



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

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February 22, 2014

Statement
Of the Hierarchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada
Regarding the Development of 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 welcomes the positive development of events in Ukraine following the shocking violence on February 18 and 20, 2014 in Kyiv, Ukraine, that has cost the lives of over 100 peaceful citizens. Over the past two days, members of the Parliament of Ukraine have worked together in the interests of protecting the lives of its citizens and the integrity of the country by removing from power the authorities responsible for the violence perpetrated throughout the country. We greet this peaceful resolution of the conflict using legitimate legislative processes and instruments of a democratic civil society. We pray that the Lord will guide and enlighten them in this time of renewed nation-building.

The state of Ukraine has declared two days of mourning for its lost souls. We also bow our heads down to these new martyrs of the conflict who join the past martyrs of Ukraine. The unarmed people of Ukraine gave the precious gift of their lives to their fellow citizens and future generations for the benefit of the people of God-loving Ukraine and for the glory of God. "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13) We extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of these heroic souls. May the Lord God support them in this difficult time.

We bless that following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 23, 2014 a *Panakhyda* memorial service be served for the innocent victims of this conflict in Ukraine.

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*