



**Honorary Consulate
of Ukraine**
Louisiana

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: UKRAINE FACT SHEET

The Honorary Consulate of Ukraine-Louisiana strongly condemns Russia's flagrant violations of fundamental international human rights in Ukraine.

Ukraine is an Independent, Sovereign State

- Ukraine is an independent democracy that validly exercised its international legal right of self-determination in 1991 when it declared its independence.
- Ukraine's independence is secured not only by its exercise of self-determination, but by the UN Charter's bedrock principles of political independence and territorial integrity.
- Russia acknowledged Ukraine's independence and legally bound itself in at least three international agreements to refrain from the threat or use of force against Ukraine, and to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of Ukraine. *See* 1975 Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe; 1994 Budapest Memorandum; and 1997 Black Sea Agreements.

Russia Has No Historical Claim to Ukraine

- Ukraine has a long history of fighting for its independence from Russian
- The Ukraine-Soviet War of 1917-1921 sought independence from the Russian Bolsheviks
- Ukraine suffered devastating losses at Russia's hands during the Holodomor Famine of 1932-1933, where Ukraine lost 4-5 million people to starvation at the hands of Stalin
- Ukraine fought for its independence from Russia during World War II
- Ukraine validly declared its independence in 1991

Ukraine Needs Strong Support from its Allies

- The United States has a sacred obligation to support democracy throughout the world and especially in Europe where our sons and daughters sacrificed their lives to eradicate tyranny and oppression during WWII
- The current reactive sanction regime is insufficient to deter further criminal conduct
- The US did not act strongly enough when Russia annexed Ukraine, emboldening Putin
- The US' current reactive, measured posture will embolden further moves
- The US and its allies must immediately impose severe sanctions and cripple the entire Russian economy.
- The Allies need to consider offering Ukraine a clear and immediate path to EU membership and eventual NATO membership