

10 April 2014

His Excellency Didier Burkhalter
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for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE
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His Excellency Lamberto Zannier
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Dear Sirs :

Re: Urgent need for an increased OSCE observer mission in Eastern and Southern Ukraine

Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity are seriously threatened by Russia's escalating provocations in Eastern and Southern Ukraine, particularly in Kharkiv, Luhansk and Donetsk.

The world was recently witness to Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol. Media reports exposed human rights violations, including the persecution of individuals opposed to the invasion and the use of women and children as hostages during the seizure of military facilities.

This invasion of Ukraine was subsequently overwhelmingly condemned by the international community as unlawful and a violation of Ukraine's borders.

Russia, however, with its troops now in Crimea and poised along Ukraine's Eastern border, continues to present a very real threat to global security.

Sanctions and condemnations have proven to have limited impact as Russia's efforts to destabilize Ukraine continue unabatedly.

Having condemned Russia's occupation of Crimea and Sevastopol, and having issued statements in support of Ukraine's territorial integrity, the international community must now protect Ukraine's sovereignty in the wake of Russia's clear provocations in Eastern and Southern Ukraine designed to undermine Ukraine's new government, create false perceptions of hostile divisions within the Ukrainian population and conduct a full-blown military invasion of Ukraine.

If not firmly challenged, Russia's illegal acts of aggression against Ukraine may result in similar actions in different regions by authoritarian regimes emboldened by the belief that there will be no substantive consequences for their intolerable behavior.

As a result, the Ukrainian World Congress is urging the OSCE to substantially increase the number of its military and civilian observers in Eastern and Southern Ukraine to monitor the situation on the ground and deter provocations that can lead to serious military confrontations.

We trust that you will agree on the urgency of the situation and will act decisively in the interest of security and stability in the region and worldwide.

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS



Eugene Czolij
President

c.c. His Excellency Oleksandr Turchynov, Acting President of Ukraine
His Excellency Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Prime Minister of Ukraine
Ukrainian World Congress Member Organizations

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 33 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.