



КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS

CONGRÈS DES UKRAINIENS-CANADIENS

April 1, 2022

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, PC, MP
Minister of Foreign Affairs
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2

Dear Minister Joly:

Re: Continued presence of Russian diplomats in Canada

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) and the 1.4 million-strong Ukrainian community in Canada call upon the Government of Canada to expel all diplomats representing the Russian Federation from Canada.

The Russian Federation launched an unprovoked war against Ukraine on February 24. Russia is committing war crimes and crimes against humanity against Ukrainian civilians on a scale unseen in Europe since WWII. Russia has killed thousands of innocent people; over 4 million Ukrainians have been forced to leave Ukraine; over a quarter of Ukraine's people have been displaced from their homes.

Dozens of Ukrainian cities are bombarded daily with Russian air power, cruise missiles and rocket artillery. Schools, hospitals, residential buildings, are purposely targeted by Russia. Ukrainian citizens are being abducted, deported to Russia and consigned to so-called filtration camps. There are increasing reports of Russian soldiers raping Ukrainian women and girls. This is barbarism and terrorism, perpetrated by a member state of the United Nations Security Council.

The Russian ambassador to Canada and Russian diplomatic staff in Canada represent a criminal, terrorist state. Apologists and advocates for the attempted destruction of a nation do not have any place in Canada.

The security and espionage threat that is posed to Canada by the presence of Russian diplomats in Canada is well known. This threat increases as Russia's aggression against the Free World and Russia's contempt for democratic values increase.

In 2019, the National Security and Intelligence Committee of Parliamentarians found that, "The Russian Federation engages in foreign interference activities across Canada's political system with the objective of influencing government decision-making

and swaying public opinion. [...] Some of Russia's intelligence officers under diplomatic cover have engaged in threat-related activities. The nature and extent of Russia's foreign interference threat is significant as these activities form a key component of the broader national security threat posed by Russia.”

We call upon Canada to follow the example of its allies, including the Netherlands, Ireland and the Czech Republic, in expelling Russian diplomats from their countries.

Russia, a criminal, terrorist state, must be isolated completely from the international community.

Yours very truly,

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex', is positioned above the name of the signatory.

Alexandra Chyczij, National President