

Об'єднана
Єврейська Община України



United
Jewish Community of Ukraine

**The Jewish community of Ukraine urge OSCE to create a commission for
comprehensive examination of situation with anti-Semitism in Ukraine**

United Jewish Community of Ukraine expresses its extreme concern in connection with the raise of anti-Semitic incidents in Ukraine and calls all member states of OSCE to create a commission for its comprehensive examination.

One of the largest, privately run, Ukrainian universities - Interregional Academy of Personnel Management which has more than 30, 000 students all over Ukraine became a major establishment that already for more than a year spreading hate as among its students as well as general Ukrainian public. The Academy publishes a monthly magazine "Personnel" and a weekly newspaper "Personnel Plus" where most of the articles are anti-Semitic and anti-Israel. Besides, the Academy runs a publishing house which publishes mainly anti-Semitic books. The Academy has strong and influential supporters among Ukrainian politicians. For example, first President of Ukraine and current Member of Parliament Mr. Leonid Kravchuk, former Foreign Minister and current chairman of Rukh party Boris Tarasuyk, members of parliament Mr. Boris Oliynik, Mr. Viktor Pinzenik, and others - are members or chairmen of different bodies of the University.

Only two Ukrainian newspapers have reacted for this unprecedented campaign of hate and both of them have lost defamation lawsuits filed by the Academy against them and what is shocked the Jewish community both of them Ukrainian court made to pay enormously high fines for their journalist investigations about anti-Semitic activity of the Academy and its President Mr. Schekin. Newspaper Stolychni Novosty, or Capital News, lost a \$565,000 defamation lawsuit concerning a series of articles that accused the Interregional Academy for Personnel Management and the academy's publications of anti-Semitism.

The Academy has also published work by American white supremacist and former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, whom the academy invited to lecture at an international conference in May 2002 and later published his book in Kiev. In a bookstore belonged to Academy and other places you can find a rich variety of anti-Semitic titles by different authors, Ukrainian and foreign ones.

There are also incidents of physical violence. Just recently, a Jewish youngster was beaten by skinheads at the main square of Ukrainian capital for wearing a shirt with Hebrew inscription. A few days ago a rabbi was beaten and seriously injured near the Central (Brodsky) synagogue by a group of young men. Nazi swastikas were painted at the walls of Ughgorod synagogue. All these happened just in recent days.

We appeal to OSCE to call upon Ukrainian government to thoroughly investigate anti-Semitic incidents and to bring those responsible in inflicting of interethnic hate to justice.