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Statement by the Head of the UOC  
Representation to European  
International Organizations

Bishop Victor (Kotsaba) of Baryshevka

**ON VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF THE UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OVER  
2015-2019 AND NECESSARY MEASURES TO ESTABLISH INTERFAITH PEACE IN  
UKRAINE**

Esteemed Participants of the Meeting!

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church has been openly persecuted by the state authorities for almost 5 years. Our temples are illegally seized; our believers are beaten up by the radicals and the police; the parliament of the last convocation passed the law depriving the UOC of its canonical name; criminal cases are opened against our priests for defending their faith and their parishioners. For example, in Grabovoye village our priest was brutally beaten during the raider seizure of the temple, his fingers were broken, while in Skobelka village, after the temple was taken over, the family of our cleric was expelled from the house in which he had lived for many years. Such offences occur almost everywhere. More detailed information on specific violations of the rights of believers of our faith is available in the newsletters of violations of the rights of the UOC, which are regularly published by the Department for External Church Relations of the UOC. Some of these newsletters are included in the supplement to this statement.

Considering the reasons for this situation with the UOC, it must be noted that violations of the believers' rights of our faith are eventuated by the policy of the ex-president of Ukraine P. Poroshenko supporting the non-canonical and religious organizations of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kiev Patriarchate and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church being unrecognized by the plentitude of Ecumenical Orthodoxy. Such a policy has been implemented in Ukraine since 2015, which led to a wave of seizures of temples in 2015-2017 and to numerous protests by

our believers<sup>1</sup>. To protect our rights, we systematically appeal to the police, prosecutors, central and local authorities, and courts. Unfortunately, many lawsuits are pending, and we cannot always enjoy the effective protection of our rights in the law enforcement system of Ukraine.

For example, due to the adoption by the parliament of Ukraine of the so-called “Law on the Renaming of the UOC”, we were forced to go to court with a request to cancel the obligation of our communities to change their names and include information on their belonging to the religious center in the Russian Federation, which does not correspond to reality, since a historically established canonical relationship of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church with the Russian Orthodox Church is only spiritual and does not entail any legal implications. The parliament of Ukraine of the previous convocation actually wanted to force us to abandon our canonical identity and the right to be called the Ukrainian Church, willing to impose on us a “pro-Moscow” label and divide the Ukrainian people again on the religious ground this time. Particularly, the requirement to forcefully change the names of religious organizations of the UOC is enacted by amending Article 12 of the Law of Ukraine “On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations” in accordance with Law No. 2662-VIII. Article 12 of the Law states that “a religious organization (association), which directly or as part of another religious organization (association), is included in the structure (form part) of a religious organization (association) whose lead center (administration) is located outside Ukraine in the state recognized by law as having committed military aggression against Ukraine and temporarily occupied the territory of Ukraine, shall be obliged in its full name, specified in its statute (regulation), to reflect jurisdictional affiliation with a religious organization (association) outside Ukraine which it is included in (forms part of) by obligatory reproduction of the full statutory name of such a religious organization (association) with the possible addition of the words "in Ukraine" and/or designating its place in the structure of a foreign religious organization.”

We hope that the newly elected parliament of Ukraine will correct this mistake and repeal this law. You can learn more about this case and the legal grounds for the illegitimacy of the law on renaming the UOC from the statement of the human rights organization NGO Public Advocacy during the 41st session of the UN HRC<sup>2</sup> (number in the search system of the UN documentation center A/HRC/41/NGO /26)

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<sup>1</sup> See periodical review of the human rights organization on violations of the UOC rights in 2014-2016 years: [https://publicadvocacynetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Report-of-NGO\\_about-violations-of-rights-of-UOC-1.pdf](https://publicadvocacynetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Report-of-NGO_about-violations-of-rights-of-UOC-1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/41/NGO/26>

Another way to intimidate our believers was the opening of criminal proceedings against human rights activist, Archpriest of the UOC, Fr. Viktor Zemlianoy, who was falsely accused of high treason and then of inciting religious hatred.

Fr. Viktor is the head of the Department for the Settlement of Interfaith Conflicts at the Rivne Diocese of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (hereinafter referred to as “the Department”). The functions of the Department include preparing legal documents, providing legal counsel, representing the interests of the Church at different state bodies. The Department is engaged in communication activities and other forms of assistance in the field of protecting the property of religious communities of the UOC. In fact, it carries out all necessary actions to prevent violent seizures of churches of the UOC, as well as is committed to returning the property to its legal owner. Therefore, Fr. Viktor together with other staff members of the Department has defended and promoted the rights of the UOC to religious freedom. The activity of the Department has proved to be effective, given that three temples were returned to the UOC and 27 temples were prevented from illegal takeover. In view of promoting and advancing human rights, Fr. Victor repeatedly reported to the media cases of illegal church seizures, use of physical force against priests and believers of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, illegal actions of law enforcement agencies and other cases of discrimination against religious communities.

The activities of Fr. Viktor in terms of the organization of the All-Ukrainian Religious Procession became the subject of the Communication 4/2018 of October 30, 2018, addressed to the Government of Ukraine by the Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. Fr. Viktor was a primary organizer of the aforesaid Religious Procession. Moreover, the Communication was in fact the result of the numerous individual and collective complaints prepared by Fr. Viktor for the UN Special Rapporteur Mr. Ahmed Shaheed. Fr. Victor was in charge of collecting all possible evidence about violations of the rights of believers in Ptycha village. The collected facts were handed over to our organization for subsequent appeal to international institutions. As a result, these facts were further submitted in different forms to the OSCE, European Court of Human Rights, as well as UN Special Rapporteurs. In particular, in the form of oral and written statements at the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meetings, written statements at the 37th, 38th, 39th and 40th regular sessions of the UNHRC, complaints to the European Human

Rights Court, as well as in the form of individual and collective complaints to the UN Special Rapporteurs.

In view of the active advocacy activities of Fr. Viktor and the absolute lack of guarantees of security from the state of Ukraine, investigative officers of the Security Service of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as “the SSU”) in connection with the criminal investigation, in which Fr. Victor was a witness, searched the house of the priest where he lived with his family. The officers of the SSU, armed with machine guns, threatened Fr. Victor, his wife and young children (7, 8 and 9 years old) to use force, brutally pushing them into the rooms of the house and not allowing them to get out. The search was carried out with numerous procedural violations including, but not limited to, the fact that the officers did not notify Fr. Viktor of his rights, denied him to contact his lawyer, threatened and intimidated him, and tried to convince him he’d better not inform anyone about the incident.

Later, on March 15, 2019, the SSU offered Fr. Victor a notice of suspicion of criminal offenses under Part 1 of Art. 161 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (deliberate actions aimed at inciting religious strife and hatred, insulting the feelings of citizens in connection with their religious beliefs) and Part 1 of Art. 300 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (deliberate actions aimed at the acquisition, distribution and storage of literature that promotes religious intolerance). Such suspicions in relation to Fr. Viktor are not supported by any facts and are actually a fiction. The books, which were confiscated from Fr. Victor, actually contain evidence on violations of the rights of the UOC believers. There are no calls for religious intolerance in the confiscated books. The accusations that Fr. Viktor took part in video footages produced in the Russian Federation are baseless, since, firstly, the videos contain no insults of religious feelings of believers and, secondly, the videos were taken from the Internet without prior consent of Fr. Viktor. The continual pressure, exerted on Father Victor, resulted in his releasing a public video-address which states about his persecution by the state authorities. We believe that the main purpose behind the abovementioned criminal investigations, interrogations and searches is to exert pressure on Fr. Viktor due to his activities as the head of the Department with a view to ending his human rights activity on the protection of the UOC believers’ rights.

One of the investigative officers of the SSU, when asked by the believers about the stance of Fr. Victor, answered: “You’re saying that he [Fr. Viktor] prayed for you? Well, now it’s time that you pray for him.” Therefore, we consider the actions of the SSU as a planned defamation campaign designed to damage personal reputation of Fr. Viktor, undermine public confidence in the UOC, intimidate and force the priest to

stop any actions whatsoever of the Department. In this regard, we believe that the activities of the law enforcement agencies of Ukraine are disproportionate to the aim pursued, illegal and constitute a gross interference in the personal life of the human rights defender, Fr. Viktor.

So far, the case against the cleric has not been closed, and this remains a real threat to freedom of speech and religion in Ukraine.

In 2018, since the decree of the Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople to grant autocephaly to breakaway religious entities the UOC-KP and UAOC, the number and intensity of violations of the rights of our believers has increased significantly.

For example, according to the official data of our Church, the number of illegal re-registration of statutes of the UOC religious communities in favor of the "OCU" by the officials of state regional administrations amounted to: in Volyn Region - 67, Rivne Region - 48, Chernivtsi Region - 11, Zhytomyr Region - 15, Khmelnytsky Region - 42, Ternopil Region - 27, Vinnytsia Region - 2, Ivano-Frankivsk region - 2, Transcarpathian region - 5, Poltava region - 1, Kirovograd region - 1, Kyiv region - 1. All in all, the number of illegal re-registrations has affected 222 religious communities of the UOC.

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Such cases of re-registration of communities occur by voting at gatherings of individuals who have no relation to the religious organizations of the UOC and who are deprived of the right to vote at meetings of a religious community. However, this fact is widely ignored by public authorities, which since 2015 have adopted fictitious minutes of general meetings for execution and re-register our communities leaving believers only with a possibility to judicially defend their rights in long-term litigation. At the same time, the eviction of our believers from their temples, on the contrary, is carried out in a simplified manner. One gets the impression that the police present at the seizures of our temples forget that a person can be evicted from the premises he/she occupies only via a court order. However, the state might think that the UOC believers are not people and are not bearers of human rights, since they can be thrown out of their premises without any court decision, suffer fractures and beatings in the presence of government officials and the police. Once again, I draw attention to the fact that today there is not a single court decision on the eviction of our

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<sup>3</sup> <https://law.church.ua/2019/06/19/u-kijevo-pecherskij-lavri-vidbulisya-chergovizbori-predstavnikiv-jeparxialnix-yuridichnix-viddiliv-upc-2/>

communities from their churches, but the number of communities and people openly expelled from their premises with the use of violence amounts to hundreds.

Apparently, starting from 2015 until the present day, violations of the rights of believers of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church are systemic, which is why the Holy Synod of the UOC issued several documents that actually hold the state authorities and Patriarch Bartholomew accountable for mass violations of the rights of believers<sup>4</sup>:

- pursuant to the decision of the Holy Synod of the UOC dated December 7, 2018: “To state that on the part of the state authorities, baseless criminal prosecutions are carried out and pressure is exerted on the episcopate, clergy and faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in order to force them to take part in the so-called unification council [Constituent Assembly on the establishment of a new Local Church]. To consider such actions as violation of the constitutional right of Ukrainian citizens to freedom of religion.”

- pursuant to the decision of the Holy Synod of the UOC dated April 3, 2019:

“We ask the state authorities not to interfere in church affairs, and thereby not contribute to the incitement of religious hatred through their actions, and to also cancel the requirements of the Law of Ukraine No. 2673-VIII of 17.01.2019 on the compulsory renaming of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church; as being unconstitutional and contrary to the norms of Ukrainian and international law and basic principles of human rights and freedoms. We also appeal to the government not to facilitate forcible seizures of our Church parishes by illegal re-registration. The Lord gives rulers power not for the creation of discord in society, but for the cultivation of peace, tranquility and harmony among all citizens of the country.”<sup>5</sup>

Thus, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church has in fact officially stated that its rights are violated by the state pursuing a systematic and coordinated policy of infringing on the rights of religious organizations and UOC believers at different levels of the exercise of the right to freedom of religion.

Concern over the situation of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church was also expressed by OHCHR, which in its “Report on the situation with the human rights in Ukraine dated February 16 - March 15, 2019” stated the following:

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<sup>4</sup><https://news.church.ua/2019/04/03/statement-of-the-holy-synod-of-the-ukrainian-orthodox-church-on-the-current-situation-in-ukrainian-and-world-orthodoxy/?lang=en>

<sup>5</sup> <https://news.church.ua/2019/04/03/statement-of-the-holy-synod-of-the-ukrainian-orthodox-church-on-the-current-situation-in-ukrainian-and-world-orthodoxy/?lang=en>

«86. The OHCHR monitored the process of the transition of parishes and religious communities from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church to the newly formed Orthodox Church of Ukraine, noting that these processes are often of a conflicting nature and in some cases were accompanied by violence from supporters of both Churches. The OHCHR has documented 9 cases accompanied by violence from supporters of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine in the Kiev and Rivne regions. The OHCHR is concerned about the involvement of non-religious actors, in particular local authorities and extreme right-wing groups, in the process of such transfers, as well as police inaction during the above incidents.

87. In six cases, the OHCHR has documented constant intimidation and threats against clergy and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church even after the communities lost control of the temples. In addition, in at least ten documented cases, the police were reported to have contributed or not responded to violence, threats and intimidation, although they were present at the scene.

88. On 22 April 2019, the Kiev District Administrative Court decided to suspend the process of compulsory renaming of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church until a final court decision. In accordance with the amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations” adopted by the Parliament on December 20, 2018, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church was obliged to accomplish the process of renaming before April 26, 2019.”

Also, on October 30, 2018, there was signed a communication statement of the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions without due process and arbitrary executions was signed, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of thought and expression, the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. This document is an inquiry from the above-mentioned Special Rapporteurs to the State of Ukraine in order to obtain an answer with clarifications regarding the violations of the rights of believers of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

It is evident that at the international level the problem of violations of the rights of the UOC believers has been widely publicized and these facts call for an adequate response.

At the same time, it is important to understand that the project of granting autocephaly to non-canonical religious structures of the UOC-KP and UAOC has actually proved to be a complete failure, since neither the Tomos nor the idea of

creating a new church subordinated to the Patriarch of Constantinople found favor with the Ukrainian people. It is evidenced by the actual refusal of the leadership of the Kiev Patriarchate from the autocephaly bestowed by Patriarch Bartholomew, and their starting an internecine struggle with the "OCU" for the preservation of their status. Thus, the structures which used to actively back the idea of autocephaly and Tomos in 2017-2018, after the idea came to light, fully felt its effects and joined the camp of communities and believers suffering from violent arbitrariness and coercion to join the OCU.

Finishing my speech, I'd like to note our Church has a glimmer of hope, since new President of Ukraine Mr. Zelensky openly declared that *"the government should not interfere in church affairs and he will defend the independence of the Church."*<sup>6</sup>

Therefore, we believe and anticipate the new Ukrainian power to repair the mistakes of the predecessors and stop the violation of our believers' rights. We also request the international community to fully support Ukraine in this respect.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church once again recommends to the Ukrainian authorities:

- to repeal the amendment to Article 12 of the Law of Ukraine "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations", which provides for the forced renaming of religious organizations or abolish the practice of qualification (recognition) of religious organizations of the UOC as structures whose names are subject to change by indicating the information about their affiliation to the Russian Federation;
- to end the prosecution of Fr. Viktor Zemlianoy and close criminal proceedings opened against him as having no actual grounds;
- to bring to justice those responsible for causing bodily harm to the believers of the UOC, especially in cases where criminals do not hide and can be easily identified. Such cases are marker-like in character – public impunity of crimes must be curbed immediately;
- to carry out state registration of 11 monasteries and dioceses of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which has not been finalized by the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine for 5 years causing the UOC to appeal to the court;

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.segodnya.ua/politics/zelenskiy-varfolomeyu-ya-budu-zashchishchat-nezavisimost-cerkvi-1314218.html>

- to cease the practice of state stimulation, propaganda and actual support of illegal re-registrations of religious organizations of the UOC in favor of the "OCU" by means of fictitious votes at meetings of individuals unrelated to the UOC communities;
- to ensure the cessation of forced seizures of temples belonging to the UOC –through physical protection of believers by the police and compliance with the requirements of the law on the impossibility of evicting persons from the premises occupied by them without relevant court decisions.

We recommend and ask the OSCE and the Participating States, in accordance with their mandate and capabilities, to promote the establishment of religious peace in Ukraine based on justice and real protection of rights.

Thank you for your attention!

Bishop Victor (Kotsaba)  
 Head of the UOC Representation  
 to European International Organizations

*Supplements:*

*Annex 1:*

*- a table of information on cases of violations of the rights of the UOC believers in decisions and documents, published on the website of the UN Documentation Center;*

*Annex 2:*

*- a collection of newsletters of the UOC DECR with case studies of violations of the rights of the UOC believers.*

Annex 1:

Description of the contents of thematic statements of NGO published on the UN site <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org>

Document number under the UN documentation system (just enter the document number in Google to open it)	The scope of documents (full texts of the first four statements are published below)
<a href="https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G1901001/SYND/ENG/DOC/1901001.pdf?OpenElement">A/HRC/42/NGO/19</a>  <b>ON VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF BELIEVERS OF THE</b>	The statement describes how the situation in Ukraine has changed since the re-election of the President of Ukraine. The political persecution of the UOC believers by the ex-President of Ukraine P. Poroshenko has abated, yet will

<p><b>UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH AND POSSIBILITIES OF ESTABLISHING RELIGIOUS PEACE</b></p> <p><b><u>Available by the link:</u></b>  <a href="http://www.protiktor.com/42hrcsession">www.protiktor.com/42hrcsession</a></p>	<p>the new President of Ukraine V. Zelensky protect democracy and religious freedom in Ukraine? The human rights NGO, which defends the rights of believers in Ukraine, has presented an action plan to the UNHRC on redress for the violation of rights of Christians in Ukraine.</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">A/HRC/42/NGO/20</a></u></b></p> <p><b>On tension in World Orthodoxy and official response of the Holy Synod of UOC to the growing violations of the UOC believers' rights in light of granting the Tomos of autocephaly</b></p> <p><b><u>Available by the link:</u></b>  <a href="http://www.protiktor.com/42hrcsession">www.protiktor.com/42hrcsession</a></p>	<p>The document contains references to the decisions of the Holy Synod of UOC, which recognize the facts of violations of the UOC believers' rights by the authorities in Ukraine: seizures of temples, mass non-registration of statutes of religious organizations, criminal prosecution of clergy, acts of discrimination.</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">A/HRC/41/NGO/26</a></u></b></p> <p><b>On the victimization law on forcible renaming of 12,000 communities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church</b></p> <p><b><u>Available by the link:</u></b>  <a href="http://www.protiktor.com/41hrcsession">www.protiktor.com/41hrcsession</a></p>	<p>The statement contains a legal opinion on the incompatibility with the norms of international law of the so-called "law on renaming" (Law of Ukraine "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations"). This law obliges all UOC religious organizations (about 12,000 entities) to compulsorily register changes in their statutes and indicate in them that they are affiliated with a religious center, registered in a state being recognized in Ukraine as an aggressor. Consequently, the law illegally stigmatizes Ukrainian citizens, believers of the UOC as members of the organization being hostile to the state. The law actually victimizes people, aims to divide society to create an atmosphere of religious animosity. Religious organizations of the UOC are forced by the authorities to give up historical names, while its believers are hampered to freely practice their religious identity, which is part of the right to freedom of religion.</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">A/HRC/41/NGO/24</a></u></b></p> <p><b>On violations of the rights of believers of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church by the actions of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and the responsibility of Patriarch Bartholomew for mass violations of human rights in Ukraine</b></p> <p><b><u>Available by the link:</u></b></p>	<p>The statement contains an exclusive legal analysis of the decisions of the Patriarchate of Constantinople on granting the Tomos to Ukraine. In particular, it is established that the Constantinople Patriarchate concealed full texts of the decisions of the CP's Holy Synod. The statement verifies and describes the relationship between violations of the rights of Christians in Ukraine and the decisions of the Patriarchate of Constantinople, as well as holds the leadership of this denomination to account for the emergence of a new wave of seizure of temples, discrimination and religious hatred.</p>

<p><a href="http://www.protiktor.com/41hrsession">www.protiktor.com/41hrsession</a></p>	
<p><a href="#">A/HRC/41/NGO/19</a></p> <p><b>Impunity for human rights violations and abuses committed against human rights activists who defend Ukrainian Orthodox Church</b></p> <p><b><u>Available by the link:</u></b> <a href="http://www.protiktor.com/41hrsession">www.protiktor.com/41hrsession</a></p>	<p>The statement describes the facts of violating the rights of human right activists defending the UOC believers. It provides an insight into the facts of their being charged with criminal offences, searched, including in connection with their efforts to protect the rights of believers.</p>
<p><a href="#">A/HRC/41/NGO/23</a></p> <p><b>On the seizure and re-arrest of the church building located in the village of Ptichya, Dubno District, Rovno Region, Ukraine</b></p> <p><b><u>Available by the link:</u></b> <a href="http://www.protiktor.com/41hrsession">www.protiktor.com/41hrsession</a></p>	<p>The statement describes a high-profile case of arresting and blocking worship services in the temple of the UOC religious community of Ptichya village, Rovno Region, Ukraine. The case is resonant, as the church was arrested by the decision of the authorities in criminal proceedings, despite the fact that the UOC community has ownership of the temple, repeatedly confirmed by the courts of Ukraine. The temple was eventually taken over by armed representatives of radical organizations.</p>
<p><a href="#">A/HRC/41/NGO/22</a></p> <p><b>On violations of the rights of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church</b></p> <p><b><u>Available by the link:</u></b> <a href="http://www.protiktor.com/41hrsession">www.protiktor.com/41hrsession</a></p>	<p>The statement describes some evidence of hate speech towards believers of the UOC in the documents of public authorities, high-profile cases of beating believers by the units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Katerinovka village, Ternopol Region; the cases of raider seizure of temples in the villages of Ptichya of Rovno Region and Kolomyia of Ivano-Frankovsk Region; facts of violations of the believers' rights during the All-Ukrainian Cross Procession. The text of this statement is regularly re-published in the UN system in order to draw the attention of the international community to these outstanding issues.</p>
<p><a href="#">A/HRC/41/NGO/20</a></p> <p><b>Intimidation and reprisals of human rights defenders and Christians in Ukraine</b></p> <p><b><u>Available by the link:</u></b> <a href="http://www.protiktor.com/41hrsession">www.protiktor.com/41hrsession</a></p>	<p>The document contains a legal assessment of the criminal responsibility of the priest of the UOC, the head of the Human Rights Department of Rovno Eparchy of the UOC, Fr. Viktor Zemlianoy, who was persecuted for the protection of Christians in Ukraine.</p>

**The need for counter-terrorism measures in Ukraine**

**Available by the link:**  
[www.protiktor.com/41hrsession](http://www.protiktor.com/41hrsession)

The statement reveals the participation of radical organizations in the persecution of Christian believers in Ukraine, including attacks on monasteries and the media. The state of Ukraine is urged to strengthen counter-terrorism measures in relation to radical structures, while the international community – to render comprehensive support to the State of Ukraine in this matter.

Annex 2:

- a collection of newsletters of the UOC DECR with case studies of violations of the rights of the UOC believers.

**Bulletin No. 5 of Rights Violations  
of Ukrainian Orthodox Church parishioners and clergy  
for the period from 17.07.2019 to 20.08.2019**

Starting from January 6, 2019, after the creation of the so-called Orthodox Church of Ukraine ("OCU") and the granting of the Tomos of Autocephaly by the Ecumenical (Constantinopolitan) Patriarchate to its Primate, an unprecedented campaign was launched in Ukraine against the parishioners and clergy Local Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC).

As part of this campaign, representatives of the Ukrainian state authorities are conducting undisguised agitation for the so-called "transfer" of religious communities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church to the so-called "OCU". They are exerting administrative and military pressure against the clergy and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church help, and are assisting the radical militarised groups, the so-called "activists" to seize churches and itemise its property which legally belongs to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. They also help to initiate the adoption of changes to national legislation that violate the Constitution of Ukraine and the fundamental rights of believers.

The main goal of this Bulletin is to inform: the clergymen and parishioners from other Local Orthodox Churches, the representatives of stateforeign governments, the mass media, human rights and expert organisations about the most blatant violations of 2 the rights of parishioners and clergymen of the UOC in Ukraine and cases of direct interference of the Ukrainian government into the affairs of the Church.

During the period from July 17, 2019 to August 20, 2019, dozens of cases of gross violations of the rights of parishioners and clergy of the UOC in Ukraine were recorded and confirmed:

1. Factual information about the seizure of churches and other cases of the use of physical force and pressure on UOC parishioners in order to forcefully transfer churches and religious communities to the jurisdiction of the "OCU":

- On July 28, during the Liturgy, unidentified men, some of whom were heavily intoxicated, illegally entered the church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the village of Susval, Volodymyr-Volynskyi Raion. Brought in from various places and led by several so-called "priests" of the newly formed "OCU" organisation, they had a specific task in mind - to disrupt the festal service and to provoke another seizure of a UOC church. They were joined by locals who have nothing to do with church life in the village. The "OCU" supporters blocked the entrance to the church, essentially taking hostage - the church rector Father Bohdan Hnatiuk, choristers, and worshipers who were present at

the service , and prevented anyone from either entering or leaving the church or even passing on food to the hostages inside.

Read more: <https://енархія.укр/v-den-sviatoho-kniaza-volodymyra-zamist-radostinenavyst-zloba-pohrozy/>

- On Sunday, August 4, 2019, in the village of Boblyn, Turiyskyi Raion of Volyn Oblast', "OCU" supporters together with a so-called "priest" of this structure staged another provocation in the Holy Protection Church , in order to disrupt the Liturgy for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church worshippers. "OCU" supporters led by the out of town "priest" went to the church, and referring to the Protocol/Minutes of the Meeting of the Territorial Community of the village, began to demand that the UOC church be handed over to them.

In response to the failure of the UOC parishioners to recognise the legitimacy of the Protocol/Minutes that was brought by the supporters of the newly created "OCU" organisation , the latter staged a provocation by blocking the entrance to the church for UOC worshippers. But the Ukrainian Orthodox parishioners somehow managed to gain access to their church and participate in the Sunday service. According to journalists, that same so-called "priest" had participated in the provocation, which a week ago, on July 28, was arranged by "OCU" supporters in the village of Susval.

Read more: <https://news.church.ua/2019/08/08/u-pcu-nevdalonamagayutsyazavaditi-pravoslavnim-ukrajincyam-molitisya/>

- On Sunday, August 11, 2019, in the village of Bobly, Turiyskyi Raion, Volyn Oblast', "OCU" supporters accompanied by three so-called " OCU priests " , staged another provocation at the Holy Trinity Church of the UOC - by cutting the locks to the church, and illegally entered the church, where they staged a fight.

When "OCU " representatives had already seized the church, the Vicar added, and UOC community members were starting to arrive for the service, the provocateurs began to violently grab their hands and inflict injuries right there inside the church. As a result of the provocation against the UOC community, a statement was lodged with the local police with regards to the forced illegal entry into their church building and deliberate injuries inflicted upon parishioners.

Read more: <https://news.church.ua/2019/08/11/na-volini-pid-spivrepresentativeivpcu-zlovnisniki-zlamali-dveri-xramu-a-potim-pobili-viryannya-upcvideo/>

- On 11 August 2019, a group of radicals attacked an Orthodox priest as well as local police in an attempt to forcibly seize the local church in the village of Haluzyntsi, Derazhnyanskyi Raion, Khmelnytskyi Oblast'. The formal reason for the seizure was the unlawful re-registration of the UOC church to "OCU" jurisdiction. As early as February 11, 2019, the congregation of the UOC church's 80-strong religious community, that was chaired by the church's rector Oleksandr Honcharuk, made the decision to remain with the canonical UOC Church. At the same time, the "territorial" community, which held its meeting at the club between February 23 and 27, 2019, decided to transfer jurisdiction to the so-called "OCU". The main initiators of this "transfer" were two Catholic women, who have nothing to do with the Orthodox Church.

Read more: <https://news.church.ua/2019/08/12/u-galuzinci-na-xmelnichchinipidchas-shturmu-xramu-upc-radicali-pobili-svyashhennika-i-policejskix/>

- On August 10, an attempt was made by "OCU" supporters to seize the church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the village of Dorotyshche, Kovelskyi Raion. The church raiders decided to break into the church using crowbars and an angle grinder, and even called the police themselves on their way to the church, stating that there was a bomb planted in the church during the evening service.

The initiators of these highly controversial actions were Kovelskyi Raion head Mr. Andriy Broyilo - an ardent supporter of the newly created "OCU". UOC believers from Kovel and neighbouring villages called the police to come to the aid of the Orthodox community. Seeing that there was a majority on the side of the UOC faithful, the "OCU" activists held back their aggression and the police began to resolve the matter. After thoroughly examining the documents of the supporters of the conflict situation, the police found that the UOC community had all the rights to the church, while the representatives of the newly created structure were in possession of documents that were complete forgeries. The provocateurs subsequently drove away on buses, and the Orthodox believers were forced to organise a regular guard at their church.

Read more: <https://news.church.ua/2019/08/13/pravoslavni-volinyanivchergovevidstoyali-svij-xram-vid-zaxoplennya-pravim-sector-ta-klirikami-pcuvideo/>

- On August 20, 2019, representatives of the Volyn Regional State Administration (RSA) law enforcement agencies, and "OCU" supporters, attempted to seize the UOC Holy Transfiguration Church in the village of Chetvertnya, Manevtskyi Raion. A commission came from the RSA, whose job it was to "transfer" the church to the local supporters of "OCU", who illegally reregistered the UOC community and, without breaking the agreement with the old owners, concluded a new one with the regional authorities. In the presence of the RSA and the police, "OCU" supporters proceeded to cut the church door locks. When UOC believers requested that police to counteract what was happening, law enforcement officers suggested that they write a statement.

For more detailed information, see:

[https://strana.ua/news/217933-na-volyni-storonniki-ptsu-pytalyszakhvatit-pravoslavnyj-khram.html?fbclid=IwAR0PJoMmTJ3C\\_Z2Rtl0u0Kz8vmpSEFBzCfBtKbrXSrwMg0IDLcgERTIz9g](https://strana.ua/news/217933-na-volyni-storonniki-ptsu-pytalyszakhvatit-pravoslavnyj-khram.html?fbclid=IwAR0PJoMmTJ3C_Z2Rtl0u0Kz8vmpSEFBzCfBtKbrXSrwMg0IDLcgERTIz9g)

Also: <https://www.facebook.com/oleg.tochinsky/posts/2467211023509557>

<https://youtu.be/U8N9j2r6rEQ>

- On August 18, prior to the commencement of prayer services in the Holy Protection church in the village of the Ryasnyky, Hoshchanskyi Raion of the UOC Rivne Eparchy. "OCU" supporters armed with an order prepared by Acting Chairman of the Rivne Regional State Administration, Mr. Ihor Tymoshenko, and accompanied by their "priest" as well as radicals from neighbouring villages attempted to hold a prayer service of their own in the UOC church.

The religious community of the UOC in the village of Ryasnyky, which is much larger than the community of the UOC, is in possession of all the necessary documents that confirm that the faithful of the UOC are the sole legitimate owners of the temple. Therefore, all claims and demands of any other community are not legitimate.

On August 18, the religious community of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the village of Kalnivtsi in the Kitsman Raion of Chernivtsi Oblast' held their first prayer service in a private house after being expelled from their own church by "OCU" supporters.

Read more: <https://news.church.ua/2019/08/20/pobittya-zaxoplennypidrobkadokumentiv-xronologiya-religijnogo-zhittya-v-ukrajini-za-ostannij-tizhdenfoto-video/>

## 2. Cases of direct administrative and forcible pressure exerted on UOC clergy by Ukrainian state authorities

- Archpriest Victor Zemlyanoy, the Head of the UOC Department for the Settlement of Inter-Confessional Conflicts at the Rivne Eparchy of the UOC was issued with yet another notice of suspicion by the State Security Service of Ukraine (SBU). The relevant authorities initiated criminal proceedings against the priest two years ago, and he was due to come to the Security Service of Ukraine in Rivne region on August 5, 2019 "for the announcement of changes to the previously

reported notice of suspicion in the criminal proceedings, "- states the notice of suspicion. Now, the cleric from the Rivne Eparchy of the UOC will be charged under Article 161 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine "Violation of citizens' equality based on their race, nationality or religious belief".

Read more: <https://news.church.ua/2019/08/03/rivnenske-sbu-znovuviklikajeprotoijereya-viktora-zemlyanogo-namagatimutsya-inkriminuvati-novustattyu/>

Also: <https://news.church.ua/2019/08/08/this-is-completely-absurd-saysarchpriest-victor-zemlyanoy-after-receiving-a-notice-of-suspicion-at-a-regional-sbubbranch-video/?lang=en>

- Another unlawful re-registration of a UOC religious community in the Rivne Regional State Administration in the favour of the so-called "OCU" . Outraged Archpriest Andriy Bezdomov and parishioners of the John the Theologian church in the village of Zabolottya, Volodymyrets'kyi Raion in Rivne Oblast', learned about this from a publication on the Internet! Members of the 6 Polisko-Sarnenskyi Eparchy, have noticed an alarming signal with regards to bureaucrats - that being, a return to the policy of inciting inter-confessional enmity in Ukraine during the presidency of Petro Poroshenko.

More: <https://news.church.ua/2019/08/01/chorni-rejestratori-z-rivnenskoji-odaprodovzhuyut-bezzakonnya-poperednikiv-pererejestrovano-shhe-odnu-parafiyuupc/>

### 3. The protection of the rights of UOC clergy and parishioners in the judicial field.

- On July 22, 2019, at the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeal a court hearing was held on the appeal of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine against the decision of the District Administrative Court of Kyiv on securing the claim dated April 22, 2019 in the case No. 640/4748/19, pursuant to which the statement of the Kyiv Metropolis, Ukrainian Orthodox Church was upheld, and it is forbidden for the subjects of state registration to carry out any registration actions concerning the information contained in the Unified State Register of Legal Entities, Natural Persons , businesses and communities, in relation to the UOC Kyiv Metropolis including :monasteries, theological seminaries, and eparchies that are members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Read more: <https://law.church.ua/2019/07/23/shostim-apelyacijnimadministrativnim-sudom-uxvalu-sudu-pershoji-instanciji-pro-zabezpechennyapozovu-u-spravi-pro-oskarzhennya-religijeznavchoji-ekspertizi-zalisheno-bezzmin/>

#### Brief information about the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC).

The UOC is the Local Orthodox Church of the people of Ukraine, which is officially recognised by all the Orthodox Churches of the world and is in spiritual communion with them. Spiritual and prayerful unity with the entire Orthodox world is witnessed by the Patriarchs and Primate of all the Local Churches, who repeatedly come to Kyiv to celebrate Divine services with the Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine.

The UOC is completely independent and self-governing in its administration and structure. The Administrative Centre of the UOC is located in Kyiv, Ukraine. According to the UOC Charter, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church independently elects the Primate and Bishops, ordains priests, conducts administrative and economic activities.

The highest authority in the UOC belongs to the Church Council, which is made up of the bishops, ministers and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The UOC is the largest Church in Ukraine, uniting millions of believers in 12,092 territorial church communities.

The UOC has 258 monasteries, 4,500 monks and 90 bishops. During the time of Ukraine's independence, thousands of churches and hundreds of monasteries have been erected and restored with donations from believers of the UOC.

The UOC has consistently advocated the unity, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine and unites the Orthodox citizens of Ukraine, regardless of their nationality, political convictions or place of residence. In all its sermons, the UOC blesses Ukraine, the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian state.

**Bulletin No4 of Rights Violations  
of Ukrainian Orthodox Church parishioners and clergy  
for the period from 11.06.2019 to 16.07.2019**

Starting from January 6, 2019, after the creation of the so-called Orthodox Church of Ukraine ("OCU") and the granting of the Tomos of Autocephaly by the Ecumenical (Constantinopolitan) Patriarchate to its Primate, an unprecedented campaign was launched in Ukraine against the parishioners and clergy of the Local Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC).

As part of this campaign, representatives of the Ukrainian state authorities are conducting undisguised agitation for the so-called "transition" of religious communities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church to the "OCU". They are exerting administrative and military pressure against the clergy and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and are assisting the radical militarised groups, the so-called "activists", to seize churches, and itemise its property which belongs to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. They also help to initiate the adoption of changes to national legislation that violate the Constitution of Ukraine and the fundamental rights of believers.

The main goal of this Bulletin is to inform: the clergymen and parishioners from other Local Orthodox Churches, the representatives of foreign governments, the mass media, human rights and expert organisations about the most blatant violations of the rights of parishioners and clergymen of the UOC in Ukraine and cases of direct interference of the Ukrainian government into the affairs of the Church.

During the period June 11 to July 16, 2019, dozens of cases of gross violations of the rights of parishioners and clergy of the UOC in Ukraine were recorded and confirmed:

1. Factual information about the seizure of churches and other cases of the use of physical force and pressure on UOC parishioners in order to forcefully transfer churches and religious communities to the jurisdiction of the "OCU":

- June 13, 2019, at about 6 pm, in the village of Dorotyshche, Kovel'skyi Rayon, in the UOC Volodymyr-Volyn'ska Eparchy, "OCU" representatives gathered people to participate in the forcible seizure of the Holy Assumption church. The instigator of the forced change of jurisdiction of the UOC church to the "OCU" was the Chairman of the Kovel'skyi Rayon Council Andriy Broilo. Police actually started to lodge a report against the two local residents who had broken the locks to the church, but the perpetrators escaped over the church fence when they were about to be photographed for the police report. The "OCU clerics" and people dressed in camouflage subsequently got into a car and left the village. Taking the side of the church raiders were only seven local Dorotyshche village residents but on the side of the UOC parishioners were fifty local villagers who had come to help defend the church.
- June 13, 2019, at about 6 pm, in the village of Dorotyshche, Kovel'skyi Rayon, in the UOC Volodymyr-Volyn'ska Eparchy, "OCU" representatives gathered people to participate in the forcible seizure of the Holy Assumption church. The instigator of the forced change of jurisdiction of the UOC church to the "OCU" was the Chairman of the Kovel'skyi Rayon Council Andriy Broilo. Police actually started to lodge a report against the two local residents who had broken the locks to the church, but the perpetrators

escaped over the church fence when they were about to be photographed for the police report. The "OCU clerics" and people dressed in camouflage subsequently got into a car and left the village. Taking the side of the church raiders were only seven local Dorotyshche village residents but on the side of the UOC parishioners were fifty local villagers who had come to help defend the church.

Read more: <https://news.church.ua/2019/06/13/us-dorotishhe-na-volini->

<viryaniiprognalipredstavnikiv-pcu-yaki-z-bolgarkoyu-prijshli-zaxoplyuvati-jixnij-xram-foto/>

- Members of the UOC religious community of the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the village of Nova Moshchanytsia, Rivneska Oblast', are extremely worried and concerned about the aggressive behaviour of the "OCU" activists in their village. The family of the parish rector, who lives with his young children are regularly terrorised and threatened at night by "OCU" activists. UOC parishioners have resorted to taking turns to guard and protect their priest.

Read more: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/62832-verujushhiye-novoj-moshhancy-neuzheli-myv->

<svoje-strane-dolzny-tak-stradaty>

- On June 15, 2019, in the village of Nuyno in Volynska Oblast', "OCU" activists again cut the locks to the UOC Holy Protection Church, which they had managed to forcibly seize. There are two churches in Nuyno - the Holy Transfiguration in the centre of the village and the Holy Protection church which is on the territory of the village cemetery, but only one priest served in the village. Former parish rector Ivan Fatych had transferred to the "OCU" in February, 2019 after which the chairman of the village 3 council Vitaliy Yaroshchuk, Fatych himself, and activists of the newly created religious organisation attempted to seize both village churches.

Read more: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/62897-v-sele-nujno-aktivisty-pcu-otbirajut-uverujushhih->

<upc-oba-selyskih-khrama>

- Under pressure from the head of the so-called "OCU" community Mykola Melnyk, the Chairman of the Buderazh village council attempted to persuade the rector of the UOC church to agree to a system of alternate worship services. The head of the "OCU" community threatened the UOC clergyman Archpriest Vyacheslav Gryshchuk, that the Holy Protection Church would be forcibly seized. He blackmailed the priest using the local village head, thus, avoiding personal negotiations.

Read more: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/63205-v-sele-buderazh-glava-obshhiny-pcuugrozhajet->

<svyashhenniku-zahvatom-cerkvi>

- On June 15, 2019, "OCU" activists attempted to forcibly seize the Holy Transfiguration church in the village of Luka Meleshkivska in the Vinnytsia Raion. "OCU" supporters led by the "priest" Viktor Chverkun, trespassed onto the territory of the church in the morning, when a prayer service was being held in the church. "OCU" supporters attacked Archpriests Valeriy Shvets and Petro Chaplinskyi, and bashed several parishioners causing bodily harm. Despite this, the clergy and parishioners managed to prevent the seizure of their church. Seeing that the planned provocation had failed, the "OCU" activists made an improvised provocation: leaving the churchyard, they blocked the entrances as well as roads leading out of the village in several places.

More details: <http://eparhia.vinnica.ua/item/760-vchyneno-sprobu-sylovoho-zakhoplenniakhramu->

<v-lutsi->

[meleshkivskiiionovlyuyetsya.html?fbclid=IwAR0NqQdkrpX7wJ8hOpoTPMzYTBqZxyDpzn\\_HKUp4PF9](meleshkivskiiionovlyuyetsya.html?fbclid=IwAR0NqQdkrpX7wJ8hOpoTPMzYTBqZxyDpzn_HKUp4PF9)

<keQvVPMpu7kz1Co>

- 30 June, during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, a group of local "OCU" activists who were accompanied by out-of-towners with strong build and under the leadership of "OCU cleric" from the Vinnytsia-Bar Eparchy Viktor Chverkun, attacked parishioners of the Transfiguration Church in the

village of Luka-Meleshkivska located in the Vinnytskiy Rayon. During this attack, the "OCU" supporters strengthened their 4 ranks with so-called "titushki" and acted even more harshly and brutally than usual (the priests had already met with these "guest performers" during a provocation in the Kozyatynskiy Raion). Having gathered in sufficient numbers, the "OCU" activists supported by the "titushki" attacked the church, and tried to break down the door. They were prevented from doing so by male parishioners. Even though the penetration by activists into the church was prevented, but soon began to pull out worshippers one by one and beat them. The men were first brought down to the ground, and then kicked. Some defenders of the church suffered serious bodily injuries, and appropriate statements were made to the law enforcement agencies.

Read more: <http://eparhia.vinnica.ua/item/779-vchynenosprobuzakhoplenniakhramuvlutsimeleshkivskii.html>

- On June 19, 2019, the clergy and faithful of the Vinnytsia, Tulchyn and MohilivPodilskiy eparchies of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church held a prayer vigil in front of the Vinnytska Oblast' Administration building. More than two thousand UOC faithful residing in the Vinnitska Oblast' led by Metropolitan Jonathan of Tulchyn and Bratslav, Archbishop Varsonofiy of Vinnitsa and Bar and Bishop Serhiy of Ladyzhyn offered up their prayers and handed an appeal to the head of the Regional State Administration V. V. Koroviy.

Read more: <http://eparhia.vinnica.ua/item/765-molytovnestoianniadukhovenstvavirnykhtrokhieparkhiivinnychchyny.html>

- June 20, 2019, around 7 o'clock in the evening, in the village of Postiynе, Kostopilskiy Raion in Rivne Oblast', about a hundred aggressive "OCU" supporters in an attempt to forcibly seize the church house, in which the rector of the Peter and Paul parish lives with his small children, brutally beat UOC parishioners. As Archpriest Olexandr Malchuk related to the UOC Legal Department, as a result of the attack, one woman had a broken nose, another had a sustained concussion, while another was taken to hospital in an ambulance after being bashed. The women were beaten by men who were exceedingly drunk. Meanwhile, the police, who were called by an injured victim, stood by on the sidelines and only watched what was continuing to happen in front of them.

Read more: <https://law.church.ua/2019/06/21/u-s-postijne-na-rivnenshhini-aktivisti-pcupobili-viryank-upc-zhinki-znaxodyatsya-v-likarni/>

- On July 5, 2019, the UOC Community of St. Nicholas in the village of Budyatychi was not able to celebrate a service at its chapel, built on a water spring in honour of the Most Holy Theotokos. Arriving at the chapel, UOC parishioners discovered that someone had placed foreign objects into the door locks so that they could not be opened. About half past seven in the morning, "OCU" representatives had been seen near the chapel. They had brought several people to their "moleben" prayer service, took pictures and quickly dispersed. Later, a report about the "OCU prayer service" in Budyatychi was published on the website on the Volodymyr-Volynska "Eparchy" of the "OCU".

Read more: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/63432-v-budyatichah-rejdery-iz-pcu-organizovalivozle-chuzhoj-chasovni-moleben>

- June 21, 2019 a meeting was held in the club house of Parafiyivka village, Ichnyanskyi Rayon in Chernihivska Oblast'. In the announcements that were pasted around the village it was reported that an "initiative group" was inviting the village's religious community to this meeting. Since there is only one religious community in Parafiyivka, the one belonging to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the parishioners led by their parish rector Archpriest Peter, decided to come and find out who invited them. Since the preparation for this meeting was of a clandestine nature, no one could learn about the planned agenda. Surprisingly, the village parishioners were blocked from attending the meeting

by a few dozen drunken radicals. The paramilitaries also did not allow representatives of the media into the meeting room either, which is a direct violation of mass media laws.

Read more: <http://orthodox.cn.ua/2019/06/22/policija-sprostuvala-zayavi-nibito-vparafiiivci-vidbulisya-zbori-religijnoji-gromadi/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUGSD1fHCKE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncENy3SG5p8>

- On Ukrainian Constitution Day, the believers of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church from the village of Myrove, Shumskyi Rayon in Ternopil'ska Oblast' appealed to the President of Ukraine, His Excellency Volodymyr Zelenskyi, with a request that he defend their rights which are guaranteed by Basic Law. For more information: <https://ukranews.com/news/639219-v-den-konstitutsii-veruyushhieupts-obratilis-k-garantu-konstitutsii>
- On July 7, 2019, the UOC faithful in the village of Nuyno, Kamin-Kashyrskyi Rayon, in Volyn, from whom "OCU" supporters had forcibly seized both of their churches, appealed to the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyi, so that he might defend their right to freedom of religion. There are two churches in Nuyno - the Holy Transfiguration church in the centre of the village and the Holy Protection church located on the territory of the village cemetery. However, both churches, with the active support of the authorities, were captured by representatives of the "OCU". In their video message, Ukrainian Orthodox Church faithful told the President that they had been collecting money for the repair of these churches for about 30 years, "they were collecting everything for the good of the Church". For more information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1R-eDaUwA8>
- On July 11, 2019, religious communities of the UOC in the Volyn'ska Oblast' are obliged to re-register to the jurisdiction of the so-called "OCU". Possessing knowledge about the current conflicts happening on religious grounds in a number of localities in his Oblast', the acting head of the Volyn Regional State Administration issued a new order on the "re-registration" of the UOC communities. The acting head was not even stopped by the fact that representatives from such UOC communities as the Holy Transfiguration parish in the village of Chetvertnia and the Holy Protection parish in the village of Khmelnytske submitted to the RSA relevant appeals and decisions of protocols, which confirm that in these particular villages the so-called transfer to the "OCU" it did not occur, either legally or in actual fact. The same applies to others listed in the order. Particularly cynical was the fact of the re-registration of the UOC community in the village of Nuino, which recently, in order to declare its existence, even blocked the village road. Read more: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2439927776237882&set=a.1569822266581775&type=3&theater>
- On July 12, 2019, "OCU" activists illegally replaced the door lock cylinders to the UOC church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary in the village of Lyudvyshche Ternopil Oblast'. "We had an agreement for alternate services. After celebrating the 7 festal liturgy on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul we went home as usual. Some time later, "OCU" supporters came and changed the door lock cylinders" said Archpriest Mykhailo Vinnich, rector of the church. On Sunday, July 14, 2019, worshippers began to gather for the liturgy, which was to begin at 11:00am. At the church, they were met by "OCU" supporters who started shouting humiliating remarks and curses at their fellow villagers. Believers of the UOC had to perform a divine service that day on the porch of their own church. Read more: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/63639-liturgiju-sluzhili-na-paperti-v-lyudvishheaktivisty-pcu-zahvatili-khram-upcm>

## 2. Cases of direct administrative and forcible pressure exerted on UOC clergy by Ukrainian state authorities.

- On June 19, 2019, a meeting of representatives of the eparchial legal departments of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church was held at the Holy Dormition Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra. The special attention of the UOC Administrator, Metropolitan Antony of Boryspil and Brovary was drawn to the massive re-registration of the charters of parishes by Regional State Administrations, not entering details of criminal offenses into the Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations by relevant officials, local manipulations regarding religious community membership, inaction of the police and support for raiders by local authorities.

Metropolitan Antony named the number of illegal re-registrations by state regional administration officials of the charters of religious communities of the UOC to the "OCU": "Specifically, the number of such recorded cases are, in: Volynska Oblast' - 67, Rivnenska Oblast' - 48, Chernivetska Oblast' - 11, Zhytomyrska Oblast' - 15, Khmel'nitska Oblast' - 42, Ternopil'ska Oblast' - 27, Vinnytska Oblast' - 2, Ivano-Frankivska Oblast' - 2, Zakarpatska Oblast' - 5, Poltav'ska Oblast' - 1, Kirovohrad'ska Oblast' - 1, Kyiv'ska Oblast' - 1. In total, the number of illegal re-registrations concerns 222 religious communities of the UOC".

Read more: <https://law.church.ua/2019/06/19/u-kijevo-pecherskij-lavri-vidbulisyachergovi-zbori-predstavnikov-jeparxialnix-yuridichnix-viddiliv-upc-2/>

- July 16, 2019 Acting Chairman Rivne Regional State Administration Ihor Tymoshenko issued a decree according to which the parishioners of the UOC Holy Protection Church in the village of Rzasnyky should allow representatives of the "OCU" to enter their church in order to conduct services on an alternate basis. The reason for this order was an application made by members of the "OCU" community, which was recently re-registered from the UOC-KP. UOC parishioners in the village of Rzasnyki consider such actions of the Rivne Regional State Administration illegal and have already filed a lawsuit with the Rivne District Court demanding the cancellation of Tymoshenko's order.

Read more: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/63664-glava-rovenskoj-oga-trebujet-ot-obshhiny-vryasnikah-sluzhityy-poperemmeno-s-pcu>

## 3. The protection of the rights of UOC clergy and parishioners in the judicial field.

- On June 14, 2019, the Zbarazh'skyi Rayon court initiates proceedings in lawsuit against the inactivity of law enforcement officers, which was filed by members of the religious community of the UOC Holy Protection Church in the village of Musorivtsy, Ternopil'ska Oblast', whose church was illegally seized by "OCU" 'activists'. The "OCU" activists cut the locks of the church doors with an angle grinder, terrorising local residents by threatening to burn their homes down, whilst police officers idly remain on the sidelines, stated a parishioner.

Read more: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/62839-sud-rassmotrit-isk-o-bezdeystvii-policii-prizhivate-khrama-v-sele-musorovcy>

- On June 18, 2019, the District Administrative Court of Kyiv initiated proceedings in the lawsuit of the Kyiv Metropolis of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church against the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine and the State Register of the CIC" Legal Aid and Registration Centre for the illegal state registration of the religious centre of the "Orthodox Church of Ukraine" ("OCU"). In particular, Archpriest Olexandr Bakhov, Chairman of the Legal Department of the UOC, stressed that: "The newly formed, so-called "OCU" has no reason to be called the Kyiv Metropolis of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, not only because a religious centre with the same name has been in existence since 1991, but also because the relevant original legal document, "Tomos of Autocephaly" which the "OCU" no doubt respects

and complies with , defines only two names - "Orthodox Church of Ukraine" ("OCU") and "Most Holy Church of Ukraine" ("HCU").

Read more: <https://law.church.ua/2019/06/19/administrativnim-sudom-bulo-vidkritoprovadzhennya-u-spravi-za-pozovom-kijivskoji-mitropoliji-upc-shhodo-nezakonnostirejestraciji-religijnogo-centru-pravoslavnoji-cerkvi-ukrajini-pcu/>

#### Brief information about the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC)

The UOC is the Local Orthodox Church of the people of Ukraine, which is officially recognised by all the Orthodox Churches of the world and is in spiritual communion with them. Spiritual and prayerful unity with the entire Orthodox world is witnessed by the Patriarchs and Primate of all the Local Churches, who repeatedly come to Kyiv to concelebrate Divine services with the Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine.

The UOC is completely independent and self-governing in its administration and structure. The Administrative Centre of the UOC is located in Kyiv, Ukraine. According to the UOC Charter, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church independently elects the Primate and Bishops, ordains priests, and conducts administrative and economic activities.

The highest authority in the UOC belongs to the Church Council, which is made up of the bishops, ministers and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The UOC is the largest Church in Ukraine, uniting millions of believers in 12,092 territorial church communities. The UOC has 258 monasteries, 4,500 monks and 100 bishops. During the time of Ukraine's independence, thousands of churches and hundreds of monasteries have been erected and restored with donations from believers of the UOC.

#### **Bulletin No3 of Rights Violations of Ukrainian Orthodox Church parishioners and clergy for the period from 29.05.2019 to 10.06.2019**

Starting from January 6, 2019, after the creation of the so-called Orthodox Church of Ukraine ("OCU") and the granting of the Tomos of Autocephaly by the Ecumenical (Constantinopolitan) Patriarchate to its Primate, an unprecedented campaign was launched in Ukraine against the parishioners and clergy of the Local Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC).

As part of this campaign, representatives of the Ukrainian state authorities are conducting undisguised agitation for the so-called "transition" of religious communities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church to the "OCU". They are exerting administrative and military pressure against the clergy and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and are assisting the radical militarised groups, the so-called "activists", to seize churches, and itemise its property which belongs to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. They also help to initiate the adoption of changes to national legislation that violate the Constitution of Ukraine and the fundamental rights of believers.

The main goal of this Bulletin is to inform: the clergymen and parishioners from other Local Orthodox Churches, the representatives of foreign governments, the mass media, human rights and expert organisations about the most blatant violations of the rights of parishioners and clergymen of the UOC in Ukraine and cases of direct interference of the Ukrainian government into the affairs of the Church.

During the period from May 29 to June 10, 2019, dozens of cases of gross violations of the rights of parishioners and clergy of the UOC in Ukraine were recorded and confirmed:

1. Factual information about the seizure of churches and other cases of the use of physical force and pressure on UOC parishioners in order to forcefully transfer churches and religious communities to the jurisdiction of the "OCU":

- On May 31, 2019, the head of the Zastavniivskiy Regional State Administration (RSA), Yuriy Kitar formed a commission consisting of 12 members, which included representatives of the social services, police, and doctors. The Commission considered the alleged danger posed by educators and teachers who attend UOC church services together with their children. "Do not take children with you to church services, or immediately after the service, send them home", - that was the proposal made by the commission that was led by the head of the Zastavniivskiy Regional State Administration. Furthermore, should the parents, who are parishioners of the Holy Assumption church in the village of Vaslovivtsy, Chernivetska oblast', not take their advice, they will subsequently run the risk of being deprived of their parental rights. The Chernivetska eparchy commented that proposal made, as it is quite clear that the goal of such an initiative was to make sure that children wouldn't be in the way during the next attempt to illegally seize the church.

Details: <https://news.church.ua/2019/06/03/bukovinski-chinovniki-proponuyutpozavlyati-batkivskix-prav-viruyuchix-upc/>

- Metropolitan Meletiy of Chernivtsi and Bukovyna appealed to the President of Ukraine, V. Zelenskyi with a request that he take action to stop the arbitrary behaviour of officials in the Chernivtsi Regional State Administration, who, on the basis of false documents, have already transferred eleven (11) UOC communities to the jurisdiction of the "OCU", and that he annul the corresponding orders of the acting head of the Regional State Administration, M. Pavlyuk and resolve the question of the inappropriate appointment of M. Pavlyuk to the above-stated position.

Details: <https://vesti-ukr.com/strana/338733-zakhvat-khramov-upts-reaktsija-zelenskohostanet-proverkoj-na-hotovnost-menjat-stranu>

- On June 2, 2019, "OCU" supporters attempted to seize the UOC church in the village of Hrabove, Shatskyi rayon in Volyn. As a result of the conflict that ensued 3 in front of the church, the parish rector, Archpriest Dymytriy Kovalchuk sustained serious injuries. The priest's cross was also torn off, and a series of severe blows to the head and other parts of the body, including broken fingers, were inflicted.

Details: <https://news.church.ua/2019/06/05/aktivist-pcu-zhorstoko-pobiv-svyashhenikaupc-v-seli-grabove-na-volini-foto/>

- On June 6, 2019, on the feast of the Ascension of the Lord, there was another provocation near the Holy Assumption of the Theotokos church in the village of Tovtry, Chernivetska oblast'. The "OCU" hired paramilitaries "to defend their rights" with the use of pepper spray against the UOC parishioners; while police officers idly watched on. The Chernivtsi-Bukovinian eparchy of the UOC officially contacted the Security Services (SBU) and the State Police headquarters in Chernivetska oblast' asking them to help identify the paramilitaries.

Details: <https://news.church.ua/2019/06/06/na-bukovini-pcu-najnyala-bojovikivvidstoyuvati-jixni-prava-z-gazovimi-balonchikami-proti-viryan-upc/>

- Contrary to the will of the believers as well as overstepping the bounds of the law, on June 7, 2019, the head of the Department for Nationalities and Religions in the Vinnytsia Regional State Administration, I. Saletskyi personally completed the state registration of the newly formed "OCU" religious community in the village of Luka Meleshkivska, Vinnytskyi rayon, using the same registration data as the existing parish of the UOC. In the Vinnytska eparchy, such actions are called collusion, and are very evident when the state connives with church raiders. It is feared that in the near future

an attempt will be made to forcibly seize the Holy Transfiguration Church, which legally belongs to the UOC parish.

Details: <https://news.church.ua/2019/06/08/misceva-vlada-poturaje-cerkovnomurejderstvu-na-vinnichchini-pres-sluzhba-jeparxiji-upc/>

- Appeal to the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyi, from the parishioners of Archangel Michael's church in Zadubrivka village: "We ask for a long-awaited PEACE, 4 tranquillity and RULE OF LAW! For brother to reconcile with brother, parents with children. Our religious community in Zadubrivka village, the parish of the Holy Archangel Michael of the UOC, has now for a period of almost 120 days been, ROUND-THE-CLOCK, defending the Orthodox Faith and as well as our constitutional right and will to remain in the bosom of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC). We want to peacefully attend prayer services in our own church, but instead, we have had to endure attacks and fighting during the past 120 days, at virtually every liturgy. President Zelenskyi, we voted for the PEACE in Ukraine".

Details: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=2345072285745780>

- Petey Ivanna, an activist of the "OCU" community, organised an end-of-schoolyear Parents' Meeting whose children are in the 9th grade (Zadubrivskiy Educational Complex in Chernivetska Oblast'), after a vote, it was decided to ban their children's classmate, Christina Velushchak and her mother, from attending the graduation party. The UOC religious community of St. Archangel Michael in the village of Zadubrivka, has now for more than 120 days been prayerfully defending its right to freely practice the Orthodox faith and defend its choice to remain united with the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church that is led by His Beatitude Metropolitan Onufriy.

Details: <https://news.church.ua/2019/06/09/u-zadubrivci-za-prinalezhnist-do-upcshkolyarci-zaboronili-prixoditi-na-vipusknij-foto/>

- Christina Veluschak, a graduate of the 9th grade at Zadubrivskiy Educational Complex in Zastavniyskiy rayon of Chernivetska oblast', has become a victim of discrimination on religious grounds in her school, simply because of her affiliation with the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC). She graduated from school with honours, has been attending church all her life, sings in the church choir, and is planning to attend medical college. One may say that she is a normal Ukrainian school student, if it were not for one huge so-called "flaw" - her choice of religion. For several months now, after the beginning of the confrontation on religious grounds in the village, the supporters of the newly formed "OCU" have ostracised Christine and made her an outcast due to her religious beliefs.

Read more: <https://news.church.ua/2019/06/09/zaberi-svoji-moskalski-groshi-ti-navipusknij-nepidesh-bukovinska-shkolyarka-ta-jiji-mama-rozpovili-pro-ostanni-misyaci-ushkoli/>

- On One of TSN broadcasts (on 1+1 TV Channel), it was reported that on May 8th this year, the religious community of Holy Archangel Michael in NovoMykhailivka village, Mariinskyi rayon of Donetska oblast', had allegedly joined the "OCU". In support of this argument, TSN used, as they named it, a 'map of jurisdictional transfers to the "OCU"'. The Donetska eparchy absolutely refutes the validity of this information - the relevant statement was published on the official website of the Donetska Eparchy on June 9, 2019.

Details: <http://donetsk.church.ua/2019/06/09/press-sluzhba-doneckojj-eparkhii-zayavlyaetsoobshhenie-o-perekhode-odnoj-iz-obshhin-v-pcu-fejjk/>

- On June 7, 2019, "OCU" supporters brutally bashed a man in the village of Nova Moschchanytsia in the Zdolbunivskiy rayon of Rivnenska oblast' simply because he defended a UOC priest and did not allow him to be expelled from the village.

Details:

<https://www.facebook.com/RivneGolosCerkvy/photos/a.696553560777056/698216130610799/?type=3&theater>

## 2. Cases of direct administrative and forcible pressure exerted on the clergy of the UOC by the state authorities of Ukraine

- On May 29, 2019, the State Bureau of Criminal Investigations questioned a clergy belonging to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The testimony of the clerics, factually confirmed the organised nature of the criminal case, which the Ukrainian Security Services (SBU) in Rivnenska oblast' had instigated against the head of the UOC Department for the Settlement of Inter-confessional Conflicts at the Rivnenska Eparchy, Archpriest Victor Zemlyanoy. Leading religious scholars of Ukraine have also spoken in defence of Archpriest Victor. Experts have repudiated SBU's version that the religious pamphlets and booklets, that were used as evidence in this case, had allegedly distorted historical facts, Orthodox canons and biblical subject matter, and that they deliberately offended the religious feelings of Kyivan Patriarchate supporters and its leader, Filaret Denysenko. Despite this, representatives of the Rivne Security Service (SBU) continue to exert pressure on witnesses in the "case" against Archpriest Victor Zemlyanoy.

Details: <https://izvestia.kiev.ua/item/show/117317>

- The Draft law No. 10244-1 "On Military Chaplaincy", adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (VRU), on June 6, 2019, in its the first reading, limits the potential opportunities of various denominations of Ukraine. "The Draft bill artificially narrows the possibilities of various denominations of Ukraine to ensure pastoral care of their faithful - servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, - firmly stated Yuriy Yevgenyevich Reshetnikov, who was the Head of the State Committee for Nationalities and Religions in 2009-2010.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/06/10/zakonoproekt-pro-vijskove-kapelanstvoobmezhujemozhlivosti-riznix-konfesij-ukrajini-religijnij-ekspert/>

Also: <https://news.church.ua/2019/06/10/novij-zakonoproekt-pro-vijskove-kapelanstvo-yureshetnikov-nazvav-osnovni-nedoliki-ta-nadav-7-m-propozicij-dlya-doopracuvannya/>

## 3. Protection of the rights of clergymen and parishioners of the UOC in the judicial field

- On May 30, 2019, in the Lutsk District Court of Volynska oblast', a ruling found in favour of Fr. Vasiliy's complaint regarding the professional inactivity of the prosecutor of Volynska oblast' – whereby the latter had failed to enter information regarding the perpetration of a criminal offense onto the Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations and subsequently question the plaintiff and witnesses in detail and to initiate a pretrial investigation.

Details: <https://volyn.church.ua/2019/06/08/sud-zobov'язav-pravooxoronciv-vnesti-dojerdr-dani-pro-namagannya-primusovogo-viselennya-simji-svyashhenika-z-cerkovnogobudinku-sela-mirne/>

### Brief information about the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC)

The UOC is the Local Orthodox Church of the people of Ukraine, which is officially recognised by all the Orthodox Churches of the world and is in spiritual communion with them. Spiritual and prayerful unity with the entire Orthodox world is witnessed by the Patriarchs and Primate of all the

Local Churches, who repeatedly come to Kyiv to concelebrate Divine services with the Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine.

The UOC is completely independent and self-governing in its administration and structure. The Administrative Centre of the UOC is located in Kyiv, Ukraine. According to the UOC Charter, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church independently elects the Primate and Bishops, ordains priests, conducts administrative and economic activities.

The highest authority in the UOC belongs to the Church Council, which is made up of the bishops, ministers and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The UOC is the largest Church in Ukraine, uniting millions of believers in 12,092 territorial church communities.

The UOC has 258 monasteries, 4,500 monks and 100 bishops. During the time of Ukraine's independence, thousands of churches and hundreds of monasteries have been erected and restored with donations from believers of the UOC.

The UOC has consistently advocated the unity, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine and unites the Orthodox citizens of Ukraine, regardless of their nationality, political convictions or place of residence. In all its sermons, the UOC blesses Ukraine, the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian state.

**Bulletin No2 of Rights Violations  
of Ukrainian Orthodox Church parishioners and clergy  
for the period from 04.04.2019 to 28.05.2019**

Starting from January 6, 2019, after the creation of the so-called Orthodox Church of Ukraine ("OCU") and the granting of the Tomos of Autocephaly by the Ecumenical (Constantinopolitan) Patriarchate to its Primate, an unprecedented campaign was launched in Ukraine against the parishioners and clergy of the Local Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC).

As part of this campaign, representatives of the Ukrainian state authorities are conducting undisguised agitation for the so-called "transition" of religious communities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church to the "OCU". They are exerting administrative and military pressure against the clergy and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and are assisting the radical militarised groups, the so-called "activists", to seize churches, and itemise its property which belongs to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. They also help to initiate the adoption of changes to national legislation that violate the Constitution of Ukraine and the fundamental rights of believers.

The main goal of this Bulletin is to inform: the clergymen and parishioners from other Local Orthodox Churches, the representatives of foreign governments, the mass media, human rights and expert organisations about the most blatant violations of the rights of parishioners and clergymen of the UOC in Ukraine and cases of direct interference of the Ukrainian government into the affairs of the Church.

During the period from April 4 to May 28, 2019, dozens of cases of gross violations of the rights of parishioners and clergy of the UOC in Ukraine were recorded and confirmed:

1. Factual information about the seizure of churches and other cases of the use of physical force and pressure on UOC parishioners in order to forcefully transfer churches and religious communities to the jurisdiction of the "OCU":

- April 4, 2019, around 8:00 PM, supporters of the "OCU" forcibly seized the church of the UOC religious community in the village of Ptycha, Dubno district, Rivne Oblast'. According to eyewitnesses,

the raiders cut the locks with an angle grinder, Police, who were at the scene during the crime, did not prevent these actions.

Read more: <http://news.church.ua/2019/04/04/prixilniki-pcu-zaxopili-xram-upc-u-ptichi/>

- On 6 and 10 April, 2019, supporters of the "OCU" made two attempts to seize the churches of the UOC parishes in the village of Pyatyhory of Zdolbunivskiy district and in the village of Kopyta of the Koretskyi district of the Rivne oblast'. The UOC parishioners managed to defend their churches, but after long confrontations they were forced to accept the sealing of their churches until court rulings will be made. On April 11 in the village of Kopyta, "OCU" supporters accused UOC believers of violating the agreements and then proceeded to cut the locks to the St. John the Theologian church. Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/04/11/v-rivnenskij-jeparxiji-opechatali-dva-xrami-upcpislya-provokacij-aktivistiv-pcu/>
- Despite the fact that their churches were forcibly seized by the "OCU" supporters, the UOC communities of the village of Klepachiv and the village of Krasnovolya of the Volyn oblast' continued their liturgical life in cramped makeshift premises. Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/05/06/na-volini-gromadi-upc-zaxoplenix-xramivprodovzhuyut-bogosluzhbove-zhittya-ta-svyatkuyut-voskresinnya-xristove/>
- Parishioners of the UOC Holy Panteleimon community in the village of Lisopil of the Kostopilskiy district of the Rivne oblast' (Poliška eparchy), where long-suffering members of the UOC experienced oppression by the schismatics, held a parish meeting on April 7, 2019, in which 260 believers unanimously decided to remain loyal to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and her Primate, Metropolitan Onufriy of Kyiv and All Ukraine. Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/04/17/na-rivnenshhini-viruyuchi-gromadi-upc-s-lisopilxram-yakoji-xochut-vidibrati-zalishayutsya-virnimi-kanonichnij-cerkvi-video/>
- Every single concrete situation together with the undeniable and glaring facts of lawlessness were reported by the priests and parishioners, who were the actual victims and direct eyewitnesses to the forcible seizures of their UOC churches in the Rivne region. Details: <https://youtu.be/8p0KleH1J60>
- Metropolitan Volodymyr of Volodymyr-Volynskiy and Kovel'skiy made a personal Archpastoral visit to the community of the UOC church in the village of Holyadyn, in the Shatskyi deanery of the Volodymyr-Volyn eparchy. This was reported by the rector of St. Nicholas' Church in the village of Pulmo, Shatskyi rayon, Fr. Oleksandr Cherevko on his Facebook page. Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/05/06/mitropolit-volodimir-pidtrimav-gromaduzaxoplenogo-prixilnikami-pcu-xramu-v-s-golyadin-video/>
- On April 14, 2019, during the Sunday service, "OCU" supporters provoked a fight, and forcibly seized the Saints Cosmos and Damian church in the village of Rozvazh, Ostrozskiy rayon of the Rivnenska oblast'. "OCU" activists actually stormed the above church. Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/04/14/v-s-rozvazh-na-rivnenshhini-prixilniki-pcu-vzvalishturmom-xram-pryamo-pid-chas-sluzhbi/>
- On April 20, 2019, on Lazarus Saturday, "OCU" supporters attempted to capture the UOC Holy Trinity Church religious community in the village of Kozak of the Koretskyi rayon in the Rivnenska oblast'. The justification for the provocative actions of the activists of the newly formed church structure ("OCU"), was given by the head of the Rivne Regional State Administration Oleksiy Mulyarenko, who

registered the community of "OCU" using the actual data of the bona fide religious community of the UOC.

Details: <http://pravoslavye.org.ua/2019/04/%D1%80%D1%96%D0%B2%D0%BD%D0%B5-%D1%83-%D1%94%D0%BF%D0%B0%D1%80%D1%85%D1%96%D1%97-%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B0%D1%8E%D1%82%D1%8C-%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%BB%D1%96%D1%86%D1%96%D1%8E-%D1%82%D0%B0/>

- On April 17, 2019, "OCU" activists armed with crow bars belligerently stormed St. Michael's church in the village of Poliśka, Bereznivskiy rayon of the SarnyPolis'ka eparchy of the UOC. The head of the district police department and the village chairman directly led the illegal actions of the "OCU" supporters.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/04/17/u-seli-poliske-vidbuvajetsya-zaxoplennya-xramunastoyatelya-z-infarkt-vidvezli-v-likarnyu/>

- On April 16, 2019, "OCU" supporters using an angle grinder cut door locks to the UOC church of Archangel Michael in the village of Mikhailivtsi of Vinnytska oblast', shouting insults at the UOC priest and faithful, whilst seizing the church.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/04/18/na-vinnichchini-prixilniki-pcu-zaxopili-xram-upczrizavshi-dveri-bolgarkoyu-video/>

- After two months of provocations during church services, drunken nights of depravity, persecution on the basis of faith and religion, "OCU" supporters resorted to making open threats to the parishioners of the Archangel Michael Cathedral in the village Zadubrivka, Zastavnivskiy rayon of the Chernivetska oblast'.

An "OCU" cleric warned that starting from April 20, members of the religious community of the UOC will be subjected to radically violent methods, in their attempt to seize the church building.

The Parish Rector, Archpriest Leonid Delikatnyi reported to the Chernivtsi Regional State Administration, Prosecutor's Office, Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) and the Main Administration of the National Police, that the activists "Also threatened them by the use of physical force, even threatening them with murder should they offer any resistance, repeatedly emphasizing that they will not allow the village UOC religious community to perform Divine Services during the upcoming Easter celebrations which shall begin on April 20, 2019".

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/04/20/xochete-vijni-bude-klirik-pcu-pogrozhuje-pravoslavnimbukovincyam-nastoyatel-parafiji-zvernuvsya-do-sbu-oda-ta-policiji-za-zaxistom-video/>

- On May 9, 2019, in Vinnytsia, celebrations devoted to Victory Day in the Second World War, in which traditionally representatives of the local authorities, war veterans and the head of the eparchies of the UOC, "UAOC" and "UOC-KP" take 5 part, and which never had provoked conflict. However, this year, the authorities, having invited all three "bishops" of the "OCU", ignored the bishops of the UOC, the faithful of which are in the majority in Vinnytsia.

Details: <http://eparhia.vinnica.ua/item/713-spielnazaiavamytropolytatluchynskohoibratslavskohoionafanataarkhiiepyskopavinnyskohoibarskohovaronofiiazpryvodyudyskryminatsiipovidnoshenniudoarkhiiereivuptszbokumistsevoivlady.html?fbclid=IwAR1jgLX1fnfyF89kcxJHvyG2MFDau9IY6jbHoAfzdEd2P8LeRaNKI9k2K2I>

- The rector, Fr. Serafym Simonovych, of the Holy Transfiguration Church of the UOC in the village of Chetvertnya, of Kolkivskiy deanery of the Volyn eparchy, denied false statements made in the media that allegedly, during a scuffle between villagers on the night of May 1, 2019, someone "was beaten by the clergyman" on church territory. Instead, it was precisely the opposite – "OCU" supporters for

unknown reasons , had attempted to enter the church at night with clubs in their hands, and that UOC believers had , as a result, summoned the police to the scene of the incident.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/05/03/na-volini-prixilniki-pcu-sfalsifikuvali-dani-properexid-a-zmi-chinili-naklep-na-svyashhenika-upc/>

- On May 11, in the village of Skobelka in Volyn, "OCU" activists tried to force the priest out of the house where he resides with his children and where he performs church services.  
"The main thing that they wanted was to disassemble and dismantle the room in which Father Nazariy performed the Liturgy for the UOC worshipers. Their goal today was to stop the liturgical activities of the UOC community. As for the eviction of the priest and his family, I do not rule out that "OCU" supporters will try to create the conditions that will make it unbearable for the priest and his family to live there. The result of which will be, according to their calculations, is that Father Nazariy will eventually evict himself".  
Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/05/12/na-volini-aktivisti-pcu-namagayutsya-siloyu-viselitisvyashhenika-z-budinku-u-yakomu-vin-prozhivaje-z-ditmi-ta-zvershuje-bogosluzhinnya/>
- On May 12, a series of provocations were organised by "OCU" activists resulting in the disruption of Divine services. This took place in the village of Mnyshyn, 6 Goshchanskyi rayon, and in the villages of Bushcha and Buderazh of the Zdolbunivskyi rayon. In addition to disrupted church services, fights were organised where female parishioners were bashed.  
Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/05/12/aktivisti-pcu-prodovzhuyut-zrivati-bogosluzhinnyaviryanam-rivnenskoji-jeparxiji-ta-bitizhinok-video/>
- In the Rivne eparchy, pressure continues to be exerted on the faithful of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) as well as the persecution of UOC priests at the hands of "UOC" supporters and bureaucrats. Journalists from Nash.Maksi TV channel continue to highlight the current church situation in the region as of May 17, 2019.  
Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/05/22/zmi-pokazali-yak-u-rivnenskij-oblasti-pcu-zadpomogoyu-chinovnikiv-zaxoplyuje-xrami-video/>  
Video: [https://youtu.be/f07LT\\_Zz5-A](https://youtu.be/f07LT_Zz5-A)
- On May 18, 2019, at 11:00 am, representatives of the National Police, created a living corridor leading to the doors of the UOC Holy Assumption Church in the village of Tovtry, in the Chernivtsi oblast' - thus providing the "OCU" activists, with the added consent from the chairman of the village council, to cut the locks to the doors of the UOC church and forcibly seize it.  
Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/05/18/na-bukovini-za-dopomogoyu-policiji-ta-vladiprixilniki-pcu-zaxopili-xram-upc-s-tovtri/>
- On May 23, 2019, during the All Eparchial Cross procession and prayer vigil in defence of the rights of Orthodox Bukovins and against the lawless acts of the against the eparchy by the chairman of the Chernivtsi Regional State Administration , namely, for the forced transfer of Ukrainian Orthodox Church parishes into the newly created structure of the "OCU". As a result of the discussions between the official and the hierarchs and the clergy of the eparchy, a statement and a promise was made by M. Pavlyuk to create a working group for the study and rectification of the conflict situation.  
Read more: <http://news.church.ua/2019/05/23/tysyachi-bukovincev-vyshli-na-krestnyj-xodprotiv-bezzakonij-vlasti-rezultaty-peregovorov-s-i-o-predsedatelya-chernovickoj-ogaobnovleno/?lang=ru>
- Despite the assurances of the acting chairman of the Chernivtsi Regional State Administration that the lawlessness resulting in the forcible seizure of the UOC churches in the region will cease. In

Bukovynian village of Zavoloka, aggressive young people attempted to seize the village church from the legal parishioners in favour of the "OCU".

In the press service of the Chernivtsi-Bukovinian eparchy on May 24, 2019, it was reported that an attempt was made to forcibly raid and seize the Saints Peter and Paul church in the village of Zavoloka, Storozhynetskyi rayon of Chernivtsi oblast'

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/05/24/pusti-obicyanki-cherniveckix-chinovnikivpryamo-zaraz-u-s-zavoloka-molodiki-napidpitku-namagayutsya-zaxopiti-xram-upc-video/>

- On May 26, 2019, at 11:00, an attempt was made to raid and seize the UOC Holy Assumption Church in the village of Vaslovivtsi, Chernivetska oblast'. "OCU" supporters had smashed open the gates of the church and trespassed onto church territory, in such fashion forcing out the parishioners of the UOC community.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/05/26/vidbuvajetsya-zaxoplennya-xramu-upc-u-svaslovivci-prixilniki-pcu-znovu-z-bolgarkoyu-zavitali-do-cerkvi/>

Video: <https://www.facebook.com/orthobuk/videos/456432058463171/>

- Parishioners of the Holy Assumption Church of the UOC in the village of Vaslovivtsi, Zastavniivskyi rayon of Chernivetska oblast' appealed to the President of Ukraine V.O. Zelenskyi with a request that he protect them from the crimes committed by the supporters of the so-called "OCU", who are, in turn, supported by local officials. On May 26, 2019, throughout the whole day, attempts were made to raid and seize the church, in which believers had been praying for 120 days in a round-the-clock Prayer Vigil. The Video address to the President of Ukraine Orthodox was recorded by the Bukovynians in front of the church at 7pm, and posted on the official facebook page and YouTube channel of the eparchy.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/05/26/viruyuchi-upc-s-vaslovivci-zvernulisya-doprezidenta-ukrajini-volodimira-zelenskogo-video/>

Video: <https://youtu.be/yK9nzHqKohs>

- In Bani Lysovytska, Stryiskyi rayon of Lvivska oblast', where the only Orthodox church of the rayon is located, on the morning of the Annunciation, the head of the village council and the "Right sector" burst into the church during prayer services and did not allow believers to continue the service. At eight o'clock in the morning, the church was captured by members of the "Right Sector" organisation under the leadership of the chairman of the Lysovytska village council Mykola Magas.

Details: <https://spzh.news/en/news/61322-v-bane-lisovickoj-glava-selysoveta-i-pravyjsektor-zahvatyvajut-khram-upc>

## 2. Cases of direct administrative and forcible pressure exerted on the clergy of the UOC by the state authorities of Ukraine

- Four official letters from the local village council on April 8, 2019 were received by the Fr. Pavlo Taran, the rector of the UOC church of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian which is in the village Krasnosilka, Bershadskyi rayon of the Vinnytska oblast'. After provocations of "OCU" activists, the church was sealed and guarded by the police. The right of the religious community of the UOC to the church and the church building, in an oral contract with local activists of the newly created structure, will be considered in court. It is noted that the priest unexpectedly received an official notice that, "according to the Executive Committee of the Krasnosilskyi Council", he, his pregnant wife and two young children have been excluded from the official registration of their place of residence.

Using such a "coercive" underhanded tactics, together with exerting moral pressure on the priest, who is also the father of a large family, the head of the village council Ivan Pustovit and some of his

bureaucrats attempted to force him to change his religious jurisdiction and transfer to the so-called "OCU".

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/04/11/varvarstvo-chinovnikiv-na-vinnichchisivyashhenika-upc-z-vagitnoyu-druzhinoyu-ta-malolitnimi-ditmi-vistavlyayut-na-vulicyudokumenti/>

On April 6, in Pyatyhory, an attempt to forcibly seize the church of the UOC ended with the result that the keys to the church premises were handed over to the chairman of the village council.

After several hours of confrontation, provoked by supporters of the new "church" structure, the church of the Nativity of the Theotokos in Pyatyhory, Zdolbunivskiy rayon of Rivnenska oblast' was officially sealed.

Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/61317-hram-rozhdestva-bogorodicy-v-pyatigorahopechatali>

### 3. Protection of the rights of clergymen and parishioners of the UOC in the judicial field

- On April 4, 2019, the day after the forcible seizure of the church, the Sts. Peter and Paul Religious Community in the village of Postiyne, Kostopilskiy rayon of Rivnenska oblast' submitted a statement to the Court at the Rivnenska oblast' State Administration. Officials registered with the "OCU parish" using illegitimate documents with the same registration data as for the religious community of the UOC. On April 3 armed with unauthorised documents, "OCU" activists cut the locks and illegally entered the UOC church building.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/04/04/parafiya-upc-podaje-v-sud-na-rivnensku-oda/>

- Courts in the Volynska, Chernivetska, Rivnenska, Khmelnytska, and Kyivska oblast's during February-March 2019 reviewed the appeals of the religious communities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) with regards to the refusal to submit applications regarding the seizure of UOC churches and other unlawful actions perpetrated by officials and representatives of the "OCU" onto the Unified Register of Pre-trial Investigations, specifically in connection the so-called "Transfer of jurisdiction" of UOC parishes. According to their ruling, the courts ordered the prosecutors and/or authorised persons to submit to the Unified Register of Pre-trial Investigations, the statements made by the rectors and parishioners of the UOC churches and to commence investigations.

A Lutsk court in Volynska oblast', over a period of two months, made a ruling on 12 religious communities of the Volyn eparchy of the UOC in the villages of: Sadiv, Shepel, Vesele, Mankiv, Kholopychi, Sirnychki, Semerynske, Zubiylnе, Kulchyn, Zhydychn, Krasnovolya, Telchi.

Details: <http://vzc.church.ua/2019/04/11/sudi-povsyudno-zobov'yazuyut-policiyurozsliduvati-situacii-z-perevedennyami-parafij-upc-v-pcu-analitika-onovleno/>

- The Kyiv Regional Administrative Court suspended the process of forcibly renaming the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) which was to be done by April 26, 2019.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/04/23/okruzhnij-adminsud-kijeva-zablokuvavprimusove-perejmenuvannya-upc/>

- The court ordered police to resume the investigation into cases involving the seizure of two churches in Volhynia. The Lokachynskiy District Court overturned the decisions of investigators to close criminal proceedings in matters related to the forcible seizure of churches in the villages of Zybylne and Syrnychky of Volynska oblast', obliging law enforcement officers to resume their investigations.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/04/26/sud-zobov'yazav-policiyu-vidnoviti-slidstvo-uspravax-shhodo-zaxoplennya-dvox-xramiv-na-volini/>

- Zhovtnevyi District Court in Zaporizhzhya extended to 14 June, 2019, the detention in the Zaporizhzhya pre-trial Solitary Confinement centre, for three young people who are suspected of setting fire to churches of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Zaporizhzhya.  
Read more: <http://news.church.ua/2019/05/07/u-zaporizhzhhi-pidozryuvanim-u-pidpalaxxramiv-upc-prodovzhili-trimannya-pid-vartoyu/>
- On May 10, 2019, the Shevchenkivskiy District Court of Chernivtsi ordered the National Police to open a criminal case under Part 1 of Art. 366 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine and to initiate an investigation into criminal actions of officials of the Chernivtsi Regional State Administration. False documents were drawn up and issued by an official, according to which the RSA carried out the forced reregistration of religious communities of the UOC to the so-called "OCU" community.  
Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/05/10/vidkrito-kriminalne-provadhennya-za-faktomvidachiglavoyu-cherniveckoji-oda-sfalsifikovanix-rozporjadzhen-pro-perevedennya-gromadu-pcu/>
- On May 22, 2019, the Lutsk City District Court of the Volynska oblast' decided to satisfy the complaint of the rector of the church in the village of Saryi Zahoriv concerning the inactivity of the prosecutor of the Volyn rayon to report information regarding the perpetration of criminal offenses to the Unified Register of Pre-trial Investigations, to ask the applicant and witnesses for detailed information, and commence pre-trial investigations.  
Details: <http://volyn.church.ua/2019/05/27/sud-zobov'язav-pravoohoronciv-vnesti-do-jerdr-danipro-namagannya-primusovogo-viselennya-simji-svyashhenika-z-cerkovnogo-budinku-selastarijzagoriv/>
- On May 16, the Chief Investigator of the National Police of Ukraine on the basis of the statement made by UOC Archpriest Vasyl Lavreniuk, who was the rector of the Sts. Kosmas and Damian church that was forcibly seized by "OCU" activists and is located in the village of Rozvazh in Rivne oblast', initiated a criminal case against the head of the Rivne Regional State Administration Oleksiy Mulyarenko. The criminal investigation revealed facts surrounding the official's unlawful instructions given to bureaucrats regarding the illegal transfer of UOC communities to the jurisdiction of the so-called "OCU".  
Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/05/16/chernivecki-chinovniki-ta-predstavniki-pcu-nezacakavlenni-u-mizhkonfesijnomu-miri-na-bukovini/>
- April 4, 2019, the day after the seizure of their church, the Sts. Peter and Paul religious community in the village of Postiyne, Kostopil'skyi rayon of Rivnenska oblast', filed a lawsuit against Rivnenska oblast' State Administration.  
Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/61280-verujushhiye-zahvachennogo-khrama-upc-podaliv-sud-na-rovenskuju-oga>

#### Brief information about the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC)

The UOC is the Local Orthodox Church of the people of Ukraine, which is officially recognised by all the Orthodox Churches of the world and is in spiritual communion with them. Spiritual and prayerful unity with the entire Orthodox world is witnessed by the Patriarchs and Primate of all the Local Churches, who repeatedly come to Kyiv to concelebrate Divine services with the Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine.

The UOC is completely independent and self-governing in its administration and structure. The Administrative Centre of the UOC is located in Kyiv, Ukraine. According to the UOC Charter, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church independently elects the Primate and Bishops, ordains priests, conducts

administrative and economic activities. The highest authority in the UOC belongs to the Church Council, which is made up of the bishops, ministers and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

The UOC is the largest Church in Ukraine, uniting millions of believers in 12,092 territorial church communities. The UOC has 258 monasteries, 4,500 monks and 100 bishops. During the time of Ukraine's independence, thousands of churches and hundreds of monasteries have been erected and restored with donations from believers of the UOC.

The UOC has consistently advocated the unity, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine and unites the Orthodox citizens of Ukraine, regardless of their nationality, political convictions or place of residence. In all its sermons, the UOC blesses Ukraine, the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian state.

**Bulletin of Rights Violations  
of Ukrainian Orthodox Church parishioners and clergy  
for the period from 25.01.2019 to 04.04.2019**

Starting from January 6, 2019, after the creation of the so-called Orthodox Church of Ukraine ("OCU") and the granting of the Tomos of Autocephaly by the Ecumenical (Constantinopolitan) Patriarchate to its Primate, an unprecedented campaign was launched in Ukraine against the parishioners and clergy of the Local Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC).

As part of this campaign, representatives of the Ukrainian state authorities are conducting undisguised agitation for the so-called "transition" of religious communities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church to the "OCU". They are exerting administrative and military pressure against the clergy and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and are assisting the radical militarised groups, the so-called "activists", to seize churches, and itemise its property which belongs to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. They also help to initiate the adoption of changes to national legislation that violate the Constitution of Ukraine and the fundamental rights of believers.

The main goal of this Bulletin is to inform: the clergymen and parishioners from other Local Orthodox Churches, the representatives of foreign governments, the mass media, human rights and expert organisations about the most blatant violations of the rights of parishioners and clergymen of the UOC in Ukraine and cases of direct interference of the Ukrainian government into the affairs of the Church.

During the period from January 25 to April 4, 2019, dozens of cases of gross violations of the rights of parishioners and clergy of the UOC in Ukraine were recorded and confirmed:

1. Factual information about the seizure of churches and other cases of the use of physical force and pressure on UOC parishioners in order to forcefully transfer churches and religious communities to the jurisdiction of the "OCU":

- January 16, 2019. In the village of Shandrovet, Turka rayon, Lvivska oblast'. Aggressive civilian "activists" led by the Chairman of the Shandrovet village council A. Popyl burst into the house of the Rector of Archangel Michael parish, Fr. Iliya Urus'kyi. After smashing down the door and demanding the keys to the church, these "activists" made threats to the priest and went to ahead to cut all the locks on the doors. The "activists" explained their aggressive actions by the results of the meeting of the territorial community regarding the transfer of the parish to the "OCU" to which neither the parish rector nor the parishioners of the the Archangel Michael church were invited.  
Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/01/16/na-lvivshhini-ochilniki-miscevoji-vladi-usuprovodi-policiji-zaxopili-xram-upc-u-s-shandrovec/>

- On January 16, 2019, in the village of Olenivka, Chernihivska oblast', under the leadership of the head of the Regional State Administration with the support of radical "activists" and the tacit consent of the police, the Holy Ascension church of the UOC was forcibly seized. The genuine religious community of the church had expressed its desire to remain under the authority of the UOC.  
 Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/01/20/povernit-nash-xram-zhiteli-s-olenivka-nachernigivshhini-vimagayut-vid-vladi-povernuti-xram-video/>
- On January 18, 2019, in the village of Pokhovka, Ivano-Frankivska oblast', with the participation of state officials, the Annunciation church of the UOC was captured. The supporters of the so-called "OCU" broke the door locks of the church at night, and subsequently replaced the locks and sealed the church building. The meeting held on the eve of these acts was conducted by the Chairman of the village council Mykolay Ostapchuk without the participation of the parish rector Archpriest Volodymyr Shuvar and without the majority of the parishioners of the Annunciation church.  
 Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/01/22/u-s-poxivka-na-prikarpatti-za-uchastyuchinovnikiv-buv-zaxoplenij-xram-upc-video-onovleno/>
- January 19, 2019, on the feast of the Epiphany, in the village of Brailov, Vinnytsia oblast', the village head V. D. Resydent, accompanied by representatives of "OCU" 3 tried to break the rite of the Great Consecration of Water, which was officiated by a UOC priest. The head of the village council made threats and insulted the priest, thereby arousing the indignation of members of the local Orthodox community.  
 Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/01/20/na-vinnichchini-selishhnij-golova-namagavsyazirvati-velike-osvyachennya-vodi-vigukuyuchi-obrazi-na-adresu-svyashhenikiv-upc/>
- On January 23, 2019 in the village of Pysarivka, Vinnyts'ka oblast', under the leadership of the head of the village council D. Naumenko, without the participation of members of the local religious community, an attempt was made to transfer the UOC Holy Protection church to "OCU" jurisdiction. The chairman of the village council tried to prevent the rector and parishioners of the Holy Protection church from participating in the meeting.  
 Details: <http://vinnytsia.church.ua/2019/01/24/u-pisarivci-ne-vdalos-provesti-zboriteritorialnoji-gromadi-z-golosuvannyam-na-korist-pcu/>
- January 25, 2019 under the chairmanship of the Rector of the UOC Holy Protection church of the village of Kovpyta, Chernihivskiy rayon, Chernihivska oblast', Archpriest Taras Svistun, a meeting of the religious community was held, which consequently voted to keep the parish under the jurisdiction of the UOC. On the following day, January 26, with the collaboration of the Deputy head of the Chernihiv rayon council, Volodymyr Polishchuk, representatives of the UOC-KP and visiting radical "activists" held a meeting of the territorial rural community of the village with the purpose of transferring the parish to the jurisdiction of the so-called "OCU"; the meeting was attended by only 72 people from a total of 1,400 Kovpyta residents.  
 Details: <http://orthodox.com.ua/novosti/v-cherниговской-области-чиновники-пом>
- January 26, after many hours of threats and pressure exerted on the Rector and parishioners of St. Nicholas church in the village of Nichohivka, Manevtskyi rayon, Volyn'ska oblast', civil "activists," headed by the chairman of the village council, F. S. Svytach and the dean of the "UOC- Kyiv Patriarchate" Andriy Zakydalskyi forced the rector priest Fr. Taras Bernyk hand over the keys to the church. All this happened in front of the police, which did not respond to the illegal actions in any way or form and ignored pleas for help from the priest.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/01/27/na-volini-popri-zaxoplennya-xramu-religijnagromada-s-nichogivka-zalishajetsya-virnoyu-upc/>

- On January 27, 2019, aggressively-minded representatives of the "OCU" and civilian "activists" headed by the head of the department to help ATO participants at the Vinnytsia Regional State Administration, Andriy Grachov, organised a meeting of the territorial community of the village of Luka-Meleshkiv of Vinnits'ka oblast' with the goal of transferring the UOC church of the Transfiguration of our Saviour to the jurisdiction of "OCU". The organisers of the meeting used force to prevent members of the bona-fide religious community (parish) of the Transfiguration of our Saviour church from joining the meeting so as to vote to keep the parish under the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Details: <http://vinnytsia.church.ua/2019/01/27/zvernennya-religijnoji-gromadi-sela-lukameleshkivska-vinnickogo-rajonu/>

- On January 28, 2019, in connection with repeated cases of the violation of the rights of believers, the Vinnyts'ka oblast' Directorate of the National Police explained to the local self-government bodies (village councils) about the illegality of the transfer of UOC communities to the "OCU" by convening assemblies of territorial communities.

Details: Official site of the National Police:

<https://vn.npu.gov.ua/news/Informacziya/oficijno-zvernennya-do-organiv-miscevogo-samovryaduvannya>

- On January 30, 2019, with the active participation of the mayor of MogilivPodilskyi, P. P. Brovka, a UOC Church was raided and forcibly seized. The mayor of the city, contrary to the desire of the bona-fide religious community which desired to remain under UOC jurisdiction, held a vote on the transfer to the "OCU" by convening a territorial community meeting and completely ignoring the voice of the UOC believers.

Detailed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJsnwnLd9c4&feature=youtu.be>

- On February 1, 2019, in the presence of the police, a group of civilian "activists" and supporters of "OCU" in the village of Telchi of the Manevytskyi rayon of the Volynska oblast', in the presence of the police, cut the locks to the church of the Three Hierarchs, despite the objections of the head of the local UOC community. At the scene of the offense was a relative of the chairman of the local village council, deputy head of the Manevytskyi police department. Before breaking the locks, supporters of the "OCU" took part in a vote, which wasn't attended by the church community's members.

Details: <http://volyn.church.ua/2019/02/01/prixilniki-pcu-v-prisutnosti-policii-zrizalizamki-na-xrami-trox-svyatiteliv-upc-v-selitelchi/?fbclid=IwAR1iYwe9eXSeKjwnff1qIXOR46KyTsgQXBpBdk2Xxi-7NOOq5TA1iHfK-CI>

Video:

[https://www.facebook.com/oleg.tochinsky/videos/vb.100006620505466/2334250703472257/?type=2&video\\_source=user\\_video\\_tab](https://www.facebook.com/oleg.tochinsky/videos/vb.100006620505466/2334250703472257/?type=2&video_source=user_video_tab)

- On the night of January 31 to February 1, 2019, unknown persons jimmed the locks to the Holy Trinity Church in the village of Bohorodchany and stole church property. The criminals then proceeded to replace all the locks on the doors to the church and did not allow parishioners into the place where they worship. Representatives of the village council and local police refused to investigate the offense and sealed the doors of the church. As a result, the Rector of the church

community, Archpriest Volodymyr Shuvar and the parishioners of the Holy Trinity Church were forced to pray in the open air.

Read more: <http://ivano-frankivsk.church.ua/2019/02/01/za-dopomogoyu-vladividbuvajetsya-zaxoplennya-svyato-trojickogo-xramu-bogorodchan/>

Video: <https://youtu.be/0WvfpSREOpo>

- Representatives of local authorities in the village of Mykhaylivka, Sarats'kyi rayon, Odess'ka oblast' with the participation of the head of the Sarats'kyi rayon State Administration, Anton Lobanov, and the village council members tried, in violation of the legislation of Ukraine and without taking into account the opinion of members of the religious community (parish), to hold a meeting of the territorial community in order to transfer the village parish to the "OCU".

Read more: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/01/protipravni-diji-shhodo-religijnix-gromadupc-na-volini-frankivshhini-ta-odesi-video/>

- On February 3, 2019 supporters of "OCU" staged a fight at the Holy Transfiguration church in the village of Hnizdychne, Zbarazhskyi rayon, Ternopils'ka oblast'. Proponents of "OCU" wearing red-black armbands, viciously beat the Rector of the Holy Transfiguration Religious Community of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Archpriest Stefan Balan. Upon arriving at the crime scene, the chairman of the district council and police representatives took the side of the instigators of the attack.

Read more: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/03/prixilniki-pcu-ta-policiya-pobilinastoyatelya-xramu-upc-v-s-gnezdichne-na-ternopilshhini/>

Video: <https://youtu.be/J4M4plqRmLw>

- February 3, 2019, "OCU" supporters in the village Urvenna, Zdolbunivskyi rayon did not allow the Rector of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God church, Archpriest Andriy 6 Ostapyuk, to celebrate the Sunday divine service, after they had previously held an illegal meeting of the territorial community to transfer the church to jurisdiction of the "OCU" (the decision was made without the participation of genuine parishioners, in total only 58 votes, 27 of which were not even residents of the village). The illegal actions of the "OCU" supporters were publicly supported by the chairman of the Zdolbuniv district state administration, Serhiy Kondrachuk, which included direct insults against the clergy and parishioners of the UOC in social networks.

Details: <http://rivne.church.ua/2019/02/04/prixilniki-pcu-u-s-urvennazdolbunivskogorajonu-nedopustili-svyashhenika-zvershiti-bogosluzhinnya-uxram-yakogo-vin-jenastoyatelem/>

- Father Vitaliy Kremin, a priest of the Yasiniansky district of the Khust Eparchy of the UOC, received insults and threats that his son will be kidnapped from the church raiders and "OCU" supporters led by the so-called "OCU" hierarch Varsonofiy (Rudnyk) who forcibly seized the Church of St. George the Victorious which is in the village of Yasinia, Khustskyi rayon.

Details: <https://pershij.com.ua/na-zakarpatti-natsionalisty-pohrozhuivshychenykoviupts-vykradenniam-syna/>

- On February 5, 2019, a group of unidentified persons entered the premises of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul church in the town of Bohorodchany. The police refused to investigate the offenses and give comments to the parishioners and OSCE mission agents who arrived at the crime scene. The rayon state administration announced that it has commenced taking an inventory of all property belonging to the UOC community.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/05/nevidomi-proniknuli-vopechatanij-xramupc-vsmt-bogorodchani-na-frankivshhini-video/>

- On February 5, 2019, "OCU" supporters cut the locks on the doors of the Holy Trinity Cathedral of the UOC in the city of Berestechko and cut out part of the church door with a chainsaw. Entering the cathedral together with the offenders, was the head of the city council Valentyna Zalevska and the commander of the local State Emergency Service, Mr. Ivan Pashyniuk. According all unfolding events were law enforcement officers who were present at the crime scene.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/04/pid-chas-molitovnogo-stoyannya-bilyazdolbunivskoji-rda-chinovnik-publichno-obraziv-viryanyan-video/>
- February 10, 2019, during Sunday worship in the UOC church in the village of Velymche, Ratnivskiy rayon, Volyns'ka oblast', civil "activists" conducted illegal campaigning in support of the "OCU" under the guise of a sociological survey. As the "activists" confessed to the members of the religious community, they received a monetary reward for this "survey".

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/12/na-volini-v-xramax-upc-proplacheni-studentipid-viglyadom-socopituvannya-provodili-agitaciyu-za-pcu/>
- On February 10, 2019, three "priests" of the UOC-KP arrived at the Holy Trinity church of the village of Velykiy Budyshcha of the Dykanskiy rayon, Poltav'ska oblast', and along with their attendants, attempted to initiate another assembly meeting of the religious community whose main item on the agenda was transfer to the "OCU". This was after the February 3 religious community meeting, where the parishioners had voted in favour of remaining under the jurisdiction of the UOC.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/12/sprostovano-chergovij-fejk-zmi-na-poltavshhiniprixilniki-pcu-namagalisya-perevesti-gromadu-u-rozkol/>
- On February 10, 2019, civil "activists" blocked the entrance to the church and prevented the celebration of the Sunday service in the church of St. Archangel Michael in the village of Zadubrivka, Zastavniivskiy rayon, Chernivetska oblast'. About a hundred parishioners were forced to pray in the street near the church at temperatures around -5 degrees celcius. All this occurred in front of the police, who took a neutral position.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/11/na-bukovini-u-s-zadubrivka-prixilniki-pcuzirvali-liturgiyu-v-xrami-upc-video/>
- On February 10, 2019, in the village of Kulchyn, Kivertsivskiy rayon, Volyns'ka oblast', in violation of the legislation of Ukraine, the so-called "meetings for transferring to the "OCU" were held. As the Rector of the local St. George's church, priest Oleksandr Shmygal, stated, members of his religious community did not participate in these meetings and vehemently oppose such a transition. On February 12, 2019, after a long standoff at the church entrance, supporters of the "transfer to the OCU" in the presence of law enforcement officers cut off the seals from the entrance to St. George's church of the UOC and broke down the door.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/13/u-seli-kulchin-na-volini-rejderi-zrizali-dveri-zxramu-upc-zirvavshi-policejski-pechatki-video/>
- On February 10, 2019, parishioners of the Holy Trinity Cathedral of the UOC in the city of Berestechko in Volyns'ka oblast' gathered for the first time to celebrate the Divine Liturgy outside their own church. After the building was forcibly seized by "OCU" supporters, it was decided to temporarily gather in the Holy Protection Chapel, which is located in the neighbouring village of Stari, not far from Berestechko.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/11/100-parafiyany-zaxopenogo-soboru-v-berestechku-na-volini-molilisya-pid-vidkritim-nebom/>

- On February 12, 2019, "OCU" supporters, led by the former collective kolkhoz chairman V. Solonenko, who was not a parishioner of the church, held a meeting of the territorial community in the village of Pidhaitsi in the Shumskiy rayon to transfer the UOC religious community to the jurisdiction of the "OCU". Permanent parishioners of the local church who, on February 9, at a meeting of the religious community for spoke in favour for the church to remain under UOC jurisdiction, were not invited to this meeting.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/13/porozhni-cerkvi-pislya-perevodiv-u-pcu-naternopilshhini-prodovzhuyut-vidbirati-xrami-upc-video/>
- Local authorities in the village of Bohorodchany, Ivano-Frankivska oblast' closed the UOC Holy Trinity church for the parishioners and priest. The parishioners of the church together with its rector Archpriest Volodymyr Shuvar were forced to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and prayer vigil in front of the closed church on February 12, 2019, on the feast of the Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs, St. Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/13/parafiyani-upc-v-smt-bogorodchaniprodovzhuyut-molitovne-stoyannya-pid-zachinenim-xramom/>
- On February 12, 2019, "OCU" supporters in the village of Kulchyn, Kivertsivs'kyi rayon, cut the locks to the church and seized the building. As a result, on February 15, on the day of the Meeting of the Lord, the community of St. George's Church was forced to gather for a festive Divine service in the house where the Rector of the church, Father Oleksandr Shmygal, lives.

Details: <http://volyn.church.ua/2019/02/16/u-seli-kulchin-gromada-zaxoplenogo-xramuzibralas-na-molitvu-v-budinok-svyashhenika/>
- On February 13, 2019, at a specially convened meeting, the chairman of the Poltava RSA Mr Valeriy Golovko, demanded the re-registration of UOC religious communities 9 operating in the Poltavs'ka oblast', and threatened that "if after a certain period the church is not re-registered, then it will lose its legal entity and will not be able to function legally".

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/15/ochilnik-poltavskoji-oda-slidom-zachinovnikami-minkultu-manipulyuje-na-temi-perejmenuvannya-golova-yuridichnogo-viddilupc/>
- On February 15, 2019, "OCU" supporters cut the locks with a hack-saw and forcibly seized the church belonging to the UOC religious community in the village of Ozeriany, Luts'kyi rayon. Upon entering the church, activists conducted a "revision" of church property. The meeting was attended by the police who did not react to the illegal actions of the church-raiders. These events were preceded by territorial assemblies on the "transfer" to the new "OCU" in which members of the local religious community that had previously voted to retain the jurisdiction of the UOC did not take part.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/0/17/na-svyato-stritennya-rejderi-zaxopili-taspaplyuzhili-xram-upc-u-seli-ozeryani-na-volini/>

Video: <https://www.facebook.com/oleg.tochinsky/videos/2344761459087848/>
- The religious community of the Holy Dormition Church in the village of Mikhalcha in Bukovyna held parish meetings in which by an overwhelming majority decided to remain under the jurisdiction of the UOC. "OCU" supporters refused to recognise the decision of the religious community and made attempts to seize their church. The parishioners of the Holy Dormition church were forced to declare a non-stop prayer vigil and round-the-clock guard around the church.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/17/duxovna-nastanova-nastoyatelya-xramu-s-mixalcha-na-bukovini-do-pastvi-mi-zalishajemos-u-kanonichnij-cerkvi-yaka-%20bula-je-i-bude-i-vorota-pekeln-ne-zdolayut-jiji-video/>

- On February 15, 2019, the fourth UOC community in Bukovyna – the parish of the Holy Archangel Michael in the village of Zadubrivka – joins the 24-hour prayer vigil in an effort to stop the radical supporters of the "OCU" who are attempting to break down the gates of the church and trespass onto its territory.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/17/na-bukovini-vzhe-4-a-gromada-upcdoluchilasya-do-cilodobovogo-molitovnego-stoyannya-u-viri/>
- On February 16, 2019, a group of civilian “activists” cut the locks to the doors of the UOC Church of St. George in the village of Pisky, Berestechkiv’skyi rayon, Volyn’ska oblast’. According to eye-witnesses, the most active participants were the commander of the local State Emergency Service Ivan Pashyniuk who cut the door locks to the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Berestechko, and a local “UOC-KP servant” Volodymyr Kurchyn.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/17/na-volini-vandali-z-pcu-prodovzhuyut-zrizatizamki-i-zaxoplyuvati-xrami-a-gromadi-upc-molyatsya-po-budinkax/>
- On February 21, 2019, representatives of the Hoshchanskyi rayon state administration, together with the village head and approximately 50 "OCU" supporters came to the Holy Protection church in the village of Kurozvany demanding an inventory inspection and proceeded to illegally seal the doors of the church, closing it for parishioners.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/files/2019/02/viber-image-2019-02-22-11.17.45.jpg>  
<http://news.church.ua/2019/02/23/rivnenska-oda-stvoryuje-komisiji-dlya-opisu-majnareligijnix-gromad-upc-foto/>
- On February 22, 2019, a group of "OCU" supporters together with the hegumen of the Kyiv Patriarchate monastery in Lutsk Nykodym cut the locks to the doors of the UOC St. Nicholas church in the village of Zydychyn Kivertsivskyi rayon of the Volyn’ska oblast’ and forcibly seized it using physical force against women – parishioners of the church. After that, these "OCU" supporters began to "carry out an inventory count" of church property. The priest and parishioners of St. Nicholas church were forced to pray in the house where the priest lives.

Details: <http://volyn.church.ua/2019/02/23/v-zhidichini-prixilniki-upc-kp-zaxopili-svyatomikolajivskij-xram-upc/?fbclid=IwAR2YPXpV5rZW-7PXM3M0OoEPyP%75>
- On February 23, 2019, parish meetings were held in front of the entrance to the St. John the Theologian church in the village of Kopytiv, Koretskyi rayon, Rivnens’ka oblast’, where it was decided to remain under the jurisdiction of the UOC. A representative of the Koretskyi Regional State Administration, Pavlo Sukhiy actively opposed the decision of the assembly, and subsequently bringing with him residents from neighbouring villages, urged them to cut the locks and seize the church by force.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/23/u-s-kopitiv-na-rivnenshhini-parafijanividstoyali-svij-xram-zrizati-zamki-i-zaxopiti-cerkvu-pidburyuvav-chinovnik-z-koreckoji-rda/>
- On February 24, 2019 "OCU" supporters staged provocations in five localities of the Chernivtsi-Bukovynian Eparchy. "Activists" were brought with posters, loudspeakers to the UOC churches, and in the village of Tovtry these "activists" tried to illegally enter the church.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/24/na-bukovini-prixilniki-pcu-organizuvaliprovokaciji-u-5-ti-selax-reportazh-z-jeparxiji-onovleno/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/orthobuk/posts/585644198577230?tn=C-R>

- On February 24, 2019, "OCU" supporters broke into the house of the rector of St. George church in the village of Kulchyn, Kivertsivskiy rayon, Fr. Oleksandr Shmygal, threatening him with demands that he vacate the house where he lives and where he temporarily holds services after the earlier capture of St. George church.

Video: [https://youtu.be/\\_lrJCJ6OVpo](https://youtu.be/_lrJCJ6OVpo)
- On February 24, 2019, in the village of Novoyelyzavetivka, Shyryayivskiy rayon, "OCU" supporters led by the secretary of the "OCU" Eparchy, Teodor Orubets, broke the locks and attempted to forcibly seize the UOC Holy Trinity church.

Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/60384-v-novojelizavetovke-predstaviteli-pcu-srezalizamki-na-khrame-upc>
- On February 24, 2019, representatives of the Kyiv Patriarchate and radical "activists" gathered near St. John the Theologian church in the village of Berezhonka, Chernivets'ka oblast' and proceeded to intimidate and frighten the parishioners of the church into transferring the church to "OCU" jurisdiction.

In details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/25/u-xrami-de-sluzhiv-batko-predstoyatelyaupc-kijivskomu-patriarxatu-ne-vdalosya-vlashtuvati-provokaciyu-video/>
- On February 26, 2019, "OCU" supporters bashed female parishioners from the UOC community of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God which is located in the village of Yasinya, Rakhivs'kyi rayon, Zakarpats'ka (Transcarpathian) oblast'. The parishioners had brought with them, to the village Council, the minutes from the meetings of the religious community regarding their decision to remain under the jurisdiction of the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The beating was carried out with the support of the local authorities and with the tacit consent of the police.

In detail: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/27/na-zakarpatti-prixilniki-pcu-pobiliparafijanok-miscevoji-parafiji-upc/>
- A video appeared on the Web showing how "OCU" supporters were obstructing the celebration of Sunday services in the village of Bushcha in Rivnens'ka oblast' and where the chairman of the Zdolbunivskiy district state administration, Serhiy Kondrachuk, was attempting to forcibly enter the church, ostensibly to carry out an inventory count.

Details: <https://spzh.news/ua/news/60400-glava-zdolbunovskoj-rga-ja-imeju-pravoinventarizirovaty-imushhestvo-cerkvi>
- On March 1, 2019, Serhiy Kondrachuk, chairman of the Zdolbuniv Regional State Administration, broke the locks to the doors of the St. Michael church in the village of Bushcha, Zdolbunivskiy rayon, Rivnens'ka oblast', hurling insults at the clergy and parishioners of the UOC.

In detail: <http://rivne.church.ua/2019/03/01/u-s-bushha-golova-zdolbunivskoj-rdavidlomav-cerkovni-dveri/>
- On March 1, 2019, close to fifteen "activists" barricaded the house of the UOC religious community Priest Fr. Yaroslav Savka in the village of Trybukhivtsi, Buchachs'kyi rayon of Ternopil'ska oblast'.

Detailed: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/01/na-ternopilshhini-15-aktivistiv-kijivskogopatriarxatu-zablokuvali-budinok-svyashhenika-upc/#more-267404>
- March 1, 2019, officials of the Hoshchanskiy Rayon Administration, without any permits, under the guise of an "inventory" count, helped "OCU" supporters to seize the UOC church in the village of Kurozvan, Hoshchanskiy rayon, Rivnens'ka oblast'. As a result, "OCU" supporters broke the fence

surrounding the church, and trespassed onto the territory of the church and proceeded to cut the locks to the church. All this was perpetrated in the presence of law enforcement officers who did not take any action.

Details: <http://rivne.church.ua/2019/03/01/u-s-kurozvani-goshhanskogo-rajonu-zadopomogyu-miscevoji-vladi-zaxopili-xram/>

- March 2, in the village of Nova Moshchanytsia, Zdolbunivskiy rayon, Rivnens'ka oblast', "OCU" supporters with the direct participation of the head of the Zdolbunivskiy District State Administration S. Kondrachuk, forcibly seized the UOC Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The lawless actions were accompanied by threats and insults.

Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/60555-v-novoj-moshhanice-verujushhijezahvachennogo-khrama-upc-sobralisy-na-bogosluzhenije>

- On March 2, 2019, in the village of Poradivka, Vasytkivskiy rayon, Kyivs'ka oblast', "OCU" supporters stormed the local Ukrainian Orthodox church of St. Volodymyr, and attempted to break the locks and enter the church. The parishioners of the church said that the day before in the village, a collection of signatures were collected for the "transfer of jurisdiction to the "OCU"" which was initiated by representatives of the local authorities.

Details:

[https://www.facebook.com/1kozaktv/?tn=kCR&eid=ARA6ggp5dgm3sc\\_quYZRsHYgjNqP8wz8PSTaNZVyFmJcx3frO4EqFt-](https://www.facebook.com/1kozaktv/?tn=kCR&eid=ARA6ggp5dgm3sc_quYZRsHYgjNqP8wz8PSTaNZVyFmJcx3frO4EqFt-MCBGBpMtNQk7RNhXsMHYwg5p&hc_ref=ARSWJiO2ukjdxEJELWp6AGEofeBnnrpxYkHNFdeh5LXsLjVw0dQwirMW4Hr1S_240&fref=nf)

[MCBGBpMtNQk7RNhXsMHYwg5p&hc\\_ref=ARSWJiO2ukjdxEJELWp6AGEofeBnnrpxYkHNFdeh5LXsLjVw0dQwirMW4Hr1S\\_240&fref=nf](https://www.facebook.com/1kozaktv/?tn=kCR&eid=ARA6ggp5dgm3sc_quYZRsHYgjNqP8wz8PSTaNZVyFmJcx3frO4EqFt-MCBGBpMtNQk7RNhXsMHYwg5p&hc_ref=ARSWJiO2ukjdxEJELWp6AGEofeBnnrpxYkHNFdeh5LXsLjVw0dQwirMW4Hr1S_240&fref=nf)

- On March 2, 2019, in the village of Levkiv, Zhytomyrs'ka oblast', "OCU" supporters without the prior knowledge and participation of the priest and bona fide members of the religious community, held illegal street meetings of the territorial community in order to "transfer" the Holy Transfiguration church to the "OCU". During the meeting, threats and insults were vehemently hurled against clergy and parishioners of the UOC.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hsJDeFeCsc>

- On March 2, in the village of Dorotyshche, Kovelskyi rayon of the Volyns'ka oblast', during the Divine service, an attempt was made to forcibly seize the local church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary by "OCU" supporters headed by the chairman of the rayon council Andriy Broyilo. The initiators of the church raid blocked the entrance to the church grounds for parishioners thereby not giving the opportunity for the Divine service to be celebrated.

Details: <http://enapxja.ykp/dorotyshche-zakhoplennia-khramu-ne-dopustylj/>

- On March 3, 2019, in the village of Gnizdyche in the Zbarazh district of Ternopil oblast', "OCU" supporters with the support of radical "activists" and under the leadership of the "cleric of the Kyiv patriarchate" Ivan Lesyk, seized the UOC Transfiguration church and violently bashed the congregation.

Details: <https://ternopoliany.te.ua/polituka/13047-na-zbarazhchyni-sviashchennyk-deputatzaimaietsia-politychnym-reketom>

Video: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/03/pid-kriki-moskalyam-tut-ne-buti-vikidali-viryanz-xramu-v-s-gnizdichne-pravij-sektor-dopomig-pcu-zavoloditi-xramom-video/>

- On March 7, 2019, in the village of Berestie, Dubrovyskyi rayon, Rivnens'ka oblast', "OCU" supporters jimmied the side doors of the local church of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church with a

crowbar in order to conduct an "inventory" count. Male "activists" in hats entered the church through the altar, and the proceeded to write protocols right there on the altar table itself.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/15/na-polissi-prixilniki-pcu-za-pidtrimki-vladizaxopili-j-oskvernili-shhe-odin-xram-upc-video/>

Video: <https://youtu.be/6fEi2mP5v8g>

- On March 9, 2019, in the village of Kovpyta, Chernihiv'ska oblast', a UOC church was forcibly seized by "OCU" supporters. Also noticed among the aggressors, was the "OCU" priest" Yevhen Orda was noticed. In this instance, the church door was sealed by unknown criminals. Attempts by the clergy to approach the church building was stopped by radical "activists".  
Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/60700-v-sele-kovpyta-obshhina-upc-molilasy-vozlezahvachennogo-radikalami-khrama>
- On March 9, 2019, in the Volyn'ska Eparchy, "OCU" supporters attacked St. Nicholas' church in the village of Skobelka, Horokhivskiy rayon, and the St. Iliya church in the village of Klepachev, Kivertsivskiy rayon. Both of these parishes were previously and illegally reregistered under the jurisdiction of the "OCU", despite the decision of the bona fide religious communities to remain under the legal jurisdiction of the UOC.  
Details: <http://volyn.church.ua/2019/03/09/parafiyu-upc-v-seli-klepachiv-pereveli-u-pcu-bez-zmini-kerivnika-gromadi-u-rejestri/?fbclid=IwAR31iWH39cgea7xLbuiV27fbRtzGMm6i7YK6wCmQfsQ5qoa1LHhJBazjZs>  
[http://volyn.church.ua/2019/03/10/viryani-upc-v-klepachevi-zvershili-moleben-pered-svojim-zaxopenim-xramom/?fbclid=IwAR0I7BdI9k5YC\\_3p3njB10PdOqvWRnPCaAeyRmqLZnbBuavdToWtuROxXzQ](http://volyn.church.ua/2019/03/10/viryani-upc-v-klepachevi-zvershili-moleben-pered-svojim-zaxopenim-xramom/?fbclid=IwAR0I7BdI9k5YC_3p3njB10PdOqvWRnPCaAeyRmqLZnbBuavdToWtuROxXzQ)
- On March 9, 2019, "OCU" supporters cut the locks and entered the church of St. John the Theologian in the village of Bokhonyky, Vinnyts'ka oblast'. Directly following the illegal seizure of the UOC church, the church's priest wrote a statement to the law enforcement agencies.  
Details: <http://eparhia.vinnica.ua/item/593-zakhopenokhramvselibokhonykyvinnytskohoraionu.html?fbclid=IwAR2NOvJqZF53ZdRbuMZ4TDuQFvIEN5JKpZV3GAm5zOlvlz3DT5I0eZBDbsb>
- March 10, 2019, civil "activists" with the support of the police and local authorities in the person of the Banyliv village council chairman V.D. Solomko, locks to the Archangel Michael church in the village of Berezhnytsia were cut using an angle grinder and the church was forcibly captured. When carrying out the grossly illegal actions, the head of the village council and other "activists" insulted UOC parishioners and used physical force against them.  
Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/11/stoyannya-u-viri-oglyad-situaciji-z-t-zperexodami-za-9-10-berezhnya-foto-video/>
- On March 10, 2019, in the town of Baranivka, Zhytomyr'ska oblast', local authorities in the person of Deputy Oleh Kovalskiy convened a so-called "veche" in the town square, at which he called upon the people to forcibly seize the church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary. As a result, the crowd stormed the church. Parishioners were beaten, and dragged from the church-porch and were forced to leave church territory. A deputy from the Radical Party, Oleh Kovalskiy, one of the initiators of the storming of the church, violently struck the mother of the fallen ATO hero, and also sister Demetria (Pasevych) in the shoulder and chest, then in the face. Kovalskiy then proceeded to throw sister Demetria to the ground and beat her with his feet.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/16/pobita-aktivistom-pcu-pid-chas-shturmuxramu-mati-zagiblogo-geroya-ato-podala-zayavu-v-policiyu-video/>

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ssa6F\\_vxt4#action=share](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ssa6F_vxt4#action=share)

- On March 13, 2019, in the village of Selets, Dubrovtskyi rayon of Rivnens'ka oblast', "OCU" supporters cut the locks to St. Nicholas' church of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The "OCU" supporters led by the head of the Dubrovtskyi Rayon Administration Mykolay Petrushko, blocked access to the church, not allowing members of the UOC to enter it and intimidated the church rector Archpriest Mykolay Ivanychko.  
In detail: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/13/za-spriyannya-chinovnikiv-zrizano-zamki-vchergovomu-xrami-upc-viruyuchi-polissya-vislovyuyut-oburenniya-diyami-vladi/>
- "OCU" adherents after forcibly seizing the canonical UOC Holy Protection church in Kurozvany, Rivnens'ka oblast' attempted to seize the home of Archpriest Volodymyr Koval. According to eyewitnesses, the attackers threatened to use force and actually threatened to kill Archpriest Volodymyr and parishioners.  
Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/60816-v-kurozvanah-aktivisty-pcu-pytajutsya-otobratydom-svyashhennika>  
Video: <https://youtu.be/iEvGUJLVikc>
- March 16, 2019, in the village of Luka-Meleshkivska in Vinnyts'ka oblast', "OCU" supporters attempted to seize the UOC Transfiguration of the Saviour church and prevent the celebration of the hierarchical divine service using physical force against the hierarch and the parishioners of the church. The parishioners who came to worship were blocked inside the church and spent the whole night in prayer.  
Details: <http://eparhia.vinnica.ua/item/609-uvahaposhyrenonepravdyvuiformatsiiu.html?fbclid=IwAR3s2w2pcqHq7pJQb5za3RKRpydT0k1kg5UvhnJKMmjsOxM6mfbmqx5Tgl>  
Videos: <https://youtu.be/fjAYE5rZTMc>  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u599ttrGHFw&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3mrgrakv3e9Sq2cMtGJXI7AWJ8E9DgPZSSodD\\_T\\_ugtWYJVpIM1DVssE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u599ttrGHFw&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3mrgrakv3e9Sq2cMtGJXI7AWJ8E9DgPZSSodD_T_ugtWYJVpIM1DVssE)
- On March 16, in the village of Susval (formerly Oktiabrskoie) in the VolodymyrVolynskyi rayon of the Volyns'ka oblast', "OCU" adherents attempted to seize the local UOC church. "OCU" supporters prevented the rector from entering church territory, explaining that they had brought "their" own priest from the local "eparchy" of the "Kyiv Patriarchate", demanding from the priest that he should hand over the church keys to them.  
Details: <https://eparhia.ukr/susval-prykhylnyky-ptsu-znevazhyly-velykyi-pist-i-zirvalybohosluzhinnia-v-khrami/>
- On March 17, after the Divine Liturgy, in the church of the Assumption of the Virgin of the village of Pogreby, Brovarskyi rayon, Kyivs'ka oblast', representatives of the rural territorial community who were not bona fide church members of the entered the church building and carried out a provocation. The "OCU" supporters staged a fight right there inside the church and hurled insults and threats at the rector and parishioners. When the police arrived they forced all those present to vacate the church and adjacent territory near the church.  
Details: <http://boryspil-eparchy.org/index.php/news/109-life-parafiy/4393-2019-03-17-20-20-47.html>

- On March 17, 2019, aggressively-minded civil "activists" led by former rector Archpriest Mykolay Smolyarchuk, who had been banned from officiating at 17 church services, trespassed onto the territory of the UOC Holy Annunciation Church in the village of Rakiv Lis Kamin-Kashyrskiy District and started a fight on the threshold of the church. "OCU" adherents beat female parishioners, and forced them out of church territory onto the street and replaced church locks on the doors to the church.

Details: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZEMQdDJbN8&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1hsc9SF0fHcRALpvuKo12hzJJPytM30sYhyysNNQIUuLJFb0L\\_4O8StFO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZEMQdDJbN8&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1hsc9SF0fHcRALpvuKo12hzJJPytM30sYhyysNNQIUuLJFb0L_4O8StFO)
- Aggressive "OCU" supporters attempted to break into the local UOC church in the village of Krasnosilka, Bershadskiy rayon of Vinnyts'ka oblast', with the active participation of the local police and with the support of the head of the village council I. Pustovit.

In detail: <http://www.vladyka-ionafan.ru/events/2019/03/17-1>
- In the village of Vapnyarka in Vinnyts'ka oblast', aggressively-minded "OCU" supporters cut the locks and seized the church of St. Andrew the First-Called. The police who were present at the crime scene, simply filmed the seizure of the church on video camera and did not attempt hinder the perpetrators in any way.

Details: <http://mp-eparhia.org.ua/?q=uk/news/arhiereyske-bogosluzhinnya-vsmtvapnyarka-bilya-hramu-svandriya-pervozvannogo>
- On March 23, 2019, in the village of Ivankiv, Kyivs'ka oblast', "OCU" supporters attempted to break into the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos church and capture it.

In detail: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/61027-verujushhije-ivankova-ne-pozvolili-aktivistampcu-zahvatity-svoj-khram>
- On March 24, 2019, in the village of Mnyshyn of the Hoshchanskyi rayon, Rivnens'ka oblast', radically-minded "activists", together with representatives of the "Kyiv Patriarchate", cut the locks to the Holy Protection Church of the UOC and seized the temple. During the seizure of the temple offenders cited the order given by the head of the Rivne Regional Administration Oleksiy Mulyarenko.

Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/61035-v-mnishine-upc-kp-i-pravyj-sektor-srezalizamki-na-khrame-upc>
- On March 24, 2019, in the village of Tovtry, Zastavniivskiy rayon, Chernivets'ka oblast', "OCU" supporters with the active participation of "OCU priest" of the Zastavniivskiy rayon, Vitaliy Menzak, attempted to seize the UOC Holy-Dormition 18 church. "OCU" adherent initiated a fight and insulted the rector and parishioners of the church. The police who had arrived at the crime scene recorded the fact of the attack and received a statement from the victims.

Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/61191-silovoj-konflikt-v-sele-tovtrysprovocirovalisluzhiteli-pcu>
- On March 26, 2019, the Governor of Rivnens'ka oblast, Oleksiy Mulyarenko, in violation of the legislation of Ukraine, issued a decree "On the registration of charters of religious communities in the new revision" in which he mentioned the names of 30 parishes of the Sarnenska and Rivnens'ka Eparchies of the UOC, which had allegedly transferred to the jurisdiction of the "OCU". The issuance of this order led to an aggravation of the confrontation between the believers and justified a whole series of attempts to seize churches and the use of physical force against the clergy and parishioners of the UOC.

Details: <https://rpravda.com/na-rovenshhine-nachali-registracii-ustavov-religioznyhobshhin/500/>

- On April 4, 2019, "OCU" supporters seized the church of the UOC religious community in the village of Ptycha, Dubenskyi rayon, Rivnens'ka oblast'. The perpetrators of the forcible seizure cut the locks and penetrated the church. The police present at the seizure did not hinder or prevent the offenders from committing their crime.  
Details: <http://vzcz.church.ua/2019/04/05/ocu-adherents-seize-uoc-church-in-pticharivnenska-obl/?lang=en>
- The "Honorary Patriarch of OCU" "Filaret" publicly supported the fact that churches were forcibly seized and publicly supported the direct intervention and meddling of state authorities into the affairs of the church. According to him, "The state is on the side of the Church which supports it, and there is nothing wrong with the fact that it obliges officials to exert influence on the parishes".  
Details: <https://glavcom.ua/interviews/patriarh-filaret-poryadok-yakiy-zaproponovali-grekinas-ne-zadovolnyaje-nashiy-cerkvi-treba-noviy-statut--577409.html>

## 2. Cases of direct administrative and forcible pressure on the clergy of the UOC by the state authorities of Ukraine.

- Clerics of the Ivano-Frankivs'ka Eparchy of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church are regularly subjected to pressure from law enforcement agencies. Parish rectors receive threatening phone calls demanding that they report to the law enforcement agencies in order to be interrogated. Militiamen, without any explanation, demand that statute documents, church property ownership documents of the religious communities be provided for "familiarisation" purposes.  
Details: <http://ivano-frankivsk.church.ua/2019/01/30/pres-sluzhba-ivano-frankivskojijeparxiji-upc-zayavlyaje-pro-tisk-na-svyashhennosluzhriteliv-jeparxiji/>
- Clergymen of the Rivnens'ka oblast' are being handed summons' with the requirement that they appear to the deputy head of the investigative department of the Security Services (SBU) in the Rivne region, Mr. B. Tuza for interrogations as witnesses in criminal proceedings. Commenting on the situation, a bishop auxiliary to the Rivnens'ka Eparchy, His Grace Bishop Pimen of Dubno, stated that similar pressure was also being exerted on priests by the regional Directorate of the Security Service of Ukraine.  
In detail: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/06/262557/>
- On February 13, 2019, His Grace Bishop Gedeon (Charon) of Makariv, a bishop auxiliary to the Kyivan Metropolia, the abbot of the UOC Monastery of the Tithes in honour of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was detained at Boryspil airport. The arrest of the Bishop was carried out by representatives of the State Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), who seized his passport, declaring it "lost" and threatened to deprive him of Ukrainian citizenship and to have him forcibly deported. According to His Grace, the unlawful actions of the SBU are directly linked to his speech that was delivered in the US Congress where he presented the facts of discrimination against clerics and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) perpetrated by the Ukrainian government.  
Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/13/jepiskopu-makarivskomu-gedeonu-xaronuogolosheno-pro-zaboronu-vjizdu-do-ukrajini-video/>
- On February 18, 2019, Metropolitan Mytrofan of Gorlovka and Slavyansk was detained at a checkpoint and escorted by a convoy to the Slavyansk city police 20 department. The hierarch was

searched and a task force called which escorted him to the Slavyansk police department. There was a conversation with the investigator, during which no charges were filed.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/18/mitropolita-gorlivskogo-i-slovyanskogomitrofana-pid-chas-povernennya-do-jeparxialnogo-upravlinnya-zatrimala-policiya/>

- On February 26, 2019, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) conducted searches at the office premises of the "STELS-1" company, which deals with the protection of churches of the UOC, and in the apartment of its head, UOC deacon Vyacheslav Pavlov.

Details: <https://spzh.news/ua/news/60479-biblija-i-vojna-vyjasnilasy-kakije-knigi-sbuinkriminirujet-glave-stels-1>

- On March 1, 2019, Archpriest Vitaliy Kemin, dean of the Yasinyanskiy rayon of the Khusts'ka Eparchy of the UOC, and Archpriest Oleksandr Hasparovych, the rector of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos church, were summoned to the local department of the Security Service of Ukraine. The reasons for the "conversation" became grounds for provocations by "OCU" supporters against the rector and parishioners of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary church in the village of Yasinya.

Details: <http://law.church.ua/2019/03/01/v-sbu-proveli-besidu-zi-svyashhenikamixustskoji-jeparxiji-yaki-vidmovlyayutsya-perexoditi-v-pcu/>

- On March 15, 2019, the SSU (SBU) officers handed over a notice of suspicion under Articles 161 and 300 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine to Archpriest Viktor Zemlyany, head of the Department for Regulating Interconfessional Conflicts in the Rivnens'ka Eparchy of the UOC. The archpriest was accused of "deliberate acts aimed at inciting national, racial, or religious hatred", without giving any evidence. Prior to the interrogation by the SBU, Archpriest Viktor recorded a video message in which he stressed that his active position in upholding the rights and freedoms of believers in the Rivnens'ka Eparchy displeases local administration officials and other authorities.

In detail: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/15/protoijerej-viktor-zemlyanij-zapisavzvernennya-u-zvyazku-z-chergovim-viklikom-v-sbu-video/>

Also: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/15/chas-vam-molitsiya-za-nogo-slidchij-sbu-pastvi-oviktora-zemlyanogo-foto/>

- On March 28, 2019, a court hearing was held on charges levelled against Archpriest Victor Zemlyany, head of the UOC Department for Regulating Interconfessional Conflicts in the Rivnens'ka Eparchy who was accused under Part 1 of Art. 161 and Part 1 of Art. 300 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. The court rejected a petition to apply preventive measures against the priest.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/28/sud-vidmoviv-slidchim-v-obranni-mirizapobizhnogo-zaxodu-dlya-o-viktora-zemlyanogo/>

### 3. Protection of the rights of clergymen and parishioners of the UOC in the judicial field.

- The Ukrainian Orthodox Church appealed to the court demanding that the decision of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, which obliges it to change its name and state that it belongs to the Russian Orthodox Church, be declared unlawful. According to this appeal, the decision of the Ministry of Culture and the Law on the renaming of religious organisations violates Article 35 of the Constitution of Ukraine and the main provisions of the Law "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organisations", which guarantee non-interference of the state into the affairs of the Church, and in particular the right of communities to freely choose and change spiritual centres both in Ukraine and abroad.

Details:

[https://zaodessu.com.ua/news/upc\\_obzhaluet\\_v\\_sude\\_reshenie\\_minkulta\\_o\\_prinuditelnom\\_perei\\_menovanii/](https://zaodessu.com.ua/news/upc_obzhaluet_v_sude_reshenie_minkulta_o_prinuditelnom_perei_menovanii/)

- The court found illegal the inaction of the prosecutor of the Volyns'ka oblast', who did not report to the ERDR (Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations) about the violation of the rights of believers in the UOC village of Zhydychyn. The Lutsk Rayon Court examined the claim of the clergyman of the UOC St. Nicholas Church in Zhydychyn, Fr. Roman Geleta, against the inaction of the prosecutor of the Volyns'ka oblast' and ordered an investigation into this offense.

Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/61034-sud-obyazal-nachaty-rassledovaniye-onarushenii-prav-verujushhih-upc-v-zhidychine>

- In the Lutsk Rayon Court, a complaint was made by the rector of the UOC churches in the villages of Sirnychka and Semerynske, Lokachynskiy rayon, 22 Volyns'ka oblast' in connection to the inaction of the prosecutor of Volyns'ka oblast' and ordered the prosecutor or other official authorised to receive and register statements and enter the pertinent information into the Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations (ERDR) of criminal offenses committed against the above-mentioned UOC communities and that pre-trial investigations be commenced.

Detailed: <http://volyn.church.ua/2019/03/26/porushennya-prav-viruyuchix-upc-u-selaxsirnichki-j-semerinske-zafiksuvali-v-jerdr-za-vimogoyu-sudu/>

- The rector of the UOC community in the village of Rakiv Lis, Volyns'ka oblast', which was illegally re-registered as a "OCU community", by order of the Volyns'ka Oblastna (Regional) State Administration No. 123 "On registration of charters of religious communities in the new revision" filed a lawsuit in Volyn District Administrative Court

Detailed: <http://volyn.church.ua/2019/03/26/volinskij-okruzhnij-administrativnij-sudrozglyane-pozov-shhodo-zdijsnenoji-pererejestraciji-statutu-gromadi-upc-sela-rakiv-lis/>

- Archimandrite Nykyta (Storozhuk), Secretary of the Chernivtsi-Bukovynian Eparchy of the UOC, met with representatives of the OSCE monitoring mission, during which new facts of violations of the rights of believers of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bukovyna, as well as persecution of children in schools on religious grounds were considered.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/27/u-chernivecko-bukovinskij-jeparxijpredstavnikam-obsje-povidomili-pro-novi-fakti-utiskiv-viruyuchix-na-bukovini/>

- The Lutsk District Court of the Volyns'ka oblast' considered the appeal of the religious communities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and obliged prosecutors or authorised persons to submit to ERDR (Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations), statements from the rectors of the UOC churches in the villages of Sadiv, Shepel, Vesele, Mankiv, Kholopychi regarding the seizure of churches by the representatives of the so-called "OCU".

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/04/01/u-volinskij-jeparxiji-povidomlyayut-prorishennya-sudu-na-korist-pyati-parafij-upc/>

#### Brief information about the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC)

The UOC is the Local Orthodox Church of the people of Ukraine, which is officially recognised by all the Orthodox Churches of the world and is in spiritual communion with them. Spiritual and prayerful unity with the entire Orthodox world is witnessed by the Patriarchs and Primates of all the

Local Churches, who repeatedly come to Kyiv to concelebrate Divine services with the Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine.

The UOC is completely independent and self-governing in its administration and structure. The Administrative Centre of the UOC is located in Kyiv, Ukraine. According to the UOC Charter, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church independently elects the Primate and Bishops, ordains priests, conducts administrative and economic activities.

The highest authority in the UOC belongs to the Church Council, which is made up of the bishops, ministers and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The UOC is the largest Church in Ukraine, uniting millions of believers in 12,092 territorial church communities.

The UOC has 258 monasteries, 4,500 monks and 90 bishops. During the time of Ukraine's independence, thousands of churches and hundreds of monasteries have been erected and restored with donations from believers of the UOC.

The UOC has consistently advocated the unity, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine and unites the Orthodox citizens of Ukraine, regardless of their nationality, political convictions or place of residence. In all its sermons, the UOC blesses Ukraine, the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian state.