

PRESS RELEASE

Over 100 civil society activists have signed an appeal to the President, Government and political forces of Ukraine demanding to convene an Assembly of National Reconciliation

Kyiv, Dec. 10, 2013 — Over 100 people, including many renowned leaders of NGOs, lawyers and political experts, have signed an Appeal to the President, Government and Political Forces of Ukraine drafted last night by a spearhead group of representatives of Ukraine's civil society. The Appeal suggests an **Assembly of National Reconciliation** to be convened as an exit from the deadlock the nation has found itself after the unexpected suspension by the Ukrainian government of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement signing and the brutal police crackdowns on participants in the mass peaceful protests that broke out following the move.

The Assembly, composed of politicians, local and regional government officials, civil society leaders, reputable scholars and other public figures, as well as representatives from international community, is expected to agree upon and sign a Declaration of National Consensus.

Part of the Declaration must be an Action Plan for the first half of 2014, beginning with the development and signing of a constitutional agreement and the signing, not later than April 2014, of the Association Agreement with the EU.

The Appeal names three preconditions for the Assembly to take place: (i) release the unlawfully detained protesters and activists; (ii) form a provisional technical government; and (iii) bring to justice those law-enforcement officers whose action and/or inaction led to the use of excessive force against peaceful protesters.

(Please find attached the Appeal to the President, Government and Political Forces of Ukraine.)

According to members of the initiative group, no round table or any other sort of negotiations between the government and the parliamentary opposition will be legitimate and effective without participation of civil society as a third party. They say, civil society activists, not politicians, took people to EuroMaydan, and members of the public, not parties, largely became victims of political oppression.

Says Hennadiy Druzenko, Vice President of the European Integration Institute and a member the group: "The civil society, which is interested in replacing the operating system in the computer called 'Ukraine' and not just rewriting a few files, is the real driver of systemic changes in the Ukrainian society and the only force that have a vital interest in such changes."

He also said that the civil society has matured enough to be a full-fledged participant in any negotiations on political crisis settlement in Ukraine.

For more information please contact Mr. Hennadiy Druzenko at +380 63 2232999 or hennadiy.druzenko@gmail.com.

Appeal of Civil Society Representatives to President, Government and Political forces of Ukraine

We, the Representatives of Civil Society of Ukraine,

recognising our responsibility before our descendants,

being concerned about the sudden halt of European integration of Ukraine,

condemning the use of excessive force by the special forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine on the 30th of November, 2013 at the Independence Square and the 1st of December, 2013 at Bankova St.,

having no doubt that further confrontation and escalation of the conflict threatens independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and may lead to social and economic collapse,

believing that it would be impossible to find the way out from the impasse, which our country faces today, only by efforts of politicians and without active participation of the Civil Society,

considering that this is the third constitutional crisis over the past 10 years,

APPEAL:

I. For the resolution of the political crisis, to initiate the Assembly of National Reconciliation aimed to approve and to sign the Declaration of National Reconciliation.

Participants of the Assembly should include parliamentary leaders of major political parties, mayors of large cities, heads of regional councils, representatives of the Civil Society, reputable scholars and public figures, and as observers, representatives of the international community, namely the EU, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

The preconditions for the Assembly should be the release of the unlawfully detained activists, formation of a provisional technical Government of national reconciliation and bringing to justice officers of law-enforcement bodies, whose action and/or inaction led to the use of excessive force against participants in peaceful protests.

The Declaration of National Reconciliation should include jointly agreed Action plan for a transitional period - the first half of 2014, including:

1) elaboration and signing of the Constitutional agreement, which provides a mechanism and division of state power to the adoption of a new Constitution of Ukraine;

2) signing of the Association Agreement with the European Union by the end of April 2014;

3) development of basic principles of the new Constitution of Ukraine on the basis of a broad consensus of political forces and the Civil Society;

4) adoption of the Electoral Code;

5) assignment of a reputable independent lawyer to the position of General Prosecutor of Ukraine, who should be nominated by legal community;

6) re-election of the Chairpersons of the Supreme Court and High Specialized Courts of Ukraine;

7) election of the President, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and local authorities according to the terms and conditions set out during the work of the Assembly.

II. To appeal to the leaders of major parliamentary political parties, mayors of large cities, heads of regional councils, representatives of the Civil Society, respected scholars and public figures:

- to demonstrate responsibility and political farsightedness;

- to demonstrate the ability to forget old accusations and step over the political egoism;

- to abandon the rhetoric of recrimination and the injection of passion;

- to witness the willingness to compromise and understanding;

and together with the international community to participate in the Assembly of National Reconciliation.

The present resolution is approved by the initiators of the Assembly of National Reconciliation in Kyiv on the 9th of December, 2013. It shall be open for signature by all who supports it.

Signatories:

1) Vadym Triukhan, former Director of the Coordination Bureau for European and Euro-Atlantic integration, expert in international and European law, Kyiv;

2) Ihor Kohut, political analyst, Kyiv;

3) Oleksandr Sushko, National Coordinator of the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership, Scientific Director of the Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, Kyiv;

4) Eugene Bystrytsky, Doctor of Philosophy, Kyiv;

5) Gennadiy Druzenko, Vice President of the Institute for European Integration, Kyiv;

- 6) Dmytro Kropachov, Chairman of the Provisional national organizing committee of Political force “Power of People”, Zhytomyr;
- 7) Pavlo Zhovnirenko, Head of the Centre for Strategic Research, Kyiv;
- 8) Olexiy Khmara, Executive Director of Transparency International Ukraine, Kirovograd;
- 9) Michael Nahod, Head of the Centre for Political Analysis and Electoral Consulting, Luts'k;
- 10) Natalie Belitser, expert of the Institute for Democracy “Philip Orlik”, Kyiv;
- 11) Yana Roginska, NGO “Institute for the Study of Legal Approximation”, Kyiv;
- 12) Eugene Magda, Senior lecturer of Publishing and Printing Institute of NTU KPI, political analyst, Kyiv;
- 13) Olexiy Tolkachov, President of the European Association of Ukrainians, Kyiv;
- 14) Andriy Strannikov, Director of the Institute of Political Education, Kyiv;
- 15) Igor Koliushko, CEO of the Centre for Political and Legal Reforms, Kyiv;
- 16) Olexandra Pavlenko, Attorney, Partner of Law Group “Pavlenko and Poberezhnyuk”, Kyiv;
- 17) Olena Yeskina, Head of NGO “Kuyany for Kuyans”, Kyiv;
- 18) Gennady Maksak, Polissky Foundation for International and Regional Studies, Chernigiv;
- 19) Ihor Dunayev, Partner of Consulting company “Business Expert”, initiator of the Forum of public assets of Ukraine, Kharkiv;
- 20) Olexiy Goncharuk, Member of National organizing committee of Political Party “Power of People”, PhD in Law;
- 21) Artem Stelmashov, Head of NovaUkraine.org, Kyiv;
- 22) Roman Plavytskyy, activist, member of forum www.stroimdom.com.ua and www.autoua.net;
- 23) Svitlana Matviyenko, coordinator of the Ukrainian School of Political Studies, Kyiv;
- 24) Luybov Akulenko, Head of European Projects, NGO “Center UA”, Kyiv;
- 25) Rostyslav Tomenchuk, Chairman of the Ukrainian Institute for International Policy, Kyiv;

- 26) Bogdan Kavulych, Volodymyr Kulynych, NGO “Ukraine - Our House”, Kyiv;
- 27) Vitaliy Kovtun, Social and Political activist, entrepreneur, Lviv;
- 28) Natalia Burkut, Deputy of Voznesensk city council of Mykolayiv region;
- 29) Artem Myrgorodskyy, entrepreneur, Kyiv;
- 30) Sergiy Berezenko, public activist, Deputy of Kyiv city council;
- 31) Volodymyr Gorbach, Political analyst at the Institute for Euro-Atlantic Cooperation, Kyiv;
- 32) Yuriy Vahel, member of Ukrainian Bar Association, adviser to the Ukrainian Agrarian Confederation, Kyiv;
- 33) Ihor Todorov, professor, Head of the Donetsk regional branch of NGO “Ukrainian European Studies Association”, Donetsk;
- 34) Nataliya Melnykova, public activist, Kherson;
- 35) Viktor Taran, Director of the Centre for Political Studies and Analysis, Kyiv;
- 36) Ihor Melnyk, Attorney, Kyiv;
- 37) Viktoriya Ptashnik, Attorney, Partner of Law Firm “Droit”, Deputy Chairman of the Committee of Competition Law of the Ukrainian Bar Association, Kyiv;
- 38) Andriy Ivanets, Coordinator of NGO “Humanitarian Platform of Tauris”, Simferopol;
- 39) Cateryna Venzhyk, Chief editor of portal Delo.UA;
- 40) Ihor Philipp, Ph.D. in Law, Attorney, Dnipropetrovsk;
- 41) Orest Yosypchuk, Deputy of Stryi city council, member of the Political force “Power of People”;
- 42) Andriy Osipov, Attorney, expert at the Institute for Political Education, Deputy of Lutsk city council, Lutsk;
- 43) Svitlana Viryaskina, public activist, entrepreneur, Deputy of Olexandria city council, Olexandria, Kirovograd region;
- 44) Rostyslav Dzundza, Head of the Office for Social and Political Development, coordinator of the group “Social dialogue and justice” of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, Kyiv;
- 45) Sergiy Bondarenko, Chairman of the board of the “Centre for Analysis and Development of Public Communications “Dialogue”, Donetsk;
- 46) Olga Tymchenko, Freelance artist, Kharkiv;
- 47) Myroslava Lendel, graduate of USPS 2007, Doctor of Political Science, Director of the Research Institute of Central Europe, Uzhgorod;

- 48) Svitlana Franchuk, President of international NGO “Freedom House – Ukraine”, Kyiv;
- 49) Volodymyr Dubrovsky, a Senior economist at CASE Ukraine, Kyiv;
- 50) Olena Harachko, Musician, Italy / Lviv;
- 51) Antonina Stryapko, Ph.D in Political Science, Associate Professor of International Relations, Uzhgorod National University, Uzhgorod,
- 52) Borys Kushniruk, Economic analyst, Kyiv;
- 53) Olexandr Mazur, Chairman of NGO “Association of single parents of Ukraine”, Kyiv;
- 54) Olexandr Khoruzhenko, Deputy of Sumy city council, Director of NGO “Centre for Regional Policy Studies”, Sumy;
- 55) Dmytro Arabadzhyev, Ph.D in Political Science, Associate Professor of Zaporizhzhya National Technical University, member of the Intercollegiate Research Centre “Politics and Education” of Zaporizhzhya regional council, Zaporizhzhya;
- 56) Anna Kovbasiuk, Chairman of the board of NGO “Centre for European Initiatives”, Sumy;
- 57) Oleg Zhyvotovskyy, Chairman of the board of NGO “European choice”, Kyiv / Kremenchug;
- 58) Oleg Demchuk, Deputy of Khmelnytsk regional council, coordinator of socio-political movement “Dignity”, Kamyanets-Podilsky;
- 59) Oleg Makar, Deputy of Mostyska city council, co-organizer of the International Festival of Arts “Fort.Missia”;
- 60) Viktoriya Podgorna, Head of Centre of social-political design, Kyiv;
- 61) Volodymyr Syrovatko, Master of Public Administration, Vinnytsa;
- 62) Iryna Kravchuk, President of the Ukrainian Association of assessment, Ph.D in Public Administration, Kyiv;
- 63) Yuliya Krasiy, Head of NGO Regional centre “Native Land”, Svatove, Luhansk region;
- 64) Anna Shevchenko, Marketing analyst PA TADA, Kyiv;
- 65) Andriy Barsukov, business trainer, Kharkiv;
- 66) Robert Khorolskyi, Lawyer, Kyiv;
- 67) Sergiy Shtukarin, Master of international relations and European workshops, Donetsk;
- 68) Svitlana Odinet, junior scientific employee of the Ethnology Institute of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine, journalist, Lviv;

- 69) Lyubomyr Grytsak, Coordinator of programs of the Institute for Political Studies, Kolomyia;
- 70) Inna Penchuk, Doctor of Science for Social communications, Head of Faculty of Advertising and Communications with the society of the Institute of journalism and mass communications of the Classic Private university, television anchorwoman, TV Gold, Zaporizhya;
- 71) Iryna Shvets, Civil network "Opora", Lviv;
- 72) Iryna Bekeshkina, Director of the Fund "Democracy Initiatives" of Il'ka Kucheriva;
- 73) Yaroslav Yurchychyn, expert of the National round table "Mutual understanding for European future", Kyiv;
- 74) Oleksandr Yakymenko, Master of Public Administration, Kyiv;
- 75) Anastasiya Barska, Attorney, Zaporizhya;
- 76) Dmytro Hutornoy, Director of Audit Department, Mykolaiv;
- 77) Lyubomyra Mandziy, Senior lecturer of politology, Lviv national university of Ivan Franko, Lviv;
- 78) Mykhaylo Gonchar, Director of energy programs, Center "NOMOS", Kyiv;
- 79) Sergiy Solodkyi, First Deputy Director, "Institute of World Policy", Kyiv;
- 80) Tetyana Pechonchyk, Head of Information Center on Human rights, Kyiv;
- 81) Svyatoslav Pavlyuk, expert on international relations and energy, Kyiv;
- 82) Galyna Prylutska, teacher, Kharkiv;
- 83) Vasyl Darkov, Head of Managment of public organization "All-Ukrainian union of consumers of insurance services "Insurance protection", Kyiv;
- 84) Inna Lutsenko, producer "1+1" Production, Kyiv;
- 85) Nataliia Sokolenko, journalist, Public radio, participant of the movement "Stop censorship";
- 86) Valentyn Krasnoperov, public activist, historian, Donetsk;
- 87) Olena Nazarenko, Candidate of Law, Senior lecturer of International and European law faculty of Kyiv national economic university of Vadym Getman, Kyiv;
- 88) Iryna Solomko, Journalist, Kyiv;
- 89) Yuriy Bystro, Master of business management, Singapore;
- 90) Tetyana Tymoshenko, journalist, Kyiv;

- 91) Oleksandr Nikolaychuk, journalist, Deputy of Olevs'k City Council, Zhytomyr region;
- 92) Sergiy Bickeyev, entrepreneur, Kyiv;
- 93) Denys Pikulya, entrepreneur, public activist, Kyiv;
- 94) Iryna Oksenyuk, Head of all-Ukrainian youth organization "Green youth of Ukraine", Kyiv;
- 95) Kateryna Chyzhyk, Head of Association OSMD and "Nash Dim", Dnipropetrovsk;
- 96) Igor Martynyuk, historian, Charitable Foundation "Inheritance of Millenniums", Simferopol;
- 97) Oleksiy Kucherenko, Head of Apartment Property Union, Kyiv;
- 98) Ruslan Rohov, journalist, public activist, Khmelnytskyi;
- 99) Igor Oleksiv, National University "Lviv polytechnics", lecturer, Lviv;
- 100) Alyona Getmanchuk, international journalist, Head of media organizations and projects, foreign policy analyst, Director of the "Institute of World policy".