

14 July 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 2050
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. President:

Re: Summit meeting between the Presidents of the United States and the Russian Federation

As the highest coordinating body representing the 20-million strong Ukrainian diaspora including 1.5 million Ukrainians in the United States of America, the Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) expresses the support of Ukrainians worldwide for the concerns communicated to you in writing on 10 July 2018 by UWC member organization, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, as you prepare to meet with the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin on 16 July 2018 in Helsinki, Finland.

The UWC underscores the continued condemnation by the international community, including most recently the Parliamentary Assemblies of NATO and the OSCE, of the illegal occupation of Crimea and subsequent invasion of Eastern Ukraine by the hybrid forces of the Russian Federation.

We respectfully remind you that the situation in Ukraine, including Crimea, is not a frozen conflict. Ukraine is the victim of a vicious hybrid aggression by the Russian Federation in which lives are lost or forever changed by the course of events on a daily basis. Statistics tell a jarring story. The hybrid aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine has resulted in over 11,000 deaths, 25,000 injuries, and the internal displacement of over 1.5 million residents. Since the start of the war in 2014, over 2,500 people have been victims of exploding landmines and 1.9 million live on territories littered with landmines. In addition, 3.4 million people currently require humanitarian assistance, 2.2 million - health care and 1.2 million - food aid. In total, the Russian aggression has affected the lives of 4.4 million people in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts and has created the largest humanitarian crisis in Europe since the end of World War II, albeit a largely hidden, and often forgotten crisis. To date, over 70 Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars remain imprisoned by the Russian Federation and over 100 hostages remain captive by Russian occupying forces on the territory of Eastern Ukraine.

In addition, the Russian Federation bears the responsibility for downing commercial flight MH-17 over Ukraine on 17 July 2014, killing 298 innocent men, women and children.

Despite the attempts to negotiate settlement in the Normandy format and the penning of reiterations of the Minsk agreements, President Vladimir Putin has never fulfilled the obligations of the Russian Federation to which he committed, similar to other international obligations to which the Russian Federation is a signatory.

The UWC and its network in 53 countries, including the United States of America, therefore, appeals to you, as leader of the United States of America, to demonstrate your country's very firm commitment to the independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including Crimea. This commitment must include a continued sanctions regime against the Russian Federation until it fully complies with the Minsk agreements and withdraws all of its forces from the territory of Ukraine.

The UWC also appeals for pressure on the Russian Federation to immediately release all unlawfully detained political prisoners and hostages.

The UWC urges you to convey the clear and unequivocal message to the Russian President that the United States of America and all Western democracies will never compromise on fundamental principles, namely the territorial integrity of independent states, including Ukraine, and respect for the basic human rights of all individuals, including Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars.

Ukraine, in defending its territory from Russian aggression, is protecting the peace and security of the European continent and the world by successfully preventing the Russian Federation from militarily advancing further West. As a result, the Russian Federation has responded with a massive disinformation campaign against Ukraine to present it as a failed state. The United States of America, as a leader in the free world that holds high the principles of freedom, democracy and fundamental human rights, is in a position to help bring an end to Russian military aggression in Eastern Ukraine and the illegal occupation of Crimea, and restore global peace, security and stability to the entire world.

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS



Eugene Czolij
President

cc: Ms. Fiona Hill, Senior Director for Russian and European Affairs, National Security Council
Ambassador Kurt Volker, U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations
Mr. Andrew Futey, President, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America

The UWC is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has a network of member organizations and ties with Ukrainians in 53 countries. Founded in 1967, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization with special consultative status.