



**Vicariate of the Ukrainian Orthodox
Church Kyivan Patriarchate in the United
States of America and Canada**

300 East Army Trail Road Bloomingdale, IL 60108
His Holiness Patriarch of Kyiv and all Ukraine FILARET
Secretary of the Vicariate Rev. Victor Poliarny - Tel: (630) 217-5524
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November 30, 2013

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Ukrainian-American people in the United States, especially the Orthodox faithful that are under the jurisdiction of His Holiness the Patriarch of Kyiv and all Rus-Ukraine Filaret ask for your support in protecting the freedom of free speech and the freedom of peaceful assembly of the Ukrainian people.

Dear Mr. President the majority of the Ukrainian people support the democratic values, support the integration of Ukraine into the European Union while the corrupt government of the Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych continues to persecute and attack peaceful assemblies, as it was the case on November 30, 2013 on the Independence Square in Kyiv.

We are convinced that in your Administration there are several possibilities in persuading the government of Ukraine to adhere to democratic principles.

With the sincere gratitude we thank you Mr. President for your support we remain,

Most Respectfully,
Very Rev. Victor Poliarny
Very Rev. Victor Poliarny –
Secretary of the Vicariate of the
Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kyiv Patriarchate in the USA and Canada

Enclosures:
Statement by Patriarch Filaret

Statement by the Patriarch of Kyiv and All Rus-Ukraine Filaret Events on November 30, 2013 in Kyiv

Dear compatriots! Dear brothers and sisters!

Today our society is experiencing one of the most difficult moments of modern history, and for this reason the Church cannot stand by silently.

Events of the past weeks and months convince us that the vast majority of our citizens support the European integration of Ukraine. In defense of their aspirations they have joined in mass public demonstrations. These demonstrations were held generally peacefully and without violence, to which our citizens were called by our Church, and other churches and religious organizations.

The Kyiv Patriarchate, together with the Ukrainian people supported and continues to support the European integration of Ukraine and sees Ukraine's future in a circle of independent states in a united Europe.

After the massive civic actions, we have repeatedly appealed also to law enforcement and other state representatives with a call to ensure the Constitutionally guaranteed right of the citizens to peacefully express their position. Unfortunately, this, our call, was not heard.

On the night of November 30 with the use of brutal violence, protesters were expelled from Independence Square. Photographs of these actions bring to mind July 18, 1995, when force was used against the participants of the funeral of Patriarch Volodymyr (Romaniuk).

As a Church we morally condemn the brutal use of force against civilians, which occurred today at the capital's Independence Square. We also call upon everyone - especially the police, but also members of civic actions to prevent the further use of violence.

Because this possibility – the development of large civil conflict and divisions of the country, ruination of our statehood – is what those forces are seeking, at any cost seeking to prevent Ukraine's integration with a united Europe.

The future is unknown to us. But we want all to know: the Kyiv Patriarchate is with the Ukrainian people. Regardless of what adversities lie ahead of us.

According to the Lord Jesus Christ, prayer has a great ability to destroy the power and the machinations of the devil. So right now, among other things, prayer for Ukraine is especially needed, for the preservation of our shared home from the ravages of internecine strife. I call all believers to this strengthened prayer.

With a heavy heart, but with firm faith in the Lord's mercy and help, I say together with you, "O Great and Only God, protect our Ukraine !"

I ask for the Lord's blessing on all of the Ukrainian nation!

Filaret,

Patriarch of Kyiv and All Rus-Ukraine

Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kyiv Patriarchate