



churches of Christ
UKRAINE MISSIONS

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Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman

I am writing to ask explanations as to why a container of humanitarian aid I shipped to Zaporizhia was deliberately held hostage for FIVE plus months and those who acted criminally are being excused! The guilty is free and the innocent is punished! The Ministry of Social Policy, Customs and the Zaporizhia Department of National Police combined to obstruct this gift of compassion to Ukraine's ATO and the vulnerable citizens. Charges of criminal activity by the Fund were alleged but NEVER validated and the accuser was never made known. Criminal charges were made that never occurred by an unknown accuser resulted in criminal actions by Customs. The criminality of Customs' actions ARE validated because of Ukraine's Law.

- The Zaporizhia Department of National Police said they received communication that criminal proceedings were against Fund BUT no specifics were listed and no individual was named—a generic charge reflective of the injustices of the USSR in oppressing justice! Faceless accusers with manufactured crimes were the basis of the Ministry of Social Policy that were used by Customs and the Zaporizhia Department of National Police!
- No communication from Zaporizhia Department of National Police was provided listing requirements or claims or accusers of any criminal action. It was the threat of oppressive arrogance by Ukraine's officials!

The Benevolent Fund did all they could to get container released.

- The Fund addressed Ministry of Social Policy and Minister A.O. Reva personally asking for explanations but was ignored with silence.
- The Fund sent a letter to N.U. Korolevska, People's Deputy and heard nothing.
- The Fund called the Cabinet of Ministers' hotline and wrote letters to other respective institutions and heard nothing.
- The Representatives of the Department on Economy Protection in Zaporizhia Region, a subdivision on the National Police, claimed that they had submitted the results of the inspection to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and finally Ministry of Social Policy granted the approval (order #1446).

BUT now Customs claims the Fund owes a huge fine since the container was not distributed on time and remained in storage. HOW is this Fund's fault? Ministry of Social Policy, Customs and Zaporizhia Department of National Police should pay the fine because THEY were responsible for long storage. Those who were contacted and responded with silence should also pay fine because their failure to help strengthened the criminal actions of Customs.

By October 12, 2017 the Fund had secured all necessary papers to fill out Customs declaration. The papers were sent to the broker, Inna Oleksandrivna Khyba. The Fund received declarations on Oct 20. BUT now according to Customs officers from the Zaporizhia Customs the Fund is being forced to pay for the storage of these shipments. It is charged that the Fund was the one who would not distribute and kept the container in storage. BUT the ones responsible are Ministry of Social Policy and Zaporizhia Department of National Police and those who turned deaf ear to our pleas of help! The guilty are continuing in arrogance and the innocent are being punished. Where is justice in this? Those who are accusing the Fund of criminal behavior are themselves the criminals and need punished!



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Letters have been sent to these government officials—**Bryl K.I. Head of the Zaporizhia Regional State Administration; Rovarov V.P. Prosecutor of Zaporizhia Region, Cherkunov S.I. Head of Zaporizhia Customs, Fiscal Department of Ukraine.** But the arrogance of Customs and unconcern of Ukraine authorities have resulted in the criminal behavior against the Fund continuing!

Ukraine's rule of law for reimbursement of storage expenses reads "when calculating expenses Customs are not to work into the term to be paid those periods of time when an interior investigation, inspection or natural calamities take place, if there are respective documents to prove that." There is legal basis proving that the expenses are NOT owed by the Fund because this was an internal matter. Let Ministry of Social Policy, Customs and Zaporizhia Department of National Police pay the storage that they demand the Fund to pay! Once again, I state, those who are accusing the Fund of criminal behavior are themselves the criminals and need punished!

I ask you a simple question, WHO is responsible for Custom's arrogance? WHO told Ministry of Social Policy to hinder this delivery? WHAT penalty will be given to that person for the damage done in this situation? WHO is to apologize for the great insult given to those seeking to assist Ukraine?

I exert great energy and expense in obtaining humanitarian aid that is sent FREE to Ukraine. Is this the justice I can expect in Ukraine? Is this the compassion that Ukraine's authority has for those in need?

Because of this criminal action, I was refused approval by Ministry of Social Policy and had to divert another container going to Zaporizhia to give help to ATO families, the wounded, the widows, and the orphans. This resulted in demurrage and other fees (charged by Ukraine!) and I had to pay \$655.00 to the shipping company. This was not my fault but was the crime of Ministry of Social Policy and Customs. I intend to sue Ministry of Social Policy and Customs for this amount to be returned.

This is a disgrace to Ukraine—those who are seeking to help the vulnerable, ATO members, and others are treated with contempt and scorn. This will result in future humanitarian shipments NOT going to Ukraine but to other nations who are cooperative. I intend to send this report to all organizations I know who send humanitarian aid containers into Ukraine and give them names of countries who are cooperative and not as insulting as Ukraine.

I have shipped into Ukraine (2004-2017) a total of 293 containers. I have 3-4 more containers to be loaded and shipped into Ukraine this year. Since Russia's invasion and occupation, I have shipped food, supplies, medical equipment to hospitals and supplies to ATO. Such numbers of containers and supplies require great work and expense on my part. And yet I am insulted by the Ministry of Social Policy, Customs and Zaporizhia Department of National Police and those officials involved in this action! This year I shipped 3 containers to Republic of Georgia and 2 containers to Nigeria. These containers encountered NO obstruction and arrogant government interference like I have encountered with this container shipped to Zaporizhia! How does Ukraine feel when it is announced that it is easier to work with African nations and other Eastern European nations than with Ukraine? How will Ukraine look when this issue becomes published and the entire world will read of such arrogance that is allowed to control Ukraine? In the western mind these callous actions give credibility to Russia's arrogance and lessens Ukraine's innocence!

I am anxious to hear your reply.

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