

# 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Law and Religion Symposium *October, 2015*

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## INDEX GIR (GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN RELIGION) FOR SOME POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

San-Marino	0.1
Netherlands	0.4
Hungary	0.5
Estonia	0.7
Slovenia	0.9
Poland	1.0
Ireland	1.0
Czech Republic	1.1
Croatia	1.3
Spain	1.9
Great Britain	2.2
Italy	2.2

## INDEX GIR (GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN RELIGION) FOR SOME POST-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

<b>Ukraine</b>	2.6
Austria	2.7
Slovakia	2.8
Germany	3.2
France	3.4
Belgium	3.9
Romania	4.4
Greece	4.6
Moldova	4.6
Bulgaria	4.8
Russia	6.0
Belorussia	6.1

# Pluralism is the main distinguishing feature of Ukrainian religious landscape and key for understanding the essence of socio-religious processes



**In photo: Members of All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and religious organizations in Brussels. 2013**

# Religious Composition of Ukraine 2015 (%)

Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Kyiv Patriarchate	20,8
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Moscow Patriarchate	11
Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church	1
Rome Catholic	2.5
Protestants	2.5
Islam	0.1
Jews	0.1
Not religious, atheists	9.5
Others	8.4

Source Survey conducted from December 25, 2014 to January 15, 2015 by Foundation Demokratychni initsiatyvy and Ukrainian Sociology Service . N= 4413

# Despite the very fact of acute competition between the largest Churches Ukrainian society is rather tolerant toward different religions and beliefs

Any religion that proclaims ideals of virtue, love, mercy and does not endanger the existence of other people has the right to exist	74%
Only religions traditional for this country have the right to exist	11%
Only the religion I confess is true	5%

Source: The Razumkov Centre Sociological Service nation-wide survey was conducted on April 25-29, 2014, The poll was held in all regions of Ukraine except the Crimea. 2 012 respondents aged above 18 years were polled. The sample theoretical error is 2.3% (hereafter Razumkov 2014)

**President Yanukovich has signaled his new religious policy in the very first day in presidential office (February 25, 2010)**



The essence of President Yanukovich religious policy lied in special relations with the Moscow Patriarchate and Patriarch Kyril, discrimination of the Kyiv Patriarchate, aversion to Greek Catholics, desire to control the church life and strongly influence the political behavior of the clergy and religious leaders

# The deterioration of religious freedom in Ukraine (Index of Restriction of Religion, the less the better)

Mid-2007	Mid- 2009	Mid- 2010
2.6	2.1	4.0



# How people felt changes in the sphere of religious freedom

*“With which of the following statements do you agree most of all”*

	2010		2013		2014	
	agree	disagree	agree	disagree	agree	disagree
There is complete freedom of conscience and equality of confessions before the law in Ukraine	<b>75.9</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>72.6</b>	<b>10.4</b>
Freedom of conscience and equality of confessions in Ukraine are declared but not implemented	<b>24.4</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>42.1</b>



The beginning of Eurorevolution. Maidan, December 1, 2013

Priests felt that the people need much more now than in normal times; they were willing to stand between protesters and riot police, to serve, to profess, and to comfort people in the bitter cold and among the flames.



**In the picture: confession on the Maidan**





Dozens of protesters have found shelter within St. Michael Monastery of Kyiv Patriarchate



Prayerful standing between protesters and riot police





The Orthodox priest is trying to prevent a clash between protesters and police



**Church hierarchs convinced opposition leaders to start negotiation with President Yanukovich after bloodshed Day of Ukrainian Unification (Sobornist') January 25, 2014**





The first assault of Maidan. December 10-11, 2013





After the assault of Maidan's protesters on December 10-11, the community of the Ukrainian Catholic University has called for civil disobedience against the president and his government and has proclaimed that after this night to follow the orders of the government would be contrary to human conscience.

*In the picture:* President of Ukrainian Catholic University Bishop Boris Hudzyak made his statement on civil disobedience of UCU's community.



After the shooting of protesters on February 20, 2014 the Holy Synod of the Kyiv Patriarchate voted to suspend commemoration of the President and civil authorities of Ukraine during services in consequence of their use of firearms against the people who they had sworn to serve and protect.

**In the picture:** Patriarch Filaret

# Annexation of Crimea



Pro-Russian Cossacks expelled faithful of Kiev Patriarchate from their Church's building (Perevalne, Crimea, April 2014)



# Crimea Tatars under the Russian occupation

**Murdered:** RESHAT AMETOV, EDEM ASANOV BIELIAL BIELIALOV.

**Kidnapped and gone missing:** TIMUR SHAIMARDANOV, SEIRAN ZINEDIN, ISLIAM DZHEPAROV, DZHEVDIET ISLIAMOV, ESKENDER APSELIAMOV, USEIN SIEITNABIEV, ERNEST USMANOV



**Funeral of Reshat Ametov who was kidnapped by pro-Russian self-defence on March 3, 2014. His body was found with numerous traits of violence on March 15.**

## Persecutions of Crimea Muslims



- Muslim activists' house raids
- Vandalism against religious buildings (mosques in Saki, Luhove, Soniachna Dolyna)
- Ancient Muslim graves in Crimea are in danger
- Crimean Tatar TV-station ATR is to be closed
- Searches are carried out in madrasah – Muslim schools for children – to find extremist literature
- Mass convictions against imams, heads of religious schools for 'keeping extremist literature'
- Entry bans for Leaders of Crimea Tatars Mustafa Dzhemilev , Refat Chubarov, Ismet Iuksel and Sinaver Kadyrov



**In March of 2014, Reform Rabbi Mikhail Kapustin of Simferopol was forced to leave Crimea after denouncing Russian actions. His synagogue had been defaced by a swastika and, a month later, vandals defaced Sevastopol's monument to 4,200 Jews killed by the Nazis in July 1942.**



# “Orthodox Taliban” in Donbass



Terrorist from Russian Orthodox Army. Emblem bears the inscription “Orthodoxy or Death” and “Life for a Tsar”

## List of prayer houses and Churches' buildings seized by guerillas of so-called "Donetsk People Republic" and "Luhansk Peoples republic"

- ✓ Donetsk. Rehabilitation Center "Evening Light". 29 people were captured, part of them were unmercifully beaten, center's bus was confiscated
- ✓ Donetsk. Church of "Christ the Savior"
- ✓ Donetsk. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses (Ostrovsky Str., 53-a)
- ✓ Donetsk. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses (Karamzina Str., 10)
- ✓ Donetsk. Center "Word of Life".
- ✓ Donetsk. Rehabilitation Center "Rock of Salvation"
- ✓ Donetsk. Donetsk Christian University
- ✓ Donetsk. Prayer House of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter-Day Saints
- ✓ Gorlovka – "Church of Christ"
- ✓ Gorlovka. Church "New Generation"
- ✓ Gorlovka. Church "Word of Life"
- ✓ Gorlovka. Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Pastor was arrested.
- ✓ Gorlovka. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses (Herzen Str., 4)
- ✓ Gorlovka. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses (Academic Williams Str., 3-a)
- ✓ Gorlovka. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses (Vitchiznyana Str., 105-a)
- ✓ Gorlovka. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses (Academic Korolyov Str., 75)
- ✓ Shakhtarsk. Church "Word of Life". Pastor Mykolay Kalynychenko was captured.
- ✓ Druzhkovka. "Church of Winners". Pastor Pavlo Les'ko and his wife were captured.
- ✓ Elenovka. Church and pastors' house were seized by guerillas.
- ✓ Snezchnoe – Church "Town of Faith"
- ✓ Torez . Church "Word of Life"
- ✓ Roven'ki. Church "Word of Life"
- ✓ Roven'ki. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses
- ✓ Lugansk. Prayer House of the Council of Churches of Evangelical Christian-Baptists
- ✓ Pereval'sk. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses
- ✓ Antrazit. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses
- ✓ Zchdanovka. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses
- ✓ Krasnyi Luch. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses
- ✓ Makeevka. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses
- ✓ Zuhres. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses
- ✓ Tel'manovo. Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses





**Pastor of “Assembly of God” Serhyi Kosyak after the “interrogation” in pro-Russian guerillas’ torture chamber**



**On June 8, 2014, after the festive Trinity Sunday service at the Transfiguration Church in Sloviansk, pro-Russian gunmen detained four members of the church: REUBEN PAVENKO, ALBERT PAVENKO, VIKTOR BRADARSKY AND VLADIMIR VELICHKO. The men were brutally beaten and killed.**

**Their bodies were found in a mass grave after the guerillas had left the city and the Ukrainian army took over.**



On June 14, in a terrorist attack on a bridge in Mariupol the “DNR” guerillas killed Sergei Skorobahach, a pastor of the Church “Renewal”, who chaired the Council of Churches of the city.



# Religion and Law within Eighteen post-Maidan months



- **New Law on Higher education was adopted**
- **Parliament adopted Law on Prison Chaplaincy**
- **Government issued Decree On Military Chaplaincy**
- **Theology was recognized as an educational discipline**
- **Amendments to the Law On Education allows Churches and religious organization to establish public schools and Universities**
- **Special tariffs**
- **Tax exemptions for religious organizations (natural gas and electricity)**





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