

4 December 2018

OPEN LETTER

To NATO Heads of State or Government

Dear Sir/Madam:

RE: Russian Federation's attack on Ukrainian naval vessels in Kerch Strait

The escalation of the war of the Russian Federation against Ukraine with its recent military attack on 25 November 2018 by Russian Federation warships on Ukrainian navy ships in the Kerch Strait, is yet another test of the international community with respect to the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC), on behalf of the 20-million strong Ukrainian diaspora it represents, recognizes the swift international condemnation of this latest unprovoked and deliberate attack in neutral waters, which was in violation of international law and agreements to which the Russian Federation is a signatory. Action, however, has been virtually absent.

We strongly urge NATO and the international community to take every measure to rebuke the Russian Federation while providing Ukraine with the capability to defend itself, and global peace and security.

The UWC makes the following recommendations to the Heads of State or Government of NATO:

1. Diplomatic recommendations:

- Demand that Russia immediately release the 24 Ukrainian sailors held captive in violation of international law and return the three seized Ukrainian vessels;
- Demand that Russia adhere to the international conventions and treaties to which it is a signatory, particularly the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**.

2. Economic recommendations:

- Impose blocking sanctions against Russian state financial institutions, including Vnesheconombank (VEB), Promsvyazbank, Gazprombank, and the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF);
- Prohibit Russian ships from docking in US, EU and Canadian ports;
- Cancel the Nord Stream II pipeline;
- Remove Russia from the SWIFT international payments system.

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3. Military recommendations:

- Provide Ukraine with additional armaments, including surface-to-ship missiles, surface-to-air missiles, patrol boats, radars and additional ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) assets;
- Reinforce NATO presence in the Black Sea, including increasing patrols;
- Organize a NATO-Ukraine exercise in Ukrainian territory;
- Increase drone and other surveillance monitoring in the Sea of Azov;
- Improve intelligence sharing between Ukraine and NATO related to this region.

It is in the interest of global peace and security for the international community to act immediately and resolutely in support of the territorial integrity of Ukraine and the fundamental rights of its people who remain under attack from a foreign aggressor. History has taught us that aggression which goes unanswered inevitably precipitates further aggression.

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS



Paul Grod
President

CC: Mr. Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary General, NATO

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