



The President of Ukraine

A message from the President of Ukraine to Ukrainians throughout the world and to the international community on the occasion of the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Holodomor in Ukraine in 1932-33

I am sending this message to you on the 75th anniversary of the most tragic event in the history of the Ukrainian nation – the Holodomor of 1932-33.

The truth about this act of genocide – knowingly committed by Stalin's regime on Ukraine's bountiful land – has fought to be released for decades.

I bow my head in respect to all those who refused to be silenced in those years when fear chained Soviet Ukraine, when the world wanted to be left in blissful ignorance of one of the most terrible crimes against humanity.

As soon as Ukraine was free from communist totalitarianism, she found her full voice and testified about this attempt on the life of a whole nation in the bygone days of the 1930s.

Today, the truth about the Holodomor is part of the consciousness of the world community and will never be silenced. The darkness of the Stalinist nights of 1932-33 is finally clearing.

The Holodomor has now been recognised and judged as an act of genocide and by many countries, international organisations, regional councils and legislatures and municipal authorities all over the world.

Our deepest respects and thanks to all for their humanity and solidarity with the millions of innocent victims of genocide.

International support strengthens our belief that historical justice will be done, and strengthens our will to achieve this.

The international community needs to understand that, it will not be able to avoid crimes against humanity in the future until there is justice for the crimes of the past.

We do not speak of what the world could have done 75 years ago had it known the whole truth. We mean what the world should do now as a mark of respect to those who died and to those who lived through the hell of the Holodomor.

On 22 November in Kyiv, millions of candles, lit by Ukrainians in memory of their murdered countrymen, will shine together with the flame of the Torch of Remembrance, which has travelled through 33 countries of the world and the whole of Ukraine, and which has been strengthened with light from the hearts of sincere people of all nationalities.

I call on everyone who is not indifferent to kindness, sympathy and justice, everyone who aspires to the triumph of good over evil, to light a memorial candle and, together with us, honour the victims of the Holodomor.

Ukraine remembers! The world acknowledges!

Viktor Yushchenko

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