



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

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March 1, 2014

**Statement**  
**Of the Hierarchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada**  
**Regarding the recent Events in Ukraine**

*Reverend clergy, venerable monastics and faithful brothers and sisters,*

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The Episcopate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada expresses our great alarm at the recent decision by the upper house of the Russian parliament to approve the deployment of the Russian military in Ukraine. We join the international community in evaluating such military action as a threat to the unity and the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Military action and aggression threatens the most recent achievements of the Ukrainian people in building a state according to the principles of democracy and international standards of human rights.

We share the grave concern of the international community that Ukraine's neighbour refuses to comply with international agreements, particularly those regarding Ukraine's sovereignty and Russian military presence in Ukraine. We support the call of the Canadian Government and the international community for Russia to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Furthermore, we express great concern at the escalation of events in Crimea and the developing unrest in other regions of Ukraine. Following the violent events almost two weeks ago with the tragic loss of life, the Ukrainian state finds itself in a serious and delicate situation. It faces a grave economic crises and a demoralized population, recovering from state-sanctioned terror perpetrated by its former authorities. There are also separatist sentiments in some parts of the country threatening unity.

We appeal to the democratic states of the international community and to international organizations to work towards obtaining a peaceful resolution to this crisis and to retain the unity of the Ukrainian state. We strongly urge all sides to seek peace and a non-violent solution through dialogue and to respect human life.

We also support the calls for material and medical humanitarian assistance by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and Ukrainian World Congress.

Our brothers and sisters in Ukraine, our spiritual homeland, urgently need our support at this perilous time. We, the Hierarchs of the UOCC, call upon our faithful to spiritually support our brothers and sisters in Christ with our intensified prayers in our parishes and in our homes. As we are about to embark on the Great Lent to prepare ourselves for the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we increase our prayers for peace for the Ukrainian people and so that wisdom should prevail among the new leadership of Ukraine. Let us also pray to All the Saints of Ukraine for their prayerful intercession for the safety and protection of the Ukrainian people.

*May the Most Holy Theotokos spread her veil of protection over the Ukrainian people in their great time of need. May the Lord hear our imploring prayers and blesses our free spiritual Motherland Ukraine and its long-suffering people.*

*With Hierarchical Blessing,*

† **YURIJ**, Metropolitan

† **ILARION**, Bishop

† **ANDRIY**, Bishop