

25 October 2015

**Statement of the Ukrainian World Congress
to UN Commission on the Status of Women regarding Nadiya Savchenko**

The Ukrainian World Congress appeals to the UN Commission on the Status of Women to demand the immediate release by Russian authorities of former Ukrainian Air Force pilot, Member of Ukrainian Parliament and delegate to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Lieutenant Nadiya Savchenko, who remains imprisoned for political considerations, and to urge the international community, including human rights organizations, to raise awareness of her case.

The prosecution by Russian authorities of Nadiya Savchenko is in clear violation of international law and clause 6 of the *Minsk Agreement* of 12 February 2015.

Ukrainian citizen Nadiya Savchenko was abducted in Ukraine during the night of 23 June 2014 by terrorists of the so-called “Lugansk People’s Republic” and special services of the Russian Federation and forcibly taken across the border to the Russian Federation. She was then unlawfully arrested on politically motivated charges and has since endured involuntary psychiatric evaluation, solitary confinement and continued prosecution. She is currently on trial, the proceedings of which are closed to the media.

On 26 October 2014 during elections to the Parliament of Ukraine, Nadiya Savchenko was elected Member of Parliament of Ukraine. In December 2014 she was elected as a Member of the Ukrainian delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

On 26 January 2015 PACE affirmed her mandate as a member of the Parliamentary Assembly, and on 28 January 2015 PACE adopted a resolution calling on Russian officials to release Nadiya Savchenko.

From 13 December 2014 to the end of February 2015 Nadiya Savchenko held a hunger strike in protest of the illegal actions and violations of her basic human rights and freedoms.

A [video](#) recently released by the defence team of Nadiya Savchenko provides very convincing evidence of her innocence on the basis of her whereabouts using mobile phone tracking.

On 13 October 2015, in a move which further violates the human rights of Nadiya Savchenko to a defence, Russian border guards informed her sister Vira Savchenko, one of the key witnesses in the court case, that she was banned from entering the Russian Federation until 2020 on the order of the Russian Federal Security Service. This ban was lifted, but the action reaffirms the political nature of the charges brought against the Ukrainian Member of Parliament.

Despite the fact that the international community has resoundingly denounced the actions of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine as those of a foreign aggressor, Russian authorities continue brazenly to contravene their international commitments by violating the sovereignty of Ukraine.

The Ukrainian World Congress urges the UN Commission on the Status of Women to demand the immediate release from imprisonment of Nadiya Savchenko in accordance with the terms of the Minsk agreements and to call upon the international community to deliver a clear and unequivocal message in her defense.

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS

Eugene Czolij

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President

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has member organizations in 34 countries and ties with Ukrainians in 14 additional countries. Founded in 1967, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status.