

## UCCA SOLEMNLY MARKS CRIMEAN TATAR SÜRGÜN

This May 18th, UCCA, the representative organization of nearly 2 million Americans of Ukrainian descent, joined with the Ukrainian World Congress, the worldwide assembly of Ukrainian organizations representing over 20 million people, the Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar people, and the Government of Ukraine, to pause in a moment of remembrance for the innocent victims of the the crime of genocide committed against the Crimean Tatar people by Josef Stalin's soviet henchmen in 1944.

The Sürgün (or "violent expulsion") of May of 1944 was a purposeful action of the USSR's antihuman communist regime to rid the Crimean peninsula of its approximately 238,000 indigenous people, the *Qirim Tatar Millet*. The Crimean Tatars were forcibly deported to other parts of the USSR, with no right to return until 1989. Finally, in 1991, the Qurultay of the Crimean Tatar People convened in Crimea for only the second gathering in a century.

23 years later, Vladimir Putin staged Russia's military invasion and current illegal occupation of Crimea, and today seeks to erase any semblance of the indigenous Crimean Tatar identity from their homeland, replacing Crimean Tatar place names, and further removing opportunities for the Crimean Tatar language and culture to be taught and passed on.

Once again, the indigenous Crimean Tatar people of Ukraine are forbidden from gathering at traditional commemorative events in their native land. In Russian-occupied Crimea, severe restrictions have been placed on the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including at traditional commemorative events such as the anniversary of the genocidal deportation of the Crimean Tatars. The Representative Assembly of the Crimean Tatar People, the Mejlis, has been illegally banned. The Crimean Tatar People are once again the victims of a cruel and ruthless occupation regime, and the language, rights, and culture of the Crimean Tatar people remains as much under threat today, as they were during the Soviet and Tsarist regimes.

On this solemn anniversary of the Deportation-Genocide of the Crimean Tatar people, UCCA continues to voice our support for the Crimean Tatar people in their struggle for their rights, and again calls on the governments of the free world to recognize Stalin's actions as crimes of genocide.



## UCCA PRESIDENT VISITS CHICAGO

Following the loosening of Covid-19-related restrictions, Ukrainian cultural life in Chicago is coming back to life.

The Ukrainian Public Organization "Orange Wave," with the assistance of the UCCA-Illinois Division, welcomed the President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Andriy Futey, to deliver the keynote address at their Heroes' Day of Ukraine celebration.



In addition to this speech given at the Ukrainian National Museum, Andriy Futey participated in a radio program with UCCA-Illinois Division President Ihor Diaczun, and Roman Yatskovskyy, Executive Director of the Selfreliance Association.



During his stay in Chicago, Mr. Futey met with the Board of Directors of Selfreliance FCU as well as members of the Selfreliance Association and the UCCA-Illinois Division, and was interviewed by Chas & Podii Newspaper.

Thank you to the Chicago Hromada!

## UCCA URGES CONTINUED SANCTIONS AGAINST NORDSTREAM2

Following the 2020 US elections, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the nation's largest representative body of Americans of Ukrainian descent, issued a statement expressing to newly elected officials that Ukrainian Americans are united in their belief that a democratic and independent Ukraine is in the national security interests of the United States. Included in that statement was the bipartisan sentiment that any "retreat from current sanctions against the Russian Federation and its proxies, or from continued military, political and economic support of Ukraine by the United States, would entail terrifying consequences for Ukraine, our European partners and the global geo-political security structure."

UCCA was therefore heartened to hear US Secretary of State Antony Blinken at his Senate confirmation hearing in January speak unequivocally about stopping the NordStream 2 pipeline: "I'm determined to do whatever I can to prevent that completion," relating that President Biden "would have us use every persuasive tool that we have to convince our friends and partners including Germany not to move forward with it."

While every new administration looks to take a fresh approach to foreign policy, UCCA took President Joe Biden at his word when he described the NordStream 2 pipeline as "fundamentally bad deal for Europe" specifically because, in his words, it would "lock in great reliance on Russia [which] will fundamentally destabilize Ukraine." Therefore, when it was reported on May 18 that the State Department, in listing to Congress which entities involved in NordStream 2 construction deserve sanctions, would instead "cite U.S. national interests," and waive the application of sanctions against the company behind project — NordStream 2 AG and its CEO Matthias Warnig — we must ask of this administration: why is the US not doing all it can to prevent Vladimir Putin from accomplishing one of his biggest priorities?

NordStream 2 is a geopolitical scheme designed to provide Putin's Russia with additional malign influence on our European allies and partners. Instead of standing by Ukraine, these proposed waivers contradict in letter and spirit the intent behind the bipartisan sanctions regime passed by Congress: preventing the completion of the NordStream 2 pipeline.

In light of Defense Department officials reporting this month that close to 80,000 Russian troops remain on the border with Ukraine (the biggest force Russia has amassed there since 2014), President Biden should maintain the commitments made to our allies in Eastern Europe, and continue America's bipartisan record of support for Ukraine. Instead of issuing waivers, the United States should be strengthening sanctions and ratcheting up the pressure on Russia to leave Ukrainian territory.

As a strategic partner of Ukraine, the United States should further demonstrate leadership among allies by supporting a Membership Action Plan for Ukraine at this summer's NATO Summit. Following 13 years of bureaucratic stalling in Brussels, the time has come for the United States to clarify if it still upholds its commitments made in Bucharest in 2008, when NATO made clear that Ukraine would become a signatory member of the transatlantic alliance one day.

## SIGN THE PETITION TO STRIP DURANTY OF PULITZER

As the Pulitzer Committee once again prepares to award its prestigious prizes for excellence in journalism, the U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor Genocide Awareness has begun a new national campaign to demand the revocation of the 1932 Pulitzer Prize award to Walter Duranty.



Please sign petition <http://chnng.it/SGMXXnXb> forward it to your friends and post it on social media. Let's make this campaign a success. It's the least we can do to honor the victims of the Holodomor.

## AD MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that UCCA learned of Bohdan Fedorak's passing on May 29<sup>th</sup>. He was an active member of organized Ukrainian diaspora life since his days as a Plastun and as one of the student founders of the Ukrainian Student Association of Mykola Mikhnovsky. For many years, pan Fedorak served as THE voice of Ukrainian American relations with elected officials in the United States, as UCCA's point person for contact with Congress. He was not only an active member of Standing Committees on UCCA's National Council, but president of UCCA's local chapter in Warren, MI, as well as president of the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Warren, MI, and Vice President of the Ukrainian-American Freedom Foundation. His work was so respected worldwide that he was named to the Secretariat of the World Congress of Free Ukrainians, and following Ukraine's independence, named Honorary Consul of Ukraine in Michigan.

UCCA sends its sincerest condolences to the Fedorak family.

*Вічна Йому Пам'ять!*