



February 19, 2014

**CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE
UKRAINIANS IN AUSTRALIA - TIME TO ARISE AGAIN
STRENGTHEN NOT SPLINTER**

RIP

In the first instance the AFUO extends its condolences to the families of all who have so tragically perished in the last 24 hours in Ukraine.

We ask you that you keep them in your prayers and that our Churches consider conducting a requiem service in their memory.

Вічна пам'ять

AFUO Activity

The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations has this morning contacted the Prime Minister's Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Opposition seeking strong Australian support for Maidan and condemnation of the violence and urging Victor Yanukovich to negotiate with the Opposition and the Maidan. We are almost in half hour contact with Ukraine with sources on the ground. As you are aware they are volatile and negotiations have broken down. The AFUO via our Public Relations Director Peter Shmigel this morning issued instructions as to who to contact and protest and call on Australian Govt to make a statement.

Our contacts on Maidan are directly to Andriy Parubij the Komandant of Maidan and his team (we have been informed Andriy may have suffered a stroke a couple of hours ago).

It is time to pray and be vigilant and stay committed and united. That has what has got the community to where it is.

A range of press interviews have also been given today with mainstream media seeking and AFUO position

FUNDS

We have now delivered \$32000 US to various sources in Ukraine each amount provided has an acknowledgment of receipt.

NO AFUO FUNDS HAVE BEEN USED FOR TRAVEL OR REPRESENTATION AT EUROMAIDAN OR ANY OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO UKRAINE. **Anyone who has travelled has self funded.**

The AFUO has had a close check on the ground in Ukraine on how funds are being used. The AFUO chair on two occasions met the head of the Finance Sector of Maidan Stepan Kubiw and his deputy Bohdan Dubas and received details reports.

We encourage you continue contributing to the AFUO Fund as the aftermath will also involve costs. The AFUO Fund is audited by the Audit Team elected at the Zjazd CYOA. It is fully transparent and Audit committee will deliver its report to member organisations CYAO and in a public statement.

THE AFUO dissuades individuals or groups from now establishing funding programs. Whilst everyone wants to assist in some way people need to understand the AFUO has worked and continues to work directly with the Maidan Shtab- Leadership - This is the best way of ensuring not only financial support but another support is delivered and accounted for. The AFUO has established local ongoing Euomaidan committees - We encourage you to work through them and bring any ideas to the table or the AFUO **and not splinter efforts, human or material resources.**

There comes a time in mature community, which we - where the cause must be bigger - And this is such a time !

Stefan Romaniw OAM
Chairman