

Ukrainian Council of Churches has confirmed the legitimacy of the new UKRAINIAN AUTHORITIES

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All-Ukrainian Council of Churches and religious organizations urged Russian authorities to give up the military and other interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine .

This is stated in the statement signed by the Chairman of the AUCCRO , locum tenens [*nb plaatsvervanger van de zieke metropoliet Volodymyr Sabodan*] of the Kiev metropolitan department of the Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate) **Metropolitan Onufrii** , reports the Institute for Religious Freedom.

" Russian authorities should be aware of their responsibility before God and before mankind of the irreparable consequences of possible military conflict in the Ukrainian land," - noted the statement.

All-Ukrainian Council of Churches once again demonstrated "the recognition of the legitimate formed Verkhovna Rada (parliament) of Ukraine and the appointed Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine , acting President of Ukraine Alexander Turchinov, and the officials of the Ukrainian government. "

According to the Ukrainian Church hierarchs , "the entry of the armed forces of another State on the territory of Ukraine is a threat not only to our country but also for the peace and tranquility of the European continent as a whole ."

"The citizens of Ukraine do not wish to incite hatred. We want to continue to build fraternal relations with Russia as a sovereign independent state " - said the Council of Churches.

AUCCRO calls on the international community to "do everything possible to maintain peace in Ukraine and to respect the territorial integrity , sovereignty and inviolability of borders of Ukrainian state."

The religious leaders stated that "undermining peace and stability in Ukraine threatens to destroy all the modern system of global security ." Therefore , all steps must be taken to ensure that in Ukraine as a result of the introduction of foreign troops no war will break out.

The churches and religious communities of Ukraine expressed their support to the Ukrainian people and encouraged everyone to intensive prayer for our country.

As reported, the day before the head of Ukrainian churches in a joint statement confirmed that " in our country there is no harassment on the basis of language, nation and religion ." In their opinion , all attempts of Russian propaganda to present events in Ukraine as a " fascist coup" and " extremists victory" are absolutely untrue.

(Vertaling: Heleen Zorgdrager)