

УКРАЇНСЬКА ПРАВОСЛАВНА ЦЕРКВА В КАНАДІ
UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA
L'ÉGLISE ORTHODOXE UKRAINIENNE DU CANADA

9 St. Johns Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 1G8
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February 18, 2014

To His Excellency,
The Right Honourable Stephen Harper,
Prime Minister of Canada

Regarding the Renewed Outbreak of Violence in Ukraine

The Episcopate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada expresses profound concern at the outbreak of renewed violence on February 18, 2014 in Kyiv, Ukraine. We are greatly distressed at the aggressive attack by the authorities directed at the peaceful march earlier in the day and at the Maidan camp in the evening. This has led to a mounting loss of life, attack on journalists, harassment of medical works, widespread intimidation and mass arrests.

The ruling authorities of Ukraine have systematically ignored the urging and counsel of the European government bodies, international community and human rights organizations to uphold the principles of democracy and to comply with international human rights standards. Ukraine's authorities have also shown blatant disregard for the declaration of the ceasefire reached in the past weeks as well as the laws of Ukraine on human rights. Ignoring these calls for a peaceful resolution has led to a loss of life and greater political and social instability.

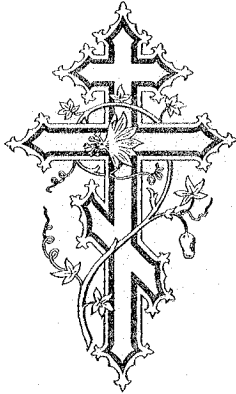
We support positive changes for building a civil society in the Ukrainian state based on democratic values. We support the Canadian Government's statement to call to account all those responsible for such unprecedented violence in Ukraine.

Thus, we urge the Government of Canada to take all measures at its disposal to assist in ending the violence and bringing about a peaceful resolution. We also urge the Government of Canada, together with its international allies, to press the Ukrainian Government to comply with the international principles of democracy and human rights.

With Hierarchical Blessing,

+ Yuriy, Metropolitan

† **YURIJ, Metropolitan**



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To His Excellency,
Ambassador for Religious Freedom, Dr. Andrew Bennett,
Office of Religious Freedom

Regarding the Renewed Outbreak of Violence in Ukraine

The Episcopate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada expresses great distress at the outbreak of renewed violence on February 18, 2014 in Kyiv, Ukraine, during the course of a peaceful march. We are greatly concerned at the aggression demonstrated by the authorities towards the Ukrainian people during the march and at the Maidan camp. This has led to a shocking loss of life, attack on journalists, harassment of medical works and mass arrests.

The ruling authorities of Ukraine have continued to ignore the urging of the European governments, international community and human rights organizations to uphold the principles of democracy and to comply with international human rights standards. The government of Ukraine has also ignored calls from the All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and Church leaders both in Ukraine and beyond its borders for dialogue and a peaceful resolution to the crisis. Their disregard for these calls, for the declaration of peace reached with Opposition leaders and for the laws of Ukraine, has led to an escalating loss of life and greater instability.

We support positive changes for building a democratic society in the Ukrainian state based on democratic and religious values. Ukrainian religious leaders have described this action as a “revolution of dignity” which desires for human dignity, justice and righteousness.

Thus, we appeal the Office of Religious Freedom to urge the Government of Canada to take all means available to it in assisting to end the violence and to achieve a peaceful resolution. We also urge the Office of Religious Freedom of Canada to work with its international counterparts to press the Ukrainian leadership to comply with the international principles of democracy and human rights.

With Hierarchical Blessing,

† **YURIJ**, Metropolitan