

**PRESS RELEASE
CHICAGO**

**Ukrainians to hold Vigil for Malaysia Air Tragedy
Demand a full investigation and justice**

When: Saturday, July 19, 2:00 pm

Where: Water Tower, Chicago and Michigan Avenues

Who: Ukrainian Congress Committee of America - Illinois Division

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UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY CONDEMNS DOWNING OF MALAYSIAN PLANE OVER UKRAINE



CHICAGO (July 18, 2014) UCCA - Illinois Division, on behalf of the Ukrainian American community in the State of Illinois expresses its deep condolences to the families of the innocent civilians who lost their lives at the hand of Russian-backed terrorists who shot down a Malaysian plane with 295 people who were senselessly killed over Eastern Ukraine. The Ukrainian American community is shocked over the total disregard of human life and condemns the actions of the Russian government for its support of terrorists, by supplying them with lethal weapons in order to provoke violence and destabilization in Ukraine. Putin's war is the direct result of the transfer by Russia of high range anti-aircraft weaponry to the terrorist insurgents in the Eastern region of Ukraine.

Russian terrorist leader Igor Girkin "Strelkov" gloated on social media on July 17, taking credit for downing the aircraft, believing it was a Ukrainian military transport, and stated, "we warned them not to fly in our skies. Here is the confirmation in the next video. The bird fell into a waste heap, and didn't fall in a residential area." The Russian-backed and Russian-led terrorists continue to be aided and supplied with military hardware, intelligence and manpower by the Russian Federation.

This is the third direct missile attack in recent days following two Ukrainian military aircraft being shot down over Ukrainian airspace from Russian territory. According to President Poroshenko, "We do not exclude that this aircraft [MH17] was also attacked and emphasize that the Armed Forces of Ukraine have not taken any actions to strike targets in the air."

UCCA Illinois Branch and the entire Ukrainian American community condemn this act of barbarism and call on the international community to stop Russia's proxy war in Ukraine and their illegal annexation of Crimea. UCCA-Illinois calls for a full and complete investigation by appropriate international bodies, and for the black box to be sent to a neutral country to ensure objective analysis and findings.