

Appeal of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to the International Organizations and Parliaments of the World's States on the Recognition of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine as Genocide of the Ukrainian People

In 1932-1933 the communist totalitarian regime of the USSR conceived and implemented a crime in Ukraine - the extermination of millions of Ukrainians by starvation. To denote this tragedy, Ukrainians use the word "Holodomor", a term derived from Ukrainian words for "hunger" (*holod*) and "extermination" (*mor*). Holodomor means deliberate killing by creating conditions that lead to death by starvation.

According to the Law of Ukraine "About Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine", the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine recognized the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine as a crime of genocide against the Ukrainian people.

In addition to the parliament of Ukraine, out of 195 countries of the world, the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine has been recognized as an act of genocide by the parliaments of 16 UN member states, namely: the Republic of Estonia (Statement by the Riigikogu of October 1993), Australia (Senate Resolutions of October 1993 and October 2003), Canada (Senate Resolution of June 2003), Hungary (Resolution of the National Assembly of November 2003), the Republic of Lithuania (Statement of the Seimas of November 2005), the Republic of Georgia (Statement of the Parliament of December 2005), the Republic of Poland (Resolution of the Senate of March 2006), the Republic of Peru (Resolution of Congress of June 2007), the Republic of Paraguay (Senate Declaration of October 2007), the Republic of Ecuador (Resolution of the National Congress of October 2007), the Republic of Colombia (Resolution of the House of Representatives of Congress of December 2007), the United Mexican States (Resolution of the Chamber of Deputies of the National Congress of February 2008), the Republic of Latvia (Declaration of the Seimas of March 2008), the Portuguese Republic (Resolution of the Assembly of the Republic of March 2017), the United States of America (Resolution of the Senate of the United States of America of October 2018), the Czech Republic (Resolution of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic of April 2022).

In 1932-1933 millions of Ukrainians died the most terrible of deaths, resistance to the communist regime was suppressed, and part of the Ukrainian people was assimilated. The regime managed to hide its crime behind a wall of propaganda and lies within the USSR and abroad.

However, the Ukrainian people showed enough strength to recover from these losses, pain, imposed historical amnesia and gain their independence.

In late February - early March 2014, the Russian Federation, as a follower of Soviet imperial chauvinism and terrorist methods in politics, occupied and attempted to annex Ukrainian Crimea, and in April 2014 invaded the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.

On February 24, 2022, the Russian Federation launched an unprovoked and undisguised armed aggression against Ukraine and resorted to genocidal policy.

In a report, prepared by the New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy and the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights, more than 30 leading legal scholars and experts on genocide concluded that the Russian Federation is responsible for violations of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948 in Ukraine. The report was sent to the parliaments of the world's states.

We have to admit that the standard formula that past crimes must never be repeated has once again failed. Those terrible events are being repeated now in Ukraine. The methods of the aggressor then and now are not so different. Russia is trying to impose its will on Ukraine, and when it was met with resistance, it decided to resort to brutal, undisguised force and the crime of genocide. Having started the war, it accused its victim of aggression. Its purpose was and is to punish Ukrainians for resistance, eliminate the political and cultural elite, assimilate the population, destroy Ukrainian national memory and impose Russian identity. Russia conducts large-scale disinformation and propaganda campaigns to cover up its crimes. Russia relies on an atmosphere of indifference, the power of fear and tries to achieve political concessions in exchange for economic benefits.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine expresses deep gratitude to international organizations, governments, statespersons, representatives of the civil society and ordinary people of all countries of the world, who supported the Ukrainian people in this difficult time and prevented the aggressor in its attempt to repeat the genocide that occurred 90 years ago.

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine calls on international organizations and parliaments of the world's states to restore historical justice and recognize the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine as a crime of genocide against the Ukrainian people. This will be an important signal to all world powers that may resort to new genocidal acts, and a significant contribution to ensuring a peaceful and safe future for upcoming generations.

Adopted by the Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine No. 2740-IX of 16 November 2022.