

## News Release

### Ukrainian Students Express Their Concern Regarding the Non-Democratic Elections in Ukraine

09:00, November 1, Ottawa, Canada.

The first in the world protest against non-democratic parliamentary elections in Ukraine took place at the Embassy of Ukraine in Ottawa.

Around 20 people were holding the banners «Do not let democracy step BACK!», «Вибори 2012: кожному коту по Межигір'ю?», «Не фальсифікуй, підрахуй!», «Чому я не голосую по мажоритарці?», «Politics is about service not about entitlement», as well as singing Ukrainian songs and chanting the mottos regarding the non-transparent elections.

*«The majority of us are the Ukrainian students who are completing an internship at the Parliament of Canada. In addition, some representatives of the Ukrainian community in Canada who are deeply concerned with the situation in Ukraine also came to support us » said an activist Roman. «By this protest we want to attract attention of the international community to the blatant disrespect to the rule of law in Ukraine. We also want to deliver a strong message to the Government of Ukraine and to disagree with its statement that the election process was «fair, democratic and transparent.»*

The activists expressed their concern regarding the incarceration of the leaders of opposition, application of administrative resource aimed at affecting the voters' will, the use of budget resources to popularize certain pro-government parties and candidates, the pressure on the independent media during the election campaign, as well as the non-transparent system of appointing the composition of the district and precinct election commissions which created opportunities for fraud and forgery.

*«We are also deeply concerned with the situation around many majoritarian constituencies where the pro-government candidates, as well as their representatives are creating serious obstacles to the objective counting process, they are trailing the protocols processing and are making attempts to willfully falsify the elections results. First of all, this relates to the constituencies no. 95, 115, 132, 215, 223, 225, » said Roman.*

Activists call for Central Election Commission of Ukraine and the responsible government agencies to ensure the effective and unbiased examination of violations which were observed during the votes' calculation, and call to account all the initiators of the falsifications.

*«We also ask the international community to express an objective assessment of the parliamentary elections in Ukraine, as well as to impose all necessary international measures in order to prevent the reverse in democracy in Ukraine», said Yaroslav, one of the action's initiators.*

Later on Chargé D'affaires of Ukraine in Canada invited students to the Embassy to discuss their concerns.

*«Your aims are sincere, and I respect your views and the means you are using to wake up the consciousness of the society. However, I have to ask you, if the rest of the Ukrainian citizens believe that the fraud took place during the elections, why haven't they voiced their opinion yet?» Marko Shevchenko asked.*

Chargé D'affaires of Ukraine in Canada agreed with the fact that certain violations took place during the elections in Ukraine. However, he noted that they were not systematic. *«I am aware of the violations, but can you show me a button which would make everything work 100 % fine?»* In the end, Chargé D'affaires of Ukraine in Canada advised the youth to contribute to the civil society of Ukraine. However, he noted that concrete actions matter more than speeches delivered from tribunes.