



January 19, 2014 WASHINGTON, D.C.

**TO: NCSJ Leadership and Interested Parties**

**FROM: Stephen M. Greenberg, Chairman;  
Alexander Smukler, NCSJ President;  
Mark B. Levin, NCSJ Executive Director**

**UKRAINE UPDATE #15**

There was little doubt in advance about the outcome of the Crimean referendum on Sunday. Crimea voted overwhelmingly (by a 96.7% margin) in favor of joining Russia.

Today, the Crimean parliament passed a resolution declaring independence and seeking to join the Russian Federation.

The United States, the European Union, and others rejected the referendum as illegitimate. The U.S. said it will "not recognize the results of [this] poll, administered under threats of violence and intimidation from a Russian military intervention that violates international law."

In addition to calling the referendum unconstitutional, the international community has criticized mass electoral violations in the Sunday vote, including limited public access to independent information, refusals to allow independent observers to monitor the vote, and alleged manipulations of voter lists.

The U.S. government has announced new sanctions against seven Russian officials close to President Vladimir Putin, ranging from President Putin's close adviser Vladislav Surkov to former Russian Ambassador to NATO and current Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin. The sanctions also target pro-Russian leaders in Crimea, and ousted President Viktor Yanukovich and those close to him. Similarly, The European Union has announced sanctions against 21 individuals.

In addition to announcing new sanctions, the U.S. and its allies must assist Ukraine financially. Congress recessed without authorizing a proposed \$1 billion in loan guarantees for Ukraine. The IMF and the EU have also not acted yet to provide Ukraine with the aid it desperately needs.

Russia has embraced the result of the Crimean referendum and called for Ukraine to adopt a federal structure and to recognize Crimea's independence, potentially paving the way for the secession of more regions of Ukraine to Russia. President Putin is scheduled to address Crimea's parliament tomorrow. Previously, Russia vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution that sought to uphold Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In response to Russia's actions, Ukraine has increased the country's military budget and the size of the newly formed military guard by 40,000 troops.

Tensions are escalating in Eastern Ukraine amid concerns about the region's future. Last week, deadly clashes took place in Donetsk between pro-Russian and pro-Ukrainian groups. Over the weekend, Russian supporters in several cities in the region rallied in support of a referendum to join Russia. Many observers have warned of the dangerous signs of a 'Crimean scenario' unfolding in Eastern Ukraine.

NCSJ contacted Jewish community representatives in Eastern Ukraine today, who reported no further anti-Semitic incidents in the region. However, they expressed general concern about the volatile situation in the region, especially in Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Luhansk, which have been further destabilized by activities of pro-Russian groups.

While no further anti-Semitic incidents have been reported in Eastern and Southern Ukraine, as NCSJ reported on Friday, two assaults on Jewish community members took place in Kyiv last week. There are some within the community who believe that the incidents were most likely provocations ahead of the Sunday's referendum vote. The Ukrainian authorities responded to the incidents immediately and pledged to bring perpetrators to justice.

NCSJ will continue to closely monitor the situation and provide you with critical and timely updates.

---

## About NCSJ

NCSJ: Advocates on Behalf of Jews in Russia, Ukraine, the Baltic States & Eurasia, founded in 1971, represents the organized American Jewish community in monitoring and advocating on behalf of the estimated 1.5 million Jews living in the 15 successor states of the former Soviet Union.

Website: <http://WWW.NCSJ.ORG>

**NCSJ**

email: [ncsjinfo@ncsj.org](mailto:ncsjinfo@ncsj.org)

phone: 202-898-2500

NCSJ is a beneficiary of [The Jewish Federations of North America](#) and the [National Federation/Agency Alliance](#) through its network of Federations.

