine at <http://t.co/CF31axsK80>. In it, they "call the Russian authorities to come to senses and stop its aggression against Ukraine, and immediately pull out Russian troops from the Ukrainian land." This letter was signed by representatives of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Catholic Church, other Christian denominations, the Jewish faith and the Muslim faith.

**CLAIM:** The Crimean "prime minister" invited Russian intervention.

**RESPONSE:** International law does not provide for use of force at the invitation of a regional government. Under the Ukrainian Constitution, only the Ukrainian Rada can approve the presence of foreign troops in Ukrainian territory. Sergei Aksyonov's appeal to President [Vladimir] Putin to provide "peace and tranquility" in Crimea was a cynical exercise in destabilization.

**CLAIM:** Russia's actions fall within the scope of the 1997 Friendship Treaty between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

**RESPONSE:** The 1997 agreement requires Russia to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity. Russia's military actions in Ukraine are in clear violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Assistant Secretary Nuland: "We consider Russia's actions in Ukraine to be a... breach of Russia's Helsinki Commitments and its U.N. obligations."

G-7 leaders' statement: Russia's military actions are "in contravention of Russia's obligations under the U.N. Charter and its 1997 basing agreement with Ukraine."

Chinese MFA Spokesperson Qin Gang: "We respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine."

## UCC condemns Russian provocation and military intervention in Ukraine

KYIV – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress, in a release dated March 1, strongly condemned Russian provocation and military intervention in Ukraine.

"Today we saw heavily armed Russian forces wearing unmarked uniforms that block and seize strategic buildings and airports in Ukraine's Crimea region," stated UCC National President Paul Grod. "The Russian Federation has clearly violated international law and their commitment to protect Ukraine's territorial integrity."

Paul Grod was in Ukraine with a delegation from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress that visited Kyiv as part of a Canadian delegation led by Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird.

"The violent takeover of the Crimean Parliament by Russian backed agents is now being used as one of the pretexts for Russian intervention in Ukraine," added Mr. Grod. "The Russian Federation is engaged in dangerous brinkmanship, which together with the disinformation campaign it is waging in eastern and southern Ukraine, has reignited a new Cold War."

The UCC pointed out that, in exchange for giving up its nuclear weapons arsenal in 1994, Ukraine received security and territorial integrity guarantees from the United States, the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation, as part of the Budapest Memorandum. The United

Nations Security Council, which includes the Russian Federation as a permanent member, on February 28 stated its support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"The government of Ukraine has shown restraint in its reaction, and has called upon the European Union, the U.S. and NATO to defend Ukraine against this latest Russian aggression. Ukraine's Parliament passed a resolution demanding that all sides respect the Budapest Memorandum, which guarantees Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity," the UCC added.

"It is crucial that the international community use all tools at its disposal to force President [Vladimir] Putin to cease all actions that violate Ukraine's territorial integrity, including political and economic pressure. We call on the United States and United Kingdom, who are signatories of the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, to fulfill their obligations to protect the territorial integrity of Ukraine from Russian aggression," the UCC statement read.

The UCC noted: "We commend Prime Minister Harper for condemning Russian President Vladimir Putin's military intervention in Ukraine and for the government of Canada's decision to recall our ambassador from Moscow Saturday and suspend participation in the G-8 Summit, currently planned for Sochi."

## Russia wags...

(Continued from page 6)

ferent Russian media reports with various, differing identification tags and a humorous video in which activists unsuccessfully hunt for fascist ultranationalists on the streets of Odesa.

The Kyiv Post on March 5 published a list of the "Top 10 Kremlin myths and lies used to justify Russian invasion of Ukraine's Crimea."

But such efforts may not be enough to counter the effects of the Russian media reports, Ms. Fitzpatrick says. Once a story is out there, it is often impossible to rein it back in. A pointed exchange on March 3 between CNN correspondents Wolf Blitzer and Christiane Amanpour illustrates this point. Ms. Amanpour took Mr. Blitzer to task for citing without qualification Ambassador Churkin's claims that "fascists and anti-Sem-

ites" were to blame for Ukraine's unrest.

This, Russian sociologist Lev Gudkov, director of the independent Levada Center, says, is a fundamental purpose of propaganda. "In propaganda it is very important to consider the effect of squeezing out alternative versions of events, all alternative information. As a result, even people who don't believe or who doubt the official information are not in a position to work with other points of view. And this is the foundation of propaganda."

*RFE/RL's Russian Service correspondent Yelena Fanailova contributed to this report from Moscow and Tom Balmforth contributed from Symferopol.*

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## Ambassador's...

(Continued from page 7)

legitimate supreme authority in Ukraine is the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. The Rada elected a new speaker, Mr. Oleksandr Turchynov (by 288 votes), who acts as the president of Ukraine until the elections, and appointed Mr. Yatsenyuk as the prime minister (by 371 votes). These actions were made in full compliance with Ukrainian laws.

However, Russia did not recognize these changes and considers Viktor Yanukovich a legitimate president.

Producing a piece of paper purporting to be Mr. Yanukovich's letter asking Mr. Putin to send Russian troops to Ukraine, the Federation Council of Russia, upon Mr. Putin's request, approved such decision.

Mr. Yanukovich is no longer the president of Ukraine, particularly after his escape from Kyiv on February 22, 2014. Therefore, none of his statements have any significance under either Ukrainian or international law.

But in any way, even if the legitimate president of Ukraine called upon a foreign country to intervene with its armed forces in Ukraine, such a statement would also be worth nothing, because under the Constitution of Ukraine (Article 85) only the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine can approve decisions on admitting units of armed forces of other states to the territory of Ukraine. The Rada clearly stated that it had not made any such decisions.

Seeing that Ukraine is determined to pursue its European course, Russia, under a completely trumped up pretext, invaded Crimea with its armed forces.

The Russian forces are seeking to establish complete control over Ukraine's military facilities in Crimea, trying to block and disarm Ukrainian military garrisons and border guard bases, blocking airports and ships. The Russian troops and armored vehicles are moving uncontrollably around Crimea, numerous Russian military planes and helicopters violated Ukrainian airspace.

By countless provocations, the Russian military is seeking to instigate an armed conflict and replicate in Ukraine the Abkhazia and South Ossetia scenario. However, Ukrainian servicemen act with utmost restraint and don't react to such provocations, but there's a threat that Russia may engineer provocations against its own troops and blame them on Ukraine.

There is also an ongoing accumulation of military equipment on Russian territory in close proximity to the border of Ukraine in the Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk and Chernihiv oblasts. These actions may indicate preparations of the Russian side for possible intervention into the Ukrainian territory across the land border.

The military intervention is accompanied by a huge outburst of fabrications. I can assure you that Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine enjoy the same rights and freedoms as other citizens of my country. Nobody has ever forbidden, forbids or will forbid the use of the Russian language, as Russian propaganda tries to demonstrate. As of today there is no proof of any violations of Russian minority rights in Ukraine; there were no appeals to the relevant Ukrainian authorities either from those allegedly affected or from Russia's officials. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the parliamentary commissioner on human rights of Ukraine and the ombudsman of the Russian Federation, in case of such appeals to the Russian side they are transferred to the Ukrainian ombudsman.

The actions by the Russian Federation constitute an act of aggression against the

state of Ukraine. The Russian Federation brutally violated the basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations obliging all member states to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

Ukraine in the strongest possible terms protested such actions, but Russia officially rejected the Ukrainian proposal to hold immediate bilateral consultations (under Article 7 of the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation of 1997).

Russia's actions pose a serious threat not only to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, but also to peace and stability in the whole region. Moreover, Russia's actions provoke a disbalance in the international security system and can lead to violations of the regime of international nuclear non-proliferation on a global scale.

When in 1994 Ukraine became a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and voluntarily surrendered the third largest nuclear arsenal in the world, it did so exclusively under certain conditions. These conditions envisaged granting security assurances to Ukraine by the five nuclear states. On December 5, 1994, the United States, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom signed the Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances to Ukraine. The French Republic and the People's Republic of China supported the memorandum by signing separate declarations.

Ukraine has thoroughly implemented its commitments under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and has taken and fulfilled additional obligations by getting rid of all its stockpiles of highly enriched uranium.

Today we witness the situation when the Russian Federation attempts to undermine the NPT regime not only by violating the Budapest Memorandum, but also by violating the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which clearly states in its Preamble that "States must refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner."

Non-adherence by one guarantor state – the Russian Federation – to its commitments under the Budapest Memorandum by the military invasion of Ukraine creates a situation when the threshold states may consider international legal instruments insufficient to ensure security, territorial integrity and inviolability of their borders.

We rely on the commitments contained in the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 and the Charter on a Distinctive Partnership between NATO in Ukraine, as well as the U.S.-Ukraine Charter on Strategic Partnership and other bilateral documents. We need help from the guarantor states, the U.N., NATO, the OSCE, the European Union, all civilized nations to protect our sovereignty and territorial integrity by all available means and to prevent a war which would shatter peace in Europe and will have grave and irrevocable consequences for peace and security on a global scale.

The aggression must be stopped, and we rely on the strong and unified position of the global community.

Military units deployed from Russia must leave the territory of Ukraine immediately, and those belonging to the Russian Black Sea Fleet must return to their barracks. Armed gangs that came from Russia must also immediately leave Ukraine.

Crimea is an inalienable part of Ukraine, with citizens of all ethnic backgrounds.

All issues should be resolved through negotiations. There is no alternative to a peaceful and diplomatic solution of the crisis. We hope that wisdom will prevail.

We need America's help, and we count on it.

## Business leaders meet with Prime Minister Yatsenyuk

KYIV – Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk met for over two hours with a large audience of international and domestic business leaders of Ukraine in Kyiv at InterContinental Hotel in Kyiv on March 3.

The prime minister gave very strong opening remarks which were followed by a long question and answer period. Over 100 representatives of members of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC) were among the over 300 leaders who attended the meeting.

Prime Minister Yatsenyuk stressed Ukraine's main priorities, which are political and financial stability, unity, economic development and territorial sovereignty. First of all, Mr. Yatsenyuk pointed out, Ukraine will remain sovereign and independent, and the new government will focus on signing the European Union-Ukraine Association Agreement as soon as possible to move forward the process of European integration.

The prime minister also mentioned that Ukraine will complete all the conditions required by the International Monetary Fund and will accept financial and technical support from the EU and the United States in order to stabilize the Ukrainian economy.

Mr. Yatsenyuk stated he was in favor of privatizing the energy sector in the country and noted that many state-owned energy companies need to be sold in fair and transparent auctions. Additional state companies should also be privatized. Privatization would provide more tax income to the government and stop a considerable amount of corruption.

He also discussed the issues of the state budget, court system reform, corruption,

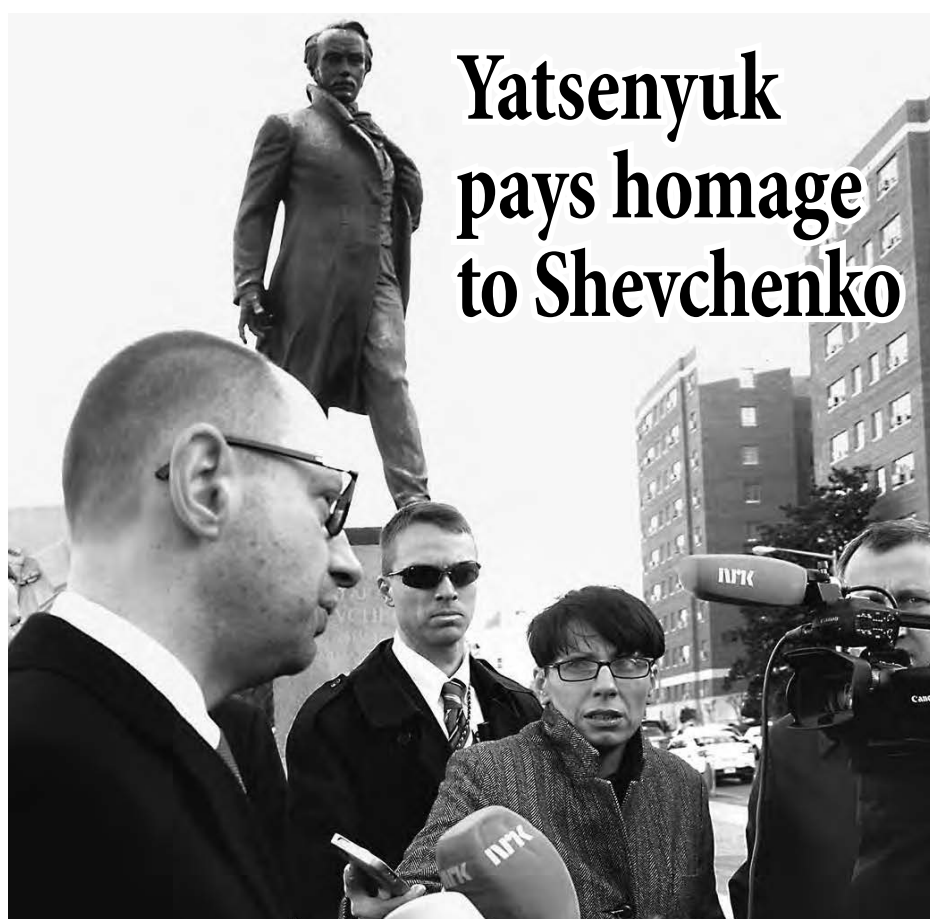
especially money laundering, and VAT refunds. Unpaid VAT refunds will most likely be covered by the issuance of state bonds. The automatic VAT refund system will continue and will be improved, he explained.

Mr. Yatsenyuk underlined that the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine is always open for proposals and ideas from business, especially for new candidacies to lead the State Tax Administration of Ukraine and the Customs Service. He assured businesses that the government will consider all reasonable recommendations immediately.

On behalf of U.S.-Ukraine Business Council (USUBC) members, Morgan Williams said the business community was pleased with the organization of the new government and had expressed sincere readiness to cooperate with the government to improve the business climate, promote business investment, reduce corruption, eliminate excessive regulations, support privatization, reform the judicial system and improve financial institutions.

USUBC members who attended included DuPont Pioneer, Bunge, Great Plains, IMI-Kyiv, Vasil Kisil & Partners, CNH Industrial, Volia, ADM, SigmaBleyzer, IPR Group, VISA, Deere, Amway, Trans-Vismos, Cub Energy, Agro Generation, Culmen, Kosmos, KPMG, Vanco, Noble, Monsanto, Global Restaurant Group, AB InBev, Raven, PwC, Philip Morris, AbbVie, Baker & McKenzie, USUF, Shell, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Westinghouse, DLA Piper, Toepfer, Ecolab, B.C. Toms, KPMG, EY, IBM, VISA, LCF Law Group, BUCC, RULG, Louis Dreyfus, TNK-BP, KM Partners, Intel, GlobalLogic, Citi Bank, P3DP, Kyiv Post, ,

(Continued on page 10)



## Yatsenyuk pays homage to Shevchenko

WASHINGTON – Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk visited the Taras Shevchenko monument on March 13 – the day after he held separate meetings with President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry about the current situation in Ukraine. He placed a floral wreath at the base of the monument to Ukraine's poet laureate on the occasion of the anniversary of his birth 200 years ago on March 9 and discussed some of the issues facing Ukraine with a small group of Ukrainian Americans and representatives of the press who gathered there early on that freezing and blustery morning. Accompanied by Foreign Affairs Minister Andriy Deshchytia and Ukraine's Ambassador to the U.S. Olexander Motsyk, he went on to conclude his Washington visit with separate scheduled meetings with Vice-President Joseph Biden, Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, House Majority Leader John Boehner and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi. That afternoon he went on to New York for meetings at the United Nations.

– Yaro Bihun



# Ruslana honored as one of 10 “International Women of Courage”

## Receives secretary of state's award at D.C. ceremonies

WASHINGTON – On March 4, when U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry was in Kyiv trying to avert the growing crisis in Ukraine, the 2014 Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Awards were presented by Deputy Secretary of State Heather Higginbottom in Washington to 10 women, among them Ukraine's Ruslana.

The 10 women from 10 countries were honored at a special ceremony at the State Department attended by First Lady Michelle Obama; Dr. Vanessa Kerry, co-founder and CEO of Seed Global Health, an NGO working in collaboration with the Peace Corps to improve healthcare in resource-limited countries, and daughter of Secretary of State Kerry; and Ambassador-At-Large for Global Women's Issues Catherine Russell.

The Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award annually recognizes women around the globe who have

demonstrated exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for peace, justice, human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment, often at great personal risk. Since the inception of this award in 2007, the Department of State has honored 76 women from 49 different countries.

Ruslana was honored for “her commitment to the Euro-Maidan community” and “her steadfast commitment to nonviolent resistance and national unity in the fight against government corruption and human rights abuses.”

The 2014 awardees are: Dr. Nasrin Oryakhil, director, Malalai Maternity Hospital Kabul (Afghanistan); Roshika Deo, feminist and political activist, Be the Change Campaign (Fiji); Bishop Rusudan Gotsiridze of the Evangelical Baptist Church of Georgia (Georgia); Dr. Iris Yassmin Barrios Aguilar, tribunal president, High Risk Court (Guatemala); Laxmi, campaigner, Stop Acid Attacks (India); Fatimata Touré, community activist and executive director, Groupe de Recherche, de Etude, de Formation Femme-Action (Mali); Dr. Maha Al Muneef, founder and executive director,



U.S. Embassy Kyiv

Ruslana Lyzhychko (center) with First Lady Michelle Obama and Deputy Secretary of State Heather Higginbottom at the presentation of the 2014 Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Awards on March 4.

National Family Safety Program (Saudi Arabia); Oinikhob Bobonazarova, director, NGO Perspektiva Plus (Tajikistan); Ruslana

Lyzhychko, EuroMaidan volunteer and People's Artist of Ukraine (Ukraine); and Beatrice Mtetwa, human rights lawyer (Zimbabwe)

Ambassador Russell welcomed all to the eighth annual presentation of the Secretary of State's International Woman of Courage Awards, saying, “We're delighted to have you here today to celebrate the 103rd anniversary of International Women's Day, which we mark every year by recognizing women who have exemplified exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for human rights, women's equality, and social progress, often at great personal risk.”

In her remarks at the ceremony Mrs. Obama said, “when we see these women raise their voices and move their feet and empower others to create change, we need to realize that each of us has that same power and that same obligation.” She expressed thanks to the honorees “for their tremendous bravery, for their efforts, for their courage, for their work to make change in their own lives and communities and throughout the world,” adding, “I cannot wait to see the impact you will continue to make in the years ahead.”

Presenting the honorees, Secretary Higginbottom said:

“Ruslana is a pop music singer who became famous after she won the 2003 Eurovision song contest. But today, she is known instead for her commitment to the Euro-Maidan community. As the peaceful protests emerged following President [Viktor] Yanukovich's decision to reject an association agreement with the European Union, Ruslana joined the demonstrations, spending her days on streets and her nights sleeping in cold tents. And every

(Continued on page 14)

## Business leaders...

(Continued from page 9)

Clifford Chance, Ukrainian Seed Association, Raiffeisen Bank Aval, Zeppelin Ukraine, Kyiv Atlantic, Louis Dreyfus, Horizon Capital, Dominic, Ecolab, Great Plains Mfg, Squire Sanders, Baker & McKenzie, CMS Cameron McKenna, Westinghouse, InterContinental Kyiv, Intel, The Bleyzer Foundation and other leaders of key USUBC members representing all sectors of Ukraine's economy.

Numerous key representatives of other business trade associations and a wide range of both international and Ukrainian mass media representatives also attended the presentation.



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\*Loan amount up to \$35,000 and up to 100% of the pre tax /title & ancillary fees sales price provided price is less than the NADA retail amount on approved vehicle types. Applicant's credit rating, seller's dealer affiliation will affect rate, term & down payment amount. Other conditions may apply. \*\*A \$1,000 loan at 2.95% APR results in a monthly payment of \$22.11 for 48 months. \*\*\*A \$1,000 loan at 3.75% APR results in a monthly payment of \$22.47 for 48 months. Car loan available up to 60 months at higher interest rate. Terms of offer may be changed at any time. For further information call us toll free at 888.222.8571. Selfreliance UAFCU has three ways for our members to save on a new vehicle purchase. First, General Motors is offering all current and eligible credit union members preferred pricing on most new GM vehicles. This is in addition to the most current incentives and special offers! Depending on the vehicle, you could save hundreds, even thousands of dollars on your next new Chevrolet, Buick, or GMC vehicle purchase just for being a credit union member.



## Thousands...

(Continued from page 1)

hesitation to help support human dignity."

Michael Sawkiw Jr., director of the Ukrainian National Information Service (UNIS), the UCCA's information arm in Washington, quoted U.S. author Thomas Paine, who during the American Revolution in 1776 wrote about sovereignty, liberty, human rights and patriotism. Mr. Sawkiw underscored the act of Russian aggression with the invasion of Ukrainian territory, and Russia's violation of international law. Mr. Sawkiw also thanked Ukraine's friends, among them Americans and Crimean Tatars. "All freedom lovers of the world, we are all Ukrainians," Mr. Sawkiw concluded.

The protest program included statements from representatives of various European ethnic groups that support Ukraine's right to freedom, patriotic Ukrainian songs that were sung by the crowd and led by Stepan Kaczurak on guitar, with additional selections performed by guitarist Maxim Lozynskyj.

Statements and words of support for Ukrainians were delivered by U.S. Reps. Sander Levin (D-Mich.), Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) and Bill Pascrell (D-N.J.).

Rep. Pascrell stated: "We are all at Maidan today – all of us! For resolution of this crisis we need more than words, but tangible results. We will show that the U.S. is not just about words, but action, which strengthens democracy in Ukraine." Rep. Pascrell said that he prays for Ukraine and the losses that it has already endured.

Rep. Levin, who was introduced by Borys Potapenko of UCCA, stated: "We are here to fight for democracy, not only in Ukraine, but also in Russia. President Obama has signed sanctions into law, in a basic elemental fight for the people to be able to speak for themselves and no one has the right to silence them – all of the Ukrainians."

The crowd offered its thanks with the chants of "God Bless America" and "Thank you!"

Stephen Blank, senior fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council, said he was honored to be at the protest. Mr. Blank noted the parallels between the U.S. and Ukraine, their struggles for independence. "We stand with them," he said. "We [the U.S.] allowed this to take place, and should be prepared to fight, not for our freedom but for yours. It is truth – not Putin's lies; peace – not violence; and rule of law and international treaties, and Russia must adhere to its agreements," Mr. Blank said.

Rep. Kaptur said, "The beloved county of Ukraine is fishing for democracy. The world's countries owe a world of debt to Ukraine. It is this that instructs us to build a democratic and free Ukraine." As the world approaches the Easter and Passover seasons, she noted, we recognize the sacrifices



Former Ambassador of the U.S. to Ukraine Roman Popadiuk reminds listeners of the democratic ideals Ukraine strives for.

already made in Ukraine. Rep. Kaptur urged the protesters to keep the faith for Ukraine.

Mubeyyin Altan, head of the Crimean Association of New York, said the rally was "extremely important" for Ukraine, and that Crimea needs the full support of Ukraine's allies for the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Mr. Altan condemned the Russian occupation of Crimea as "unjust and illegal." Russia, he said, is playing a dangerous game with the Crimean Parliament's falsification of poll results that indicate that 78 percent of Crimea's residents want closer ties with Russia.

The crowd responded with chants of "Crimea is Ukraine!"

Mr. Altan asked, "If the forces in Crimea from the Russian Federation were there to protect compatriots, against whom are they protecting? Sevastopol," he said, "needs no further protection."

The Crimean Tatars, the indigenous people of the Crimean peninsula, consider the 1944 deportation of Tatars from the region as a still bleeding wound that has been opened up by Russia's latest aggression. "Tatars," Mr. Altan said, "believe in a peaceful Crimea, and shows its solidarity with its Ukrainian friends, who say no to the Russian invasion of Crimea – an integral part of Ukraine."

Mr. Altan appealed to the U.S., European Union and the United Nations, and international leaders to stop the Russian aggression in Crimea and Ukraine.

Janusz Bugajski, a foreign policy analyst and author of numerous articles on Ukraine, told the crowd that the revolution in Ukraine to oust President Viktor Yanukovich was inspiring and had sealed Ukraine's place in Europe. Moscow can't stop this. He added that, Russia needs its own Maidan for Russia to become a democratic ally. Mr. Bugajski warned that Ukraine's dream can turn into a nightmare,

with Mr. Putin threatening peace in Europe. He called on the Russian people to throw the dictator out, and expressed support for a whole and free, united Ukraine.

Tamara Olexy, president of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), stated: "Russia, out of Ukraine!" and pointed to the clear violation by Russia of its international agreements – notably the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, signed by Russia, the U.S., Ukraine and Great Britain. Ms. Olexy thanked the U.S. for its support of Ukraine during this crisis, with the work done by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to protect Ukraine's sovereignty. Ms. Olexy urged the withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukrainian territory, and thanked Congress for pushing for sanctions against Russia. She underscored the need for deeper U.S. isolation of Russia and said that all options need to remain open for ensuring that the Russian troops leave Ukraine. "Russia needs to abandon its imperial ambitions and behave as a civilized country," she added.

Asta Binionis of the Lithuanian American Community's Public Affairs Council held up a poster reading "Shame on Putin, Shame, Shame, Shame," and recounted Mr. Putin's delusions, citing a comparison between former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Russia's President Putin – there will come a point when Putin realizes the dead end of his ambitions. Ms. Binionis told the crowd: "I am proud to join Ukrainians to support its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity and to condemn the imperialistic violations committed by the Russian Federation military, which threatens peace and security in Europe. This has been condemned by the Obama administration, William Hagel, Vice-President Joseph Biden and Secretary of State John Kerry."

The West should use all efforts to counter Russian imperialism, including the vigorous application of the Magnitsky Act



Ayla Bakkalli, the U.S. representative of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis, expresses fear for the safety of Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars under the Russian occupation of the Crimean peninsula.

against the Putin regime, Ms. Binionis added, and she urged the U.S. Congress to condemn the Russian actions in Crimea and Ukraine. NATO allies should join the U.S. in condemning Russian aggression and cooperate on joint exercises, while furthering a broad spectrum of sanctions and support for diplomatic efforts, including sending military observers and human rights monitors. Russian troops must withdraw from Ukraine, Ms. Binionis noted, and return troops to the terms of the basing agreement with Ukraine and Crimea, including providing unfettered access of observers to the region.

Carl Gershman, president of the National Endowment for Democracy, called on Western leaders to demonstrate moral and political solidarity during this moment of great crisis in Ukraine. Mr. Gershman said he was hopeful, despite Russian aggression, as the Ukrainian people had demonstrated maturity and discipline during the Maidan events in Kyiv. "The timeline of events at the Maidan," Mr. Gershman said, "showed the strength of Ukrainians and the rebelling spirit against corruption and occupation. Ukraine wants to be part of Europe, not only geographically, and has shown that it supports unity, not division, between Orthodox and Catholic, Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars. The death of Putinism will open the bridge to Europe for Russia."

Nino Anduashvili, executive director for the Georgian Association of the United States, noted the organization's founding in 1921, and offered Georgia's condolences, as the country has recent experience with Russian occupation since August 2008. "We stand today with Ukrainians in solidarity, and Putin's pattern of behavior is manifest for the whole world to see, which gives the Ukrainians solidarity support from the international community." Mr. Anduashvili urged NATO membership for Ukraine and Georgia, and called on the West and the U.S. to stop Russian aggression.

Ambassador Temuri Yakobashvili, former ambassador of Georgia to the United States and a senior trans-Atlantic fellow at the German Marshall Fund, noted that all Ukrainians are one nation, and their freedom of choice fought against kleptocracy. "No more statues to Soviet killers – the resurrection of the evil empire prevents democratic advancement in the region," Ambassador Yakobashvili said.

Mr. Yakobashvili noted Ukraine's bloodshed on the streets of Ukraine – not in one place, but in many places to secure Ukraine's independence. "Enough of Russian subjugation," Mr. Yakobashvili said. "The Russian people deserve better than Putin." Russia needs to respect the decisions of its neighbors, the former ambassador noted, adding that to fight the Russians



Svoboda national deputy Oleksander Ripka joins the diaspora protests against President Vladimir Putin's lies.



Ukrainians hold placards expressing disgust with the Russian aggression in Crimea and Ukraine.

(Continued on page 15)



## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 2)

ple's trust, who de facto lost his presidential authority and, moreover, who fled the country, cannot be legitimate," the statement says. Mr. Yanukovich told journalists in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, earlier on March 11 that he is Ukraine's legitimate president. The statement by Kyrgyzstan also said the country is concerned about the current crisis in Ukraine and condemns any activities aimed at destabilizing the situation there. The statement is the first from a member of the Russia-led Commonwealth of Independent States that largely contradicts the Kremlin's view of the situation. (RFE/RL Kyrgyz Service)

### Obama, Nazarbaev discuss Ukraine crisis

WASHINGTON – U.S. President Barack Obama spoke on March 10 with Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev about the Ukraine crisis. The White House said Mr. Obama encouraged Mr. Nazarbaev to play an active role in finding a peaceful outcome, amid the occupation of Crimea by Russian forces. It said the two leaders agreed on the importance of upholding principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. Earlier on March 10, Mr. Nazarbaev spoke about Ukraine by phone with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin. According to the Kazakh presidential website, President Nazarbaev reiterated to Chancellor Merkel the importance of finding a diplomatic solution while ensuring

Ukraine's territorial integrity. Mr. Nazarbaev's website said that in his call with Mr. Putin he expressed support for Russia's position in defending the rights of national minorities in Ukraine. An expected visit by Mr. Nazarbaev to Moscow on March 11 never materialized. (RFE/RL, written based on reporting by akorda.kz and a White House statement)

### Kerry's conversation with Lavrov

WASHINGTON – State Department Spokesperson Jen Psaki said on March 10 that, in their conversation on March 8, Secretary John Kerry made it clear to Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Sergey Lavrov that "the United States wants to see a cessation of Russian military advances in Ukraine including Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, a halt in the drive for annexation of Crimea, and the end of provocative steps to provide space for diplomacy." Ms. Psaki continued: "The United States needs to see concrete evidence that Russia is prepared to engage on the diplomatic proposals we have made to facilitate direct dialogue between Ukraine and Russia and to use international mechanisms like a contact group to de-escalate the conflict. We are still awaiting a Russian response to the concrete questions that Secretary Kerry sent Foreign Minister Lavrov on Saturday in this regard. Secretary Kerry made clear to Foreign Minister Lavrov that he would welcome further discussions focused on how to de-escalate the crisis in Ukraine if and when we see concrete evidence that Russia is prepared to engage on these proposals." (U.S. Department of State)

### U.N. secretary-general on Ukraine

UNITED NATIONS– United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on March 10 issued a statement on Ukraine. He said: "I am increasingly alarmed by the developments in Ukraine. Since the beginning of this crisis, I have appealed to all parties to de-escalate tensions and to engage in direct and constructive dialogue in order to forge

a peaceful way forward. Recent events in Crimea in particular have only served to deepen the crisis. As tensions and mistrust are growing, I urge all sides to refrain from hasty actions and provocative rhetoric. The international community must help the key actors to calm the situation and work toward a durable and fair political solution. A further deterioration of the situation would have serious repercussions for the people of Ukraine, the region and the global community. I also continue to urge the relevant authorities to ensure that the human rights of all in Ukraine are respected, with particular attention to the rights and protection of minorities. At this crucial juncture, we cannot afford either miscalculations or inaction. Above all, a resolution of the crisis must be found on the basis of United Nations Charter principles, including the peaceful settlement of disputes and respect for the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. (United Nations)

### Khodorkovsky addresses Maidan

KYIV – Mikhail Khodorkovsky, addressing thousands on Kyiv's Independence Square, accused Russia of complicity in the police violence that claimed more than 100 lives during protests against Ukraine's ousted pro-Russian president. Mr. Khodorkovsky, a fierce critic of Russian President Vladimir Putin who spent a decade behind bars, said on March 9 that force was used against the protesters last month "with the agreement of the Russian authorities." He told the crowd "I want you to know – there is a completely different Russia." In response, demonstrators chanted "Russia, wake up!" On March 8 Mr. Khodorkovsky met with demonstrators who continue to occupy the Maidan, or Independence Square, despite the ouster of President Viktor Yanukovich. He was to give a lecture that is open to the public at Kyiv's Polytechnic Institute on March 10. (RFE/RL, based on televised reports and reporting by Reuters and Agence France-Presse)

(Continued on page 13)

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### DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF UNA BRANCHES OF DETROIT, MI

announces that its

### ANNUAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on

**Sunday, April 6, 2014, at 1:00 p.m.**

at the Ukrainian Cultural Center  
26601 Ryan Rd. Warren, MI

Obligated to attend the annual meeting as voting members  
are District Committee Officers, Convention Delegates and two  
delegates from the following Branches:

**82, 94, 165, 174, 175, 292, 341**

All UNA members are welcome as guests at the meeting.

Meeting will be attended by:

**Anatole Doroshenko** - Honorary Member of the UNA General  
Assembly

### DISTRICT COMMITTEE

**Dr. Alexander Serafyn**, District Chairman  
**Vera Krywyj**, Secretary  
**Olha Maruschak**, Treasurer



**UPDATE on the FUND DRIVE  
for a MONUMENT on the  
GRAVE of  
Prof. MELANIA BAYLOWA,  
Former President of the  
Ukrainian Music Institute of  
America, Inc**



In 2013 the Ukrainian Music Institute of America and former students of UMI  
asked the Ukrainian community to help fund a monument on the grave of this  
outstanding piano teacher, pedagogue, and former president of UMI (1970–1979).

The community responded, as did some former students of UMI. Enough funds  
were collected to make a downpayment, and work on the monument has begun.  
We continue our fundraising efforts to ensure that this project can be completed  
this year, the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her passing.

YMI plans a benefit concert on Sunday, March 16, 2014 at 3 pm at the Ukrainian  
National Home in Newark, NJ. Performers include students, teachers, former  
students of Prof. Baylowa, and the Vocal Ensemble Promin. The concert will  
honor Prof. Baylowa and other departed former presidents of UMI.

Save this date and come to this unique event, dedicated to the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
Taras Shevchenko. Help support our fund drive for the monument.

If you can contribute, please make checks payable to the Ukrainian Music Institute  
(Account #36852-0001) and mail to UMI's Treasurer, Mrs. Halyna Lehki,  
Treasurer UMI, 383 Menahan St., #1L, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11237.

Donations are tax-deductible. UMI is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational  
organization. Once the placing of the monument is completed, we will publish a  
list of donors.

Our heartfelt thanks!

**Bohdanna Wolansky**  
UMI President

**Oksana Kuzyszyn**  
Fundraising Committee



## NEWSBRIEFS

(Continued from page 12)

### OSCE: referendum is illegal

BERN – In its current form the referendum regarding Crimea scheduled for March 16 is in contradiction with the Ukrainian Constitution and must be considered illegal, Swiss Foreign Minister and OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) Chair Didier Burkhalter said on March 11. For any referendum regarding the degree of autonomy or sovereignty of the Crimea to be legitimate, it would need to be based on the Ukrainian Constitution and would have to be in line with international law, he said. In that context, Mr. Burkhalter called upon all actors to refrain from supporting unconstitutional activities. The chair also ruled out the possibility of an OSCE observation of the planned referendum of March 16 as the basic criteria for a decision in a constitutional framework was not met. Furthermore, an invitation by the participating state concerned would be a precondition to any observation activity in this regard. Mr. Burkhalter reiterated his readiness to engage in discussions with all sides, possibly in the form of a Contact Group, regarding possibilities to find ways out of the current situation. He took note of significant concerns signaled by his personal envoy on the situation in the Crimea, Ambassador Tim Guldemann, who said on March 6 that “the situation is calm, but very tense,” adding, “It is a miracle that there has been no bloodshed yet.” Mr. Guldemann deplored the fact that, while in Crimea, he was not able to secure a meeting with Sergey Aksyonov and the commander of the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Federation. He and OSCE High Commissioner of National Minorities Astrid Thors, however, had extensive talks with representatives from the Crimean Parliament as well as from public administration and civil society, including from the community of the Crimean Tatars. He also met with the representative of the acting Ukrainian president in Crimea. (OSCE)

### Kyiv requests continuation of visit

VIENNA – A continuation of the visit by unarmed personnel has been requested by Ukraine, this time to cover the south and east of the country, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe reported on March 11. So far, 14 OSCE participating states have responded to the request, with numbers expected to rise over the next days. A first visit to Crimea – when 18 OSCE participating states sent 35 unarmed military personnel to Ukraine in response to its request – was organized for March 5-12, when the group was unable to move beyond checkpoints at the administrative border. The visit is taking place under Chapter III of the Vienna Document 2011, which allows for voluntary hosting of visits to dispel concerns about unusual military activities. Ukraine had requested all OSCE participating states to send military representatives for March 5-12, starting in Odesa. This was the first time this mechanism has been activated. The visit is now expected to continue through March 16. (OSCE)

### Armed men threaten U.N. envoy

UNITED NATIONS – The United Nations has confirmed that Senior Advisor Robert Serry is in good shape physically after being threatened on March 5 during his visit to Crimea by armed men who ordered him to leave the region. “He was met outside the main naval headquarters by a number of unidentified men who were saying that he should leave Crimea and go to the airport,” Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson told reporters in New York, as he briefed via telephone from Kyiv. Mr. Serry

apparently returned to his vehicle, and when the car could not drive away, he walked back to his hotel accompanied by a U.N. colleague. “On his way to the hotel he stopped by a cafe to call me, and that’s when we talked,” said Mr. Eliasson. Mr. Serry, who was dispatched to Crimea to take stock of the situation there, had been relying on Ukrainian authorities for security. He was threatened but not kidnapped, the deputy U.N. chief stressed. A U.N. spokesperson later confirmed that Mr. Serry was taking a flight out of Symferopol and returning to Kyiv. Mr. Eliasson has continued to meet with authorities in Kyiv, stressing the need for calm and international unity in the pursuit of peace amid the ongoing crisis in the country. “I don’t think I’ve ever made so many references to the U.N. Charter,” he told reporters in reference to the charter’s principles of unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Mr. Eliasson is known to carry a copy of the Charter with him at all times, and was earlier today photographed holding up the little blue booklet while calling for a de-escalation of tensions between Kiev and Moscow. (United Nations)

### Crimean Tatars ask for help

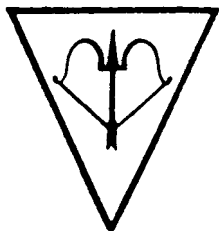
KYIV – Crimean Tatars appealed to the presidents of Turkey, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan to help prevent the secession of Crimea from Ukraine, Espresso TV reported, citing Azerbaijani news outlet haqqin.az.

In an interview with haqqin.az on March 6, the leader of the Crimean Tatars and former head of the Mejlis Mustafa Dzhemilev explained: “Our people were once expelled from their native lands,” he said. “We do not want a repetition of this tragedy. Therefore we appeal for help to Ilham Aliyev [president of Azerbaijan], Abdullah Gül [president of Turkey] and Nursultan Nazarbayev [president of Kazakhstan]. Do not abandon your Crimean brothers and sisters at this difficult time. We ask the entire world to help us. Exile and repression await us in Russia once again,” he said. Mr. Dzhemilev announced that the Crimean Tatars are preparing for mass protests and beseeched the world to support the views of the indigenous population of Crimea, which wishes to continue living as part of a unified Ukraine. As reported earlier, the new head leader of the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatars, Refat Chubarov, called for the deployment of an international U.N. peacekeeping force in Crimea. (Espresso TV via Euromaidan PR)

### Ukrainians answer call to enlist

KYIV – The army recruitment office in Cherkasy, central Ukraine, has never been so busy. More than 500 people have already turned up to enroll since Russian President Vladimir Putin declared on March 1 the right to invade Ukraine. Katerina Shelest, a local recruiting office employee, told RFE/RL that “scores of people are showing up, including retired offi-

cers who have long been demobilized. Young men are also volunteering. We try to enroll everyone.” She added that she and her colleagues had worked virtually non-stop since Mr. Putin’s announcement, “without lunch breaks, until late at night.” Ukraine has put its army on high combat alert and is calling up reservists. In theory, all men up to 40-years old could be asked to join army ranks in the event of a full-blown war with Russia, whose military capabilities are far vaster than its neighbor’s. According to March 4 news reports, volunteers have been queuing up to enlist. Andriy Lomtev, a 21-year-old Cherkasy resident, was demobilized a year ago after serving in Crimea. He showed up at the city’s army recruitment office hours after his own father, 46, signed up as a volunteer. “I want to defend my people,” he said. “Some of my friends have already enlisted, others are waiting to be called up. Our patriotic feelings are roused in such emergency situations.” With fewer than 130,000 active military personnel – a far cry from Russia’s 845,000 – the Ukrainian army will need all the help it can get. Cash-strapped Ukraine owns almost 10 times fewer tanks than Russia. It has one major warship and only about 230 combat aircraft. Russia, which has spent billions of dollars over the past decade to upgrade and modernize its military, owns more than 30 large warships and more than 1,500 combat-capable planes. (RFE/RL)



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## Ruslana honored... Euro-Maidan...

(Continued from page 10)

evening, in the face of impending police attacks and death threats, she performed the Ukrainian national anthem for the other demonstrators to reinforce the promise of a diverse and unified Ukraine.

"One night last December, as Ruslana sang, rumors of an impending security sweep by the Ukrainian riot police began to spread, sending panic through the crowd. Ruslana held the stage and urged protestors to retain their calmness and composure. And when the government forces arrived to the scene, she reminded them over and over again to respect human rights and refrain from violence.

"Anyone who was there that night will tell you how her rallying cries steadied the nerves of the protestors, giving them the courage they needed to successfully withstand more than 2,000 riot police. They will tell you how crowds cheered as eventually the police retreated from a standoff that was intense but ultimately peaceful. And they will tell you how that night will go down in history as one of the EuroMaidan movement's most amazing displays of unity and determination.

"For her steadfast commitment to non-violent resistance and national unity in the fight against government corruption and human rights abuses, we name Ruslana Lyzhychko a Woman of Courage."

Profiles of all the winners of the International Women of Courage Awards may be read at <http://www.state.gov/s/gwi/programs/iwoc/2014/bio/index>.

### Ruslana's schedule in D.C.

The U.S.-Ukraine Foundation, in cooperation with Robert McConnell of R. A. McConnell & Associates, organized the rest of Ruslana's Washington program. On March 5 she was hosted by the National Press Club at its Newsmaker Program, addressing her message directly to President Vladimir Putin in English, Ukrainian and Russian. Later that day she had a meeting with Friends of Ukraine hosted by the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.

On March 6, Ruslana spent all day on Capitol Hill, meeting with Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), Reps. Jim Gerlach (R-Pa.) and Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio), Undersecretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights Richard Stengel, as well as Chairman Ed Royce (R-Calif.) and Ranking Member Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.) of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

March 7 meetings included a roundtable discussion followed by a webinar at the Atlantic Council, interviews with CNN, NBC and CBS. Ruslana also stopped by the monthly social gathering of young professionals in Washington.

On March 8 Ruslana had several more meetings and an interview with Voice of America. She videotaped a message in front of the Taras Shevchenko monument in Washington to be used for the Maidan celebration of the 200th anniversary of Shevchenko's birth. Before departing for the airport, Ruslana had a discussion with Ambassador Olexander Motsyk regarding her meetings and the upcoming visit of Ukraine's Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk to Washington.

Sources: Websites of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Embassy Kyiv, and the U.S.-Ukraine Foundation.

(Continued from page 4)

these 'activists,' among whom Russian tourists from neighboring oblasts play a significant role," Mr. Oleshchuk said. "For them, Ukrainian officials are all the same. The Party of Regions is trying to balance itself beyond these events."

It's not just eastern Ukrainians (and Russian tourists) who were chasing out the new appointments. In Lviv, leaders of the Euro-Maidan's armed units – the Pravyi Sektor coalition of nationalist forces and Afghanistan war veterans – demonstrated their dissatisfaction by evicting the newly appointed prosecutor on March 7.

Volodymyr Hural was supposed to be presented at an afternoon ceremony in the Lviv Railmen's Palace but was grabbed by the activists and forced onto the street, from where he drove away. Mr. Hural upheld a "corrupt way of life," said Ihor Kotsiuruba, the leader of Lviv's Pravyi Sektor, as reported by the UNIAN news agency.

"During his tenure as prosecutor in the Lviv Oblast, he had the nickname 'desiatka' [10 note] because everyone knew that approaching him to resolve any issue could only be done having in hand no less than 10,000 greenbacks," he said.

The new government leaders have failed to live up to their promise of conducting lustration and reviewing candidates with the Euro-Maidan to prevent corrupt officials from returning, said Ihor Shepa, a leader of Lviv's Afghanistan war veterans.

"We don't want the Nebesnia Sotnia, who gave their lives for changes, to have their memory tarnished by such appointments," he said. "We will demand concordance and lustration for the leaders of the police and Security Service of Ukraine in the Lviv region."

Several wealthy oligarchs also were appointed to lead state oblast administra-

tions, including Serhii Taruta (worth \$660 million, according to [Korrespondent.net](http://Korrespondent.net)) in Donetsk and Igor Kolomoisky (worth \$3.5 billion) in Dnipropetrovsk.

But these appointments weren't widely criticized since they were viewed as the interim government's effort to prevent federalist and separatist movements from destabilizing the country. Both oligarchs are natives of the oblasts they are leading and both have a lot of wealth to lose should the Ukrainian state begin to disintegrate, experts said.

"No one else could have promised to keep the situation under control," Mr. Oleshchuk said.

Indeed the secessionist activity has been largely kept under the lid in Donetsk, despite several attacks on Euro-Maidan demonstrators, who have been provided police protection by Mr. Taruta at protest sites.

The situation isn't too bad in Kyiv either, as Mr. Yatsenyuk announced he's committed to harsh cuts in fiscal spending, which he estimated at \$7 billion to \$9 billion for the 2014 budget, or 14 to 17 percent, as reported by the Kommersant-Ukraine news site on March 4.

The first cuts will occur in state officials' perks and in state purchases, he said, which are a rampant source of corruption.

His government's program – which consists of seven main goals and 120 separate tasks – also calls for dismissing unneeded state employees (65 in the Presidential Administration and 90 in the National Security and Defense Council) and liquidating 42 unneeded state programs.

Moreover, Finance Minister Oleksander Shlapak ordered all ministries to conduct an inventory within two months of state residences, dachas, retreats and health centers, which will be transferred to the State Property Fund and possibly auctioned.

He has also forbidden state organs to spend funds on renovations, automobiles, mobile phones, laptops and charter flights.

At the Education Ministry, Serhiy Kvit has followed up on his initial symbolic gesture – submitting a request on March 5 to dismantle the surrounding fence – by promising to fulfill demands that students have been making for at least a decade.

They include returning textbooks that had been eliminated by his pro-Russian predecessor, separating the Higher Attestation Commission from the Education Ministry, simplifying the procedure to recognize foreign diplomas and introducing "cross admission" to permit entering a master's program in a field of study different from one's own bachelor's degree.

As for Internal Affairs Minister Avakov, he claimed on his Facebook page on March 4 to have dismissed 90 percent of the Internal Affairs Ministry's command, "mainly people who compromised and discredited themselves during the last three months" of the Euro-Maidan.

On March 11, he announced a campaign to target for criminal charges 50 financial institutions for their involvement in money laundering – unprecedented for Ukraine's financial industry.

In the view of the government's defenders, the critics are being a bit too harsh.

"Three days had not passed since the appointment of the Internal Affairs Minister and the 'sofa sotnia' began to get offended about why no one has been imprisoned, why criminal charges haven't been filed, why, why, why," wrote commentator Viktoriia Narizhna in an essay published on the Ukrayinska Pravda news site on March 9. "And it's nothing that thousands of criminal cases have to be opened. That the country can't allow selective justice, not after Yanukovich's disorder. That the eastern and southern oblasts have been enveloped by sabotage of law enforcement structures. Where's Avakov? How could they have thrust upon us a common person as internal affairs minister? Where's our Superman, who can be in 100 places all at the same time?"

## Turning...

(Continued from page 6)

Ukraine's Parliament on February 24, 1994, adopted a resolution "On the Status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in Conformity with the Acting Constitution and Legislation of Ukraine." The resolution stated: 1) Crimea does not have state sovereignty and cannot enter into political relations with foreign countries; 2) the Crimean Constitution cannot contradict the Ukrainian Constitution; 3) Crimea is an integral part of Ukraine and Ukraine's borders cannot be changed without the consent of the people of Ukraine; 4) Crimea cannot have its own citizenship, military formations, or monetary and financial system. In addition, the resolution stipulated that the Crimean authorities had one month to bring its Constitution and laws into line with Ukraine's Constitution and laws.

Mr. Meshkov criticized the resolution, calling for Kyiv to withdraw its troops from the peninsula, arguing that the Black Sea Fleet was sufficient guarantee of the Crimea's security.

Meanwhile, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin assured Kyiv that Moscow had no claims on Crimea.

Source: "Kyiv issues last minute appeal to the Crimean Republic," by Rebecca A. Morrison, *The Ukrainian Weekly*, March 27, 1994.

## Bipartisanship...

(Continued from page 6)

These are the undisputed facts. Even Russia's apologists do not deny them. It also is indisputable that, unchecked, the reconstituted Russian Empire will not stop in subverting, destabilizing other countries of the former Soviet Union, the former satellite states of Central and East Europe, and beyond. Ultimately, these efforts are aimed at destroying NATO and eliminating U.S. influence from Europe and other regions of Eurasia, as well as the Middle East. Russia is working to undermine U.S. efforts from Tehran to Syria and from Havana to Caracas.

In the words of Republican Sen. John McCain, ranking member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, U.S. policy toward Russia by both Republican and Democratic administrations was based more on "wishful thinking" than "reality"; Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, called for an urgent re-examination of U.S. policy toward Russia.

These leaders in the U.S. Congress understand the significance of this critical moment in history and the absolute need for national unity and bipartisanship in Congress in compelling the Russian military to stand down and to respect the inviolability and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America welcomes the adoption of legislation on assistance to Ukraine. We welcome legislation proposed by Chairman Menendez. We also support calls for the Senate Armed Services Committee to initiate the process of designating Ukraine as a

Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA). Together these measures will provide the Ukrainian government necessary assistance in the economic and defense spheres, to institute major economic reforms and to provide Ukrainian defense forces critical supplies, logistical support and intelligence, in deterring further aggression by Russia.

The UCCA supports President Barack Obama, Secretary of State John Kerry, and Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel in their efforts to resolve the crisis diplomatically. Multilateral diplomatic initiatives – working with our allies in Europe, NATO and the international community as a whole – in confronting Russian aggression and subversion of its neighbors, include meaningful sanctions. These welcome measures should be reinforced with policies that take into account the proposals by Sens. Menendez and McCain, as well as the designation of Ukraine as a Major Non-NATO Ally.

Finally, the UCCA calls on our president and our leaders in the House and Senate to put aside political differences and stand together at this time of great danger for our homeland and the world. While politics must end at our country's shores, defense of our homeland must not. Isolationism can only invite tyranny and aggression that, left unchallenged, will lead to consequences that history has tragically repeated twice on a global level during the last century. At the start of both world wars, Russia was the aggressor. Russian aggression continues to plague Europe even now in the 21st century. Today, the Ukrainian people are standing tall in defense of their hard-won freedom. They also are on the front line of defense for Europe, America and the world. America, united, needs to stand with them.

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# Master-ing the sport of skiing – Oksana Masters

by Ihor N. Stelmach

Oksana Masters, winner of a bronze medal in rowing at the 2012 Paralympics in London, is competing as a member of the U.S. Nordic Ski Team in the Winter Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia. The 24-year-old Ukraine native, a double amputee, qualified to compete in cross-country skiing and biathlon. She won bronze medals in a 12-kilometer sit-ski World Cup race January 17 in Germany and in a 5-kilometer race in Alberta last December. She's ranked 11th in the world in Nordic skiing and 13th in biathlon (women's sitting divisions). In January, Masters won national titles in 6-kilometer biathlon and 5-kilometer + 10-kilometer cross-country.

(As featured on the pages of The Weekly in mid-2012, Oksana Masters was born in Ukraine with physical disabilities probably caused by radiation poisoning. She spent her first seven years in an orphanage and boarding school before being adopted by Gay Masters and moving to the United States.)

It was late in 2012 when Masters, intrigued by the idea of cross-country skiing, got her first taste of the sport at U.S. Paralympics camps in Colorado. After a taste, she wanted more and went all in on the sport. The result was rapid growth and surprising success.

Before she learned to go fast she first had to learn how to stay upright. She crashed a lot in the early stages because she wanted to go fast, but then couldn't control the sled at the bottom of the hill,

often hitting a tree or breaking a ski pole. She spent as much time in the snow as on her sit-ski, pushing herself to find her limits. She did well.

Masters' interest in skiing was originally in downhill, not cross-country. The concept of endurance racing across snow on a sit-ski was quite strange. Instead of flying down a hill, she learned to go up the hill. The process took much time and effort, a challenge she was more than willing to meet head-on.

As an experienced rower, she had developed upper-body strength and fitness, though she needed to learn to pace herself. Since the fitness aspect was a given, the issue to overcome was technique. Over the past year she has become smoother, capable of making turns on one ski and shifting her weight on corners.

Masters' other new adventure is biathlon. She has learned how to shoot a rifle in cross-country races. She considers the discipline more of a mental challenge because of the shooting – if she misses a shot she can't get down, but has to keep moving and aim for the next target. It has been said shooting in itself is difficult – shooting with a rapid heart rate is ridiculously hard.

At the December 2013 IPC World Cup in Canmore, Alberta, Masters finished seventh in both biathlon races. Her biathlon events came after her podium finish in the 5-kilometer race. The results came against a world-class field. Her confidence boosted, Masters has an indication of how good she can be. She hopes to prove it in Sochi.

# Ukraine defeats U.S. 2-0 in international friendly match

by Ihor N. Stelmach

One country's national team approached the international contest as a friendly match to be competitively played and hopefully won. The other's squad treated it more as a scrimmage, an opportunity to play some non-starters, more of a friendly match. The result saw Ukraine, the world's top-rated soccer power not qualified for this year's World Cup, shutting out the United States, 2-0, in an exhibition soccer game shifted from Kharkiv, Ukraine, to the island of Cyprus on March 5.

A small group of Ukrainian fans travelled the 600 miles from Kharkiv to Larnaca, Cyprus, for sports entertainment that allowed them to forget about their nation's troubles for a few hours. Amid a heated political crisis back home, Ukrainian fans waved flags united as one, reveling in their upset victory over the U.S.

Despite the difficult times in Ukraine, fans felt the need to support their country, the national team and the friendship between the U.S. and Ukraine. To many, the friendship between the two countries was more important than the score of the match.

The shaky American defense was exposed twice by Andriy Yarmolenko in the 12th minute and Marko Devic in the 68th.

Ukraine's players linked arms during the playing of their national anthem. Players in both starting line-ups respectfully bowed their heads prior to the start of the game during a moment of silence for the victims of the political protests in Ukraine.

Both coaches understood the need to play the match and voiced positive for the people in Ukraine.

"Of course we do it for our supporters, for our country," Ukraine coach Mykhailo Fomenko said in a post-match press conference. "I asked to make our people happy. We had to show that we're all united."

"You feel for that country. You feel for that nation and there's nothing more than wishing them well and to solve those issues peacefully," said U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann.

Ukraine took the lead when the U.S. failed on an attempted offside trap. Yevhen Konoplyanka looped a pass from just before midfield to Denys Harmash, who split two U.S. defenders and trapped the ball at the top of the penalty area. Goalkeeper Tim Howard blocked the shot, but Harmash squared the rebound to Yarmolenko, his Dynamo Kyiv teammate. A left-footed shot from six yards was Andriy's 15th international goal.

Two minutes after entering the game, Devic outran Fabian Johnson (U.S.) to reach Roman Bezus' headed pass from inside the midfield circle. He cut the ball back to his left foot, only to have U.S. goalkeeper Howard block the initial shot with a sprawling save. Fortunately, Devic got the rebound and slid the ball between two American defenders with a left-footed shot from 15 yards.

Both Ukrainian goals were on fortunate rebounds of shots initially saved by Howard, where relentless attacking zone pressure by a committed Ukrainian offense scored the match's lone goals.

# Thousands...

(Continued from page 11)

the international community will have to appeal to the future of Russia's children.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Roman Popadiuk said that the freedom rally today symbolized the freedom of assembly, a democratic society, without foreign interference. Russian aggression will not deter people or their democratic aspirations. The U.S. government is strengthening its stand against Mr. Putin, who has underestimated the resolve of the U.S. and Ukrainians, but, he reminded, there are still many challenges to overcome.

Valery Kavaleuski of the Belarusian-American Association told the crowd, "Belarus knows all too well, the situation in Ukraine." Ukraine is struggling to ensure human dignity and support for good governance without foreign interference. "The Anschluss of Crimea will not make Russia stronger. Russia's isolation is due to its pattern of aggression, and unified pressure is necessary to stop Putin," he said. The EU, he added, needs to step up its pressure, as Russian influence has stifled democratic gains. Russia should pay attention to the rights of Russians in Russia, and recognize the legitimacy of the central government in Kyiv.

Marcin Zmudzki, representing the Polish American community, said he supports the slogans that were being chanted at the rally. The government of Poland and its people support Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity. Encourage Polish people in your neighborhoods to actions and rallies in support of the Ukrainian cause, he said. This is a different kind of revolution, and the Kharkiv agreements signed by Viktor Yanukovich will need to be overcome. Mr. Zmudzki urged participants to lobby their U.S. government representatives for support.

Max Teleki, president of the Hungarian

American Coalition, stated: "You are not alone!" It is with a heavy heart but with determination that Ukraine moves forward, he said. The Visegrad countries stand with you – as the Ukrainian struggle is our struggle. Mr. Teleki said he hoped for discourse in easing tensions, and the need to uphold the 1994 Budapest Memorandum commitments. The EU aid package for Ukraine needs to move forward and the EU needs to punish Putin with a unified response that hits Putin and his oligarchs in their wallets. He shamed the hedging by Great Britain and Germany, as he reminded that there is no room for this sort of behavior to tackle Putinism.

Askold Lozynskyj, former president of UCCA and the Ukrainian World Congress, opened by invoking a moment of silence to honor those killed during the Maidan protests, followed by reading the Lord's Prayer. "They did not die in vain," he told the crowd. "We are gathered here, in front of the White House, the symbol of power in the United States. Thank you! But this is not enough, we need the U.S. and the other 27 members of NATO to accelerate the steps to accept Ukraine as a member of NATO, which supports its goals of security in Europe."

In Georgia in 2008, Russia invaded Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and never left. In Ukraine, it is hoped, it will be different. Mr. Lozynskyj stated: "Crimea is Ukraine," and "Russia must withdraw, as the territory of Ukraine is inviolable. Hear our Ukrainian pleas – we need the support of all freedom-loving people in the world."

Marju Rink-Abel, president of the Estonian American National Council, said, "We stand with you for Ukraine's search for democracy and to keep your territory free and whole." Ms. Rink-Abel thanked Secretary of State Kerry for countering Mr. Putin's lies by speaking the truth, but noted that more needs to be done and was critical of the EU's passiveness during the crisis. "Long live Ukraine!" she added.



Ukrainians, joined by their European allies, pressure the White House to not allow Russian President Vladimir Putin to threaten the security of Europe.

Ausma Tomasevic of the American Latvian Association said Ukraine is a valued partner that is trying to rid itself of political corruption, and noted other shared problems with Ukraine's relations with Russia. "May the inspiration you have shown be sustained through this struggle. Latvians will work for U.S. support of Ukraine for the long term to stop Russian aggression," he said.

Juraj Slavik, president of the Czechoslovak National Council of America, urged unity among all of the Slavic countries to support Ukraine. "Putin is a betrayer of the Slavs," he said.

Ayla Bakkalli, U.S. representative of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis, reminded about the rights of indigenous people – the Crimean Tatars – and their right to self-determination. Ms. Bakkalli asked, "Where is the choice for the Tatars?" There is much sadness among the international community, she added, noting that Putin is afraid of democracy. She expressed fear for friends and family and called on people to lend support any way they can.

Ilyad Youghar of the International

Circassian Council expressed his love for Ukraine. Noting the Russian-orchestrated genocide of the Circassian people in Sochi, Russia, Mr. Youghar said, "the international community turned a blind eye to this, in Georgia, during the Holodomor and others." Russia's escalation of tensions should not be allowed, especially with Russia's record of human rights violations. "The Circassians stand with all Ukrainians," he concluded.

The closing of the protest was led by the hierarchs of the Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic Churches, who commemorated the dead at the Maidan with the singing of "Vichnaya Pamiat" (Memory Eternal), expressed the hope for Ukraine with the singing of "Mnohaya Lita" (Many Years), and concluded with the singing of the Ukrainian national anthem and "God Bless America."

The crowd was instructed that the protest would continue in front of the Russian Embassy; it began at 4 p.m., and lasted approximately one hour.

For more information on protests and political activism in Ukraine's struggle, readers may visit [www.ucca.org](http://www.ucca.org).





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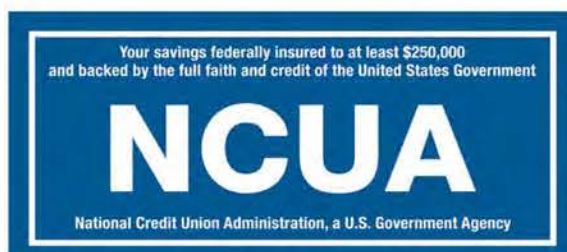
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## COMMUNITY CHRONICLE

# Montreal marks 95th anniversary of Ukraine's Day of Unity

by Zorianna Hrycenko-Luhova

MONTREAL – The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) Montreal branch commemorated the 95th anniversary of the Day of Unity, marking the unification of the Ukrainian National Republic and the Western Ukrainian National Republic in 1919, with a special program on February 9 at St. Sophia Cathedral.

A solemn atmosphere pervaded the room, with everyone in attendance worried and uneasy about disturbing events unfolding on Ukraine's Maidan (Independence Square), and the people's continued struggle in Kyiv and throughout Ukraine for democracy and rule of law.

The commemoration, marked annually by the Montreal branch, was opened by the UCC Montreal cultural-educational chairperson, Bohdanna Klecor-Hawryluk. The guest speaker was historian Roman



At Montreal's celebration of Ukraine's Day of Unity (from left) are: the Rev. Wolodymyr Kouchnir of St. Sophia Cathedral; Bohdanna Klecor-Hawryluk, cultural-educational chairperson of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress Montreal branch; Zorianna Hrycenko-Luhova, president of UCC Montreal; and guest speaker Prof. Roman Serbyn.

Serbyn, who provided an overview of the progression of events leading to the historic declaration of Ukraine's unification in 1919.

Prof. Serbyn's presentation was made very current with a description of the present crises in Ukraine, touching on lessons to be learned from the past and reflecting on the danger Ukraine faces in losing its sovereignty with President Vladimir Putin pulling Ukraine into Russia's sphere of influence.

The concluding commemorative program included participation by Victoria, Chrystia and Marko Oshchipko, the Rev. Wolodymyr Kouchnir, Victoria Savchenko, Anna and Yuriy Koleyvych, and Veronica Koleyvych. The Ukrainian national anthem was sung at the end of the program. Representatives of both the Ukrainian Orthodox and Ukrainian Catholic churches of Montreal were present.

# Miami area remembers the Holodomor

by Oksana Piaseckyj

MIAMI – To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor late last year, the Ukrainian National Women's League of America Branch 17 of Miami organized three events in south Florida to create more awareness of this genocide.

On November 23, 2013, Yuri Luhovy's English-version film "Genocide Revealed" (the English-language version of "Okradena Zemlia") was shown at the Cinema Paradiso theater in Fort Lauderdale. Special guest Michael Sawkiw Jr., chairman of the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness 1932-1933, spoke briefly to the audience about the Holodomor and then introduced the film.

After the film's screening, viewers had the opportunity to discuss the circumstances of the Holodomor with him. The audience of different backgrounds, denominations and generations was extremely moved by the film, and some admitted that they had never heard of this famine and were curious to find out what this horrific story was all about.

An exhibit of the Holodomor was displayed in the lobby of the movie theater with literature for everyone to take with them. The exhibit was put together in 2005 by the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women. This highly crafted and moving exhibition was shown several times during the commemoration in Miami.

The following day Mr. Sawkiw was the honorary speaker at a Divine Liturgy in St. Mary's Cathedral of the Roman Rite. The commemoration began with a Holodomor procession with lighted candles, led by several girls from the Ukrainian dance school dressed in traditional costumes and carrying a symbolic dark round loaf of Ukrainian bread and sheaths of wheat. Participants wore black mourning ribbons. Prior to the liturgy, the Rev. Christopher Marino, rector of the cathedral, welcomed all present to



Oksana Piaseckyj

Community members who attended the Holodomor memorial service at St. Mary's Cathedral in Miami.

the requiem service.

The liturgy was led by the Rev. Jaroslaw Shudrak, pastor of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Miami and assisted by the Rev. Mitred Bohdan Zhoba of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Cooper City. The choir of Assumption Church, under the direction of Donna Maksymovych-

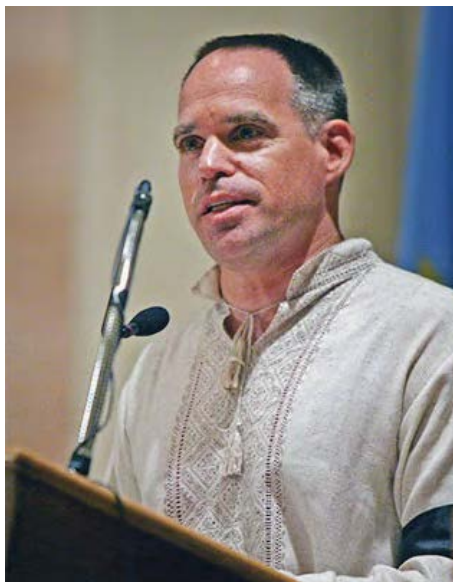
Waskewicz sang angelically in the midst of the cathedral's beautiful acoustics.

The Catholic Diocesan Magazine sent a reporter/photographer to cover the Holodomor commemoration and provide information about this genocide for its readers.

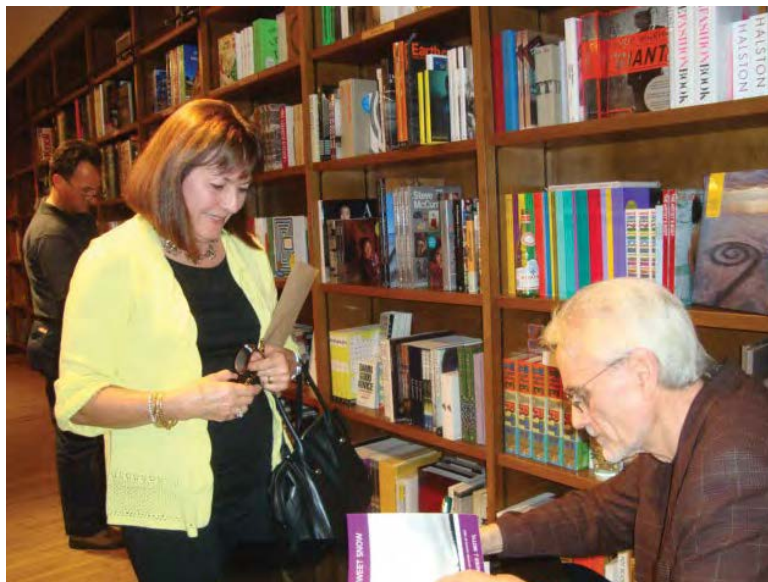
For the following week there were two presentations by Prof. Alexander Motyl, professor of political science at Rutgers University-Newark, who recently wrote the novel "Sweet Snow," whose events take place during the Holodomor years.

Prof. Motyl was invited to present his book at the prestigious bookseller venue Books and Books in Coral Gables. This well-known establishment in the literary world has hosted many famous authors, among them, Salman Rushdie, U.S. Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, and popular writers of fiction such as Elmore Leonard. The occasion provided an opportunity for the professor to read excerpts from his book and discuss the Holodomor with people who had little knowledge of this horrific period of Ukraine's history.

The next day, after the divine liturgy, parishioners of the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Miami gathered in the church hall to hear Prof. Motyl speak about the history of the Famine-Genocide and present his views on the current circumstances in Ukraine. Prof. Motyl is known for his analyses of Ukrainian events in his publications and his blog on the World Affairs website, "Ukraine's Orange Blues."



Michael Sawkiw Jr. speaks about the Holodomor.



Prof. Alexander Motyl signs a copy of his novel "Sweet Snow" at Books and Books in Coral Gables, Fla.



## Ukraine presses...

(Continued from page 1)

combined scenarios of Ossetia and Abkhazia" in Ukraine. He said Russia has distributed Russian passports and citizenship to residents of Crimea and claims the right to come in to protect its citizens. In addition, because Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians have said they will boycott the March 16 referendum on Crimea's status, Russians and pro-Russian separatists will deliver a majority vote for Crimea to join the Russian Federation. In Abkhazia, Mr. Sergeyev noted, the next step after such a referendum was a request for Russian military forces. In the case of Crimea, the Russian troops are already there.

Mr. Sergeyev described the situation in Crimea as follows. High Commissioner on National Minorities Astrid Thors of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, who had arrived in Kyiv from Crimea on March 6, said she was "alarmed about the risk of violent conflict... and the effects this could have on all communities, particularly the Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar groups." News media that are in Crimea (including CNN and Al Jazeera) have reported pressure on the local population to recognize the new government of Crimea and to vote "correctly" in the referendum. International observers now are not being allowed entry onto the peninsula: the verification mission of the OSCE was blocked from entering; the U.N.'s representative was forced to leave; and Petro Poroshenko, a member of the Ukrainian Parliament who flew to Crimea on February 28, was jeered in Symferopol and chased by pro-Russian demonstrators. It is clear, he underlined, that Russia does not want any outside observers on the ground.

In his statement to the March 1 meeting of the U.N. Security Council, Ambassador Sergeyev reported:

"On 27 February 2014 an armed terrorist group acting under the flags of the Russian Federation seized buildings of the Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

"On 28 February 2014 unidentified armed militants blocked two airports: Symferopol and Belbek (near Sevastopol). These days we observe the large-scale military exercises conducted by the Russian Federation and military redeployment in the regions bordering on Ukraine. Lately, there also have been numerous movements of military equipment of the Russian Black Sea Fleet across Ukraine's territory."

As well, Mr. Sergeyev reported that on March 1, 10 Russian military transport aircraft IL-76 illegally crossed the state border of Ukraine and landed at the airport near Symferopol; 14 Russian helicopters illegally entered territory of Ukraine and landed near Kacha; 10 Russian armored personnel carriers moved towards Symferopol; and the Ukrainian Coast Guard unit at Sevastopol was blocked by a group of armed people under the command of Russian Navy Capt. Oleksandr Tolmachov.

"We consider all mentioned steps by Russian Federation as strongly unfriendly attempt to destabilize even more current tense situation in Crimea," Mr. Sergeyev told the Security Council.

The ambassador presented Ukraine's call for the Russian Federation, "as a state-guarantor under the Budapest Memorandum, to respect independence, sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine as well as to strictly abide by the obligations taken in accordance with other bilateral treaties with Ukraine, including the Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership of 1997 and relevant agreements on status and terms of dislocation of the Russian Black Sea Fleet on the territory of Ukraine" and Ukraine's demand that "the Russian Federation refrain from breaching the state

border of Ukraine by illegally moving its military units into the territory of Ukraine, and further demands to withdraw all Russian military units back to their permanent deployment locations."

Speaking during the March 4 session of the Security Council, Mr. Sergeyev said there is every reason to believe that Russia is preparing to intervene in other regions of Ukraine. He pointed to the mobilization of Russian troops along the Russia-Ukraine border and the presence of 16,000 troops in Crimea.

By March 7, when Ukraine's envoy to the U.N. met with correspondents and editors of Ukrainian- and Russian-language media outlets in the U.S., the number of Russian troops on the ground in Crimea had grown to 30,000. The source of this information, he said, is Ukraine's border control. In addition, Mr. Sergeyev cited the presence of Don and Kuban Cossacks whose slogan, he said, is "Byi zhydiv i khokhlyv" – Strike the Jews and the Ukrainians (using the derogatory terms).

He explained that, in accordance with the agreement governing the basing of Russia's Black Sea Fleet in Crimea, Russia could have up to 25,000 personnel on the peninsula. However, the agreement also stipulates that Russia must notify Ukraine in advance of the number of personnel to be stationed there in the coming year; thus, in December 2013, Russia said there would be 11,000 troops in Crimea during 2014. Any additional troops are there illegally, Mr. Sergeyev underscored.

As for what comes next, Ambassador Sergeyev told the news media gathered at Ukraine's Mission to the U.N. that more meetings are scheduled at the United Nations and, if the Security Council does not pass a resolution on the situation in Ukraine, Ukraine will take its case to the General Assembly.

Unfortunately, he said, the United Nations has demonstrated its weakness; it has limited possibilities and is a slow-moving entity. Its destiny, he said, could well be that of the ill-fated League of Nations.

## G-7 tells Russia...

(Continued from page 1)

On March 12, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said he will travel to London to meet with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov on March 14 to try to ease tensions over Ukraine.

Mr. Kerry also held a meeting on March 12 with visiting Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk ahead of Mr. Yatsenyuk's high-profile talks with President Barack Obama later that day.

In a strong show of support, Mr. Obama greeted Mr. Yatsenyuk in the Oval Office – a symbol of U.S. power – like any other foreign leader. Russia, it must be noted, does not recognize the legitimacy of Ukraine's new government.

The White House said the president would also discuss an economic support package for Ukraine that has already seen Washington pledge more than \$1 billion.

Earlier on March 12, Ukraine's acting President Oleksander Turchynov said Russia has refused "all contacts at the foreign ministry and top government level" with Ukraine and is "rejecting a diplomatic solution to the conflict."

However, Mr. Turchynov told the French news agency AFP that heavily outnumbered Ukraine would not go to war with Russia over Crimea, as it would leave the country's eastern border exposed and unprotected.

*Based on reporting by Reuters, the Associated Press and Agence France-Presse.*

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|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|
| March 16<br>Chicago           | Presentation by Alex Motyl, "Ukraine in Crisis: Maidan and Putin," Ukrainian Institute of Modern Art, 773-227-5522 or <a href="http://www.uima-chicago.org">www.uima-chicago.org</a>   | March 23<br>Toronto       | Concert, "Shevchenko 200 Concerts," featuring the world premiere of "The Dream," featuring the Gryphon Trio and bass-baritone Pavlo Hunka, Koerner Hall, 416-408-0208   |
| March 18<br>Morristown, NJ    | Concert, "Starlight on Stage," featuring pianist Larysa Krupa Slobodyanik and cellist Wanda Glowacka, Mayo Performing Arts Center, 973-539-8008 or <a href="http://www.mayoarts.org">www.mayoarts.org</a>                                  | March 23<br>Cambridge, MA | Concert featuring the Chamber Chorus of the University of California, Memorial Church at Harvard University, 925-586-9348 or <a href="mailto:univchorus@gmail.com">univchorus@gmail.com</a>   |
| March 20-21<br>Jenkintown, PA | Exhibit, "Vasile Avramenko - Legacy of Ukrainian Dance," Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, 215-885-2360 ext. 293  | March 23<br>Somerset, NJ  | Taras Shevchenko Bicentennial Concert, with the Promin vocal ensemble, Dzvin choir, bandurist Oksana Telepko and poet Vasyl Makhno, Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center of New Jersey, Ukrainian Cultural Center, <a href="mailto:info@UkrHEC.org">info@UkrHEC.org</a>                  |
| March 21<br>Whippany, NJ      | Varenyky dinner, Ukrainian American Youth Association, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-479-8715 or <a href="mailto:pierogi.dinner.at.uaccnj@gmail.com">pierogi.dinner.at.uaccnj@gmail.com</a>                        | March 23<br>Ottawa        | Taras Shevchenko concert, featuring the Akkord Ukrainian Men's Choir from Ottawa, Shevchenko Scientific Society of Canada, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Shrine, 613-723-1673   |
| March 21<br>New York          | Concert featuring the Chamber Chorus of the University of California, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, 925-586-9348 or <a href="http://Carnegiehall.org">Carnegiehall.org</a>  | March 24<br>Cambridge, MA | Seminar with Sofia Dyak, "(Re)imagined Cityscapes: Lviv (Ukraine) and Wroclaw (Poland) after 1944-1945," Harvard University, 617-495-4053 or <a href="mailto:huri@fas.harvard.edu">huri@fas.harvard.edu</a>   |
| March 22<br>Somerset, NJ      | Workshop, Family History Group with Michelle Tucker Chubenko and Mike Buryk, Ukrainian Cultural Center, <a href="http://www.ukrhec.org/events">www.ukrhec.org/events</a> or <a href="mailto:genealogy@ukrhec.org">genealogy@ukrhec.org</a> | March 26<br>New York      | Presentation by Arnoldas Prackevicius, Thomas F. Remington and Alexei Pikulik, "Does Russia Call the Shots in Eastern Europe?" Yale Club of New York City, <a href="mailto:gedmin.bubnyte@ehu.lt">gedmin.bubnyte@ehu.lt</a> (rsvp only)   |
| March 22<br>Winnipeg, MB      | Pysanka workshop, Oseredok Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Center, 204-942-0218   | March 26<br>Ottawa        | Ivan Franko Memorial Lecture by Sofiya Dyak, "Doing Histories in Ukraine: Public Engagement, Historical Dialogue Addressing the Past in Contemporary Ukraine, Labelle Hall (Chapel), University of Ottawa, <a href="http://www.ukrainianstudies.uottawa.ca">www.ukrainianstudies.uottawa.ca</a> |
| March 22<br>New York          | Lecture by Stefania Hnatenko, "Vienna School of Graphics in the Works by Haylna Zakhariasevych," Shevchenko Scientific Society, 212-254-5130   |                           |   |
| March 23<br>Whippany, NJ      | Benefit fashion show, "Spring into Fashion," Chortopolokhy Plast Sorority, Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 973-471-0515 or <a href="mailto:huklidia@gmail.com">huklidia@gmail.com</a>                                    |                           |   |

Entries in "Out and About" are listed free of charge. Priority is given to events advertised in *The Ukrainian Weekly*. However, we also welcome submissions from all our readers. Items will be published at the discretion of the editors and as space allows. Please send e-mail to [mdubas@ukrweekly.com](mailto:mdubas@ukrweekly.com).

## Support the Ukrainian Heroes:

A non-profit organization  
"Social Development Institute"

is raising funds to provide humanitarian aid to the citizens of Ukraine united in "Right Sector" – heroes that are defending the liberty and dignity of the Ukrainian people at Euromaidan in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine.

Those willing to support the Ukrainian cause can donate at

<http://sdinstitute.weebly.com/>



People, wounded and just operated in the middle of the night, sleep on the floor of St. Michael's Golden-Domed Cathedral.



The corpses of an elderly woman and a man, murdered by "Berkut" near the exit of subway "Khreshchatyk" on Instytutska street 02/18/14

ART  
AT THE INSTITUTE

## Petro Bevza Mykola Zhuravel FOLLOWING THE INNER LIGHT МИ ПРОСТО ІШЛИ



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## Attention, Debutante Ball Organizers!



In keeping with our tradition, The Ukrainian Weekly will publish a special section devoted to the Ukrainian community's debutantes.

The 2014 debutante ball section will be published **on April 6.**

**The deadline for submission of stories and photos is March 28.**

Please e-mail materials to: [staff@ukrweekly.com](mailto:staff@ukrweekly.com)

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## PREVIEW OF EVENTS

### Friday, March 21

**WHIPPANY, N.J.:** The Ukrainian American Youth Association, Whippany branch, will host a varenyky dinner at 5-8 p.m. at the Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, 60 N. Jefferson Road, Whippany, NJ 07981. Price is only \$11 for a complete delicious dinner, which includes borshch, varenyky, bread, dessert and soda or coffee. Varenyky will be available to take home. Entertainment will be provided by some of the UAYA's young members. Door prizes will be awarded every hour. For more information, call 973-713-6956 or 973-479-8715, e-mail [Pierogi.Dinner.at.UACCNJ@gmail.com](mailto:Pierogi.Dinner.at.UACCNJ@gmail.com), or visit the website [www.facebook.com/events/278764698947315](http://www.facebook.com/events/278764698947315). This is an annual dinner to raise funds for the UAYA so that the organization may continue to educate children in their Ukrainian traditions.

### Saturday, March 22

**NEW YORK:** The Shevchenko Scientific Society invites all to a lecture by Stefania Hnatenko on the topic "Vienna School of Graphics in the works by Halyna Zakhariasevych." The lecture will take place at the society's building, 63 Fourth Ave. (between Ninth and 10th streets) at 5 p.m. For

additional information call 212-254-5130.

**NEW YORK:** The Chamber Chorus of the University of California, led by Marika Kuzma, will perform at the Church of St. Luke in the Fields, New York City (487 Hudson St. at Christopher Street) at 4 p.m. Their concert of colorful a cappella music will include works in English, Ladino, Spanish, Tagalog and Ukrainian, including the Kyiv composer Lesia Dychko's stunning "Vesna" from her "Pory Roku." The chorus will accept suggested donations of \$20 at the door. For more information call 925-586-9348 or e-mail [univchorus@gmail.com](mailto:univchorus@gmail.com).

### Sunday, March 23

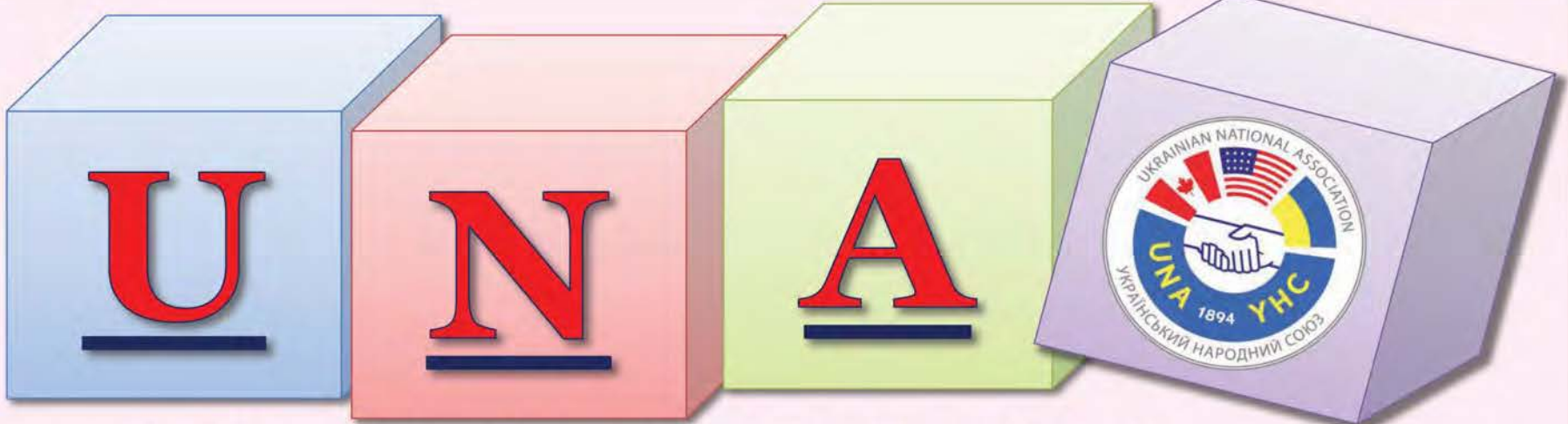
**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.:** The Chamber Chorus of the University of California, led by Marika Kuzma, will perform at Memorial Church on the Harvard Campus at 7 p.m. Their concert of colorful a cappella music will include works in English, Ladino, Spanish, Tagalog and Ukrainian, including the Kyiv composer Lesia Dychko's stunning "Vesna" from her "Pory Roku." The chorus will accept suggested donations of \$20 at the door. For more information call 925-586-9348 or e-mail [univchorus@gmail.com](mailto:univchorus@gmail.com).

## PREVIEW OF EVENTS GUIDELINES

Preview of Events is a listing of community events open to the public. It is a service provided at minimal cost (\$20 per listing) by The Ukrainian Weekly to the Ukrainian community. Items should be **no more than 100 words long**; longer submissions are subject to editing.

Preview items must be received no later than one week before the desired date of publication. Items will be published only once, unless otherwise indicated. Please include payment for each time the item is to appear and indicate date(s) of issue(s) in which the item is to be published.

Information should be sent to: [preview@ukrweekly.com](mailto:preview@ukrweekly.com); payment should be sent to Preview of Events, The Ukrainian Weekly, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054. **NB: If e-mailing, please do not send items as attachments; simply type the text into the body of the e-mail message.**



## Is Your Child Or Grandchild A UNA Member?

### 20 Year Endowment\*

- Issued to persons between the ages of 0-80
- For ages 0-60: minimum policy is \$5,000
- For ages 61-80: premium of \$200 or more is required
- Premiums are payable for 20 years
- No premium fee
- Full face amount paid at death or on maturity date at the end of 20th year
- Life insurance plan and systematic savings combined
- IRS: interest is taxable during accumulation period

\*Not available in all states.

### Endowment at Age 18\*

- Issued to persons between the ages of 0-10
- Minimum policy size is \$5,000
- Premium payable until age 18
- No policy fee
- Full face amount paid at death or on maturity date at age 18
- Life insurance plan and systematic savings combined
- IRS: interest is taxable during accumulation period

\*Not available in all states.



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