



MEDIA RELEASE: FOR RELEASE ON SUNDAY, MAY 25

**ANTI-PUTIN, PRO-UKRAINE RALLY TODAY IN CANBERRA -
UKRAINE'S MAY 25 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS**

At a national rally in Canberra today, hundreds of Australians will show their support for today's democratic Presidential elections in Ukraine, as well as their opposition to Vladimir Putin and his aggression toward the people of Ukraine.

The rally will take place at 1pm outside the Embassy of the Russian Federation at 78 Canberra Avenue in Griffith. It will be preceded by a protest motorcade of vehicles travelling from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane through the streets of Canberra starting at 12.15pm from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Turner.

President of the Ukrainian Australian community Stefan Romaniw OAM said:

"Free elections in Ukraine equal a free Ukraine. The people of Ukraine want a democracy like we have here in Australia and they are showing that at ballot boxes in Ukraine today.

"By going to the polls for a new President today, the people of Ukraine reject the dictatorship of Vladimir Putin, the 21st century's rogue ruler, and the violence he is using to destabilise a democratic Ukraine.

"There is no civil war in Ukraine – which had peaceful ethnic relations since independence in 1991. Rather, it is Putin playing puppet master to so-called separatists to suit himself.

"Australia is supporting Ukraine's democracy and territorial integrity. The Australian Government's sanctions, together with those of other countries, are hitting their mark amongst Putin's cronies and making Putin think twice.

"We strongly endorse the steadfast stance taken and international leadership shown by Prime Minister Abbott and Foreign Minister Bishop and their Coalition Government, with the support of the Labor Opposition. Australia's moral authority is very high in Ukraine through their efforts.

"Ten Australians, who are members of our community, are right now in Ukraine and acting as an independent election monitors of the Presidential poll. We thank the Australian Ambassador for Ukraine for supporting their efforts.

"Today, we will also show how unwelcome Mr Putin will be in Australia if he is to attend the G20 meeting in Brisbane in November. There is no room in Ukraine for a foreign dictator – there is no welcome for Putin here in Australia."

**FOR INTERVIEWS: STEFAN ROMANIW 0419 531 255
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