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P.O. Poroshenko  
President of Ukraine

V.B. Groysman  
Prime Minister of Ukraine

L. L. Denisova  
Supreme Council of Ukraine  
Commissioner for Human Rights

## Statement

### **On Civil and Human Rights Violations by Ukrainian State Officials Against Ukrainian Citizens of Hungarian Nationality**

We have received reports from our organizations' members and leadership, including local council representatives, and from participants in our associations' economic and social programs, that Ukrainian state authorities are targeting them with heavy-handed and illegal harassment.

Specifically, when these individuals cross the border, officials of the Ukrainian State Border Service and the Ukrainian Security Service detain them for an extended period of time (in some cases, from six to eight hours), extensively searching their luggage and vehicles. They are subjected to body searches and interrogation-like investigations, during which officials demand their personal data and information on their economic, political and public activities. These official interrogations are not documented, not even when the targeted citizens request documentation. The officials do not introduce themselves or produce official identification. When the affected individuals ask why they are being singled out, and upon what basis the actions are being carried out, the usual response is that the actions have been ordered by higher-ups, and the individuals are targeted because their names are found on a certain list. All this is occurring despite the fact that these citizens have not violated any law, and the state officials do not suspect and have not accused them of committing any illegal activity.

It is noteworthy that these actions target individuals whose personal data is published on the Mirotvorets website database. Thus, we may rightfully assume that Ukrainian state authorities have played a role in making these data public on the website.

We believe that in carrying out these actions, officials of the Ukrainian State Border Service and the Ukrainian Security Service overstep the authority granted to them by Ukrainian law and unlawfully violate the rights and freedoms of Ukrainian citizens. *Inter alia*, they violate the rights of citizens to confidentiality of their personal data and to freedom of movement, because the victims of these actions are being detained illegally. These official actions violate the dignity and integrity of the victims, causing distress to them and to their family members who observe the abuses.

Because they are carried out largely against Ukrainian citizens of Hungarian nationality, we may rightfully assume that these actions are expressions of intolerance, intimidation and discrimination against national minorities.

The above-described actions carried out by Ukrainian state authorities are frequent and of long standing (several months); the controlling authorities have failed to provide any positive response whatsoever to previously filed complaints. Consequently, Ukrainian citizens of Hungarian nationality are increasingly skeptical of state authorities as institutions capable of carrying out their constitutional mandate to protect the life, health, integrity, dignity, inviolability and security of citizens. We believe that the actions of the abovementioned state authorities, including such recent provocations as the attempted arson attack and subsequent bombing against the headquarters of the Subcarpathian Hungarian Cultural Association; billboards in public spaces accusing the leaders of Hungarian minority organizations of separatism; the Ukrainian Security Service's investigations of businesses receiving support from the Egan Ede Subcarpathian Economic Development Center, which take the form of mass hearings within a criminal case – all these represent a genuine threat to the spirit of peace and tolerance which traditionally prevails among the nationalities of Subcarpathia and lead to a widescale violation of the rights of the members of the Hungarian minority, increasing their will to emigrate.

In view of the above, we respectfully request you, Honorable President Poroshenko, Prime Minister Groysman, and Human Rights Commissioner Denisova - as high-level public officials with a constitutional obligation to protect the constitutional human and civil rights of the country's citizens, and to ensure these protections via measures and parliamentary oversight – to take appropriate action to immediately put an end to the above-mentioned illegal actions, to investigate their causes, and to press charges against the individuals responsible.



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