



UKRAINIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Асоціація Українських Правників Америки

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UABA STATEMENT

ON THE PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS IN UKRAINE OF FEBRUARY 22, 2014

On Saturday, February 22, 2014, the Ukrainian Parliament (“Verkhovna Rada”) exercised its constitutional prerogatives and, by an overwhelming majority vote, removed Victor Yanukovich as head of state and immediately relieved him of his presidential duties. Additionally, the Parliament appointed various individuals to oversee government ministries pending presidential elections to be held on May 25, 2014. The Parliament’s actions are in full compliance with the Ukrainian Constitution and internationally accepted principles of rule of law.

The UABA calls upon the United States of America, the European Union and all other governments to support the actions taken by the Parliament as they reflect the true will of the Ukrainian people. Towards this end, the United States and the EU should take the following concrete measures:

- Support the democratic actions of the Parliament and recognize their constitutional validity as reflective of the will of the people.
- Categorically reject any claims from former President Victor Yanukovich and his entourage claiming that he is the object of an “illegal coup” or that he is still the President of Ukraine.
- Act on their international obligations under the Helsinki Accords of 1975, the 1994 Trilateral Agreement, and the Budapest Memorandum of 1994 regarding ensuring Ukraine’s security, territorial integrity and protection from, particularly Russian, coercion and aggression. Under the latter Memorandum, these obligations are especially grave as they were given in return for Ukraine's surrender of its nuclear arsenal, an unprecedented global event.
- Vigorously reject and prevent any internal or external attempts or threats of dismemberment of or separatism of portions of the Ukrainian state.
- Immediately implement an economic relief package to help reverse Ukraine’s spiral into an economic disaster caused by the pillage by and rapacious conduct of the Yanukovich regime, and the economic embargoes that have been and will be imposed by Russia against Ukraine.
- Immediately implement an economic development “Marshall Plan” for Ukraine to assist its integration into the European Union - its long stated national aspiration and goal.

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