

Refugee Review Tribunal

AUSTRALIA

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

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Questions

- 1. Please research the treatment of homosexuals in the Ukraine.**
- 2. Please provide information about the treatment of ethnic Jews and those who are of the Orthodox faith.**
- 3. Is the Ukrainian Self Defence Organisation still a paramilitary organisation and if so who are its leaders? Does it operate in the Ukraine?**
- 4. What is the position of Una Unso in Ukraine? It is an effective political force?**

RESPONSE

1. Please research the treatment of homosexuals in the Ukraine

Homosexuality was decriminalised in 1991, and the age of consent for males and females is 16 years. The Ukrainian gay rights organisation, *Nash Mir* (Our World), was founded in 1996 and is based in Kiev. It was officially registered in 1999 with Ukrainian authorities.

The UK based website, Gay Times, states that “public attitudes towards homosexuals are generally tolerant in Kiev and Kharkov, but in rural areas, especially in the Western Ukraine people are still extremely conservative and quite homophobic” (‘Lesbian and gay Ukraine’ 2004, Gay Times website

<http://www.gaytimes.co.uk/gt/default.asp?topic=country&country=980> – Accessed 20 December 2004 – Attachment 1).

In its 2004 *Ukraine Bulletin*, the UK Home Office states the following in relation to homosexuals:

HOMOSEXUALS

6.98 According to the International Lesbian and Gay Association “Homosexuality was decriminalised at the end of 1991 when Article 122 of the Penal Code (corresponding Section 121 from the Former Soviet Union), which punished ‘anal intercourse between men’ with up to 5 years imprisonment was modified. Only homosexual acts which are non consensual are now punishable.” [27] (p2)

6.99 According to the Russian National Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender web-site the Regional Information and Human Rights Defence Center for Gays and Lesbians (Nash Mir) is a Gay rights organisation based in Kiev. It was founded in 1996 and was officially registered with the Ukrainian authorities on the 30 November 1999. The organisation has translated important IGLA documents into Ukrainian and has organised an international conference on gay and lesbian issues in post Soviet states. [28] (UK Home Office 2004, *Ukraine Bulletin*, June – Attachment 2).

The *Spartacus International Gay Guide* maintains that the prevailing attitudes in the Ukraine towards gays and lesbians are negative. The general situation in the Ukraine, primarily geared towards prospective visitors, is described as follows:

The Ukraine is probably the only post-Soviet republic that has an official [sic] registered lesbian and gay organization (see Nash Mir). Notwithstanding its efforts to raise the public awareness and foster tolerance to homosexuality, the prevailing attitudes remain negative and most gays opt to remain invisible. For this reason the Ukraine can hardly be considered an attractive gay destination, yet if you happen to go there, please note that the cities with the strongest gay presence are Kiev (the capital), Kharkov and Dnepropetrovsk (Gmunder, B. 2004, ‘Ukraine’, *Spartacus International Gay Guide 2004-2005*, 33rd Edition, Bruno Gmunder Verlag GMBH, Berlin, pp. 1029-1031 – Attachment 3).

In a December 2004 article, authored by Tomasz Kitlinski, the current situation for homosexuals in the Ukraine is discussed vis-à-vis the recent presidential elections. The author states – with supportive comments by local lesbian and gay activists – that although “homosexuality was decriminalized in the post-communist Ukraine in 1991,... popular homophobia is rising”. The relevant extracts follow in detail:

Viktor Yanukovich, the self-proclaimed winner of Ukraine’s fraud-ridden presidential elections, now faces a re-vote. Neither Yanukovich nor his Orange opposition, led by Viktor Yushchenko, cares for the situation of women and gays in Ukraine.

“Lesbians and gays are seen as a zoo,” gay activist Vladislav Topchev tells me. “The presentation of us in the media is to satisfy heterosexual interest. Even if journalists are gay-friendly, information tends to be distorted.” Homophobia is rampant both in the industrial, largely Russian-speaking East, and the pro-EU and Catholic western regions of Ukraine, Topchev tells me. He hears about physical attacks everywhere. “There is no difference in the level of homophobia.”

...After the fall of Communism and Ukraine’s independence from Russia in 1991, homosexuality remained unmentionable still in Ukraine. But after the election demonstrations “Now, at long last, the word ‘gay’” will be pronounced in public in Ukraine says LGBT activist Vladislav Topchev. He tells me how difficult it has been to pass an anti-discrimination bill that includes sexual orientation in employment. The words “sexual orientation” had to be dropped from the bill during parliamentary debates. Although the phrase has been returned, he says “There is no time for a debate of the bill now.”

... Women and minorities stand to lose the most from a Yanukovich victory, since he is most likely to continue the Soviet and Ukrainian legacy of xenophobic and homophobic hatred. The victory of the Orange opposition, Topchev believes, would make Ukrainian politics more civilized. Publicly, the opposition does not even touch the issue of homosexuality, but privately, Topchev says, gays know that they have supporters among opposition politicians.

The emergence of the LGBT movement in the Ukraine has been difficult and delicate. The Orthodox Church, dominant in eastern Ukraine, has an ambiguous attitude towards homosexuality. As Yale University historian John Boswell proved, the Orthodox Church performed same-sex unions. In the western Ukraine, the Vatican-controlled and conservative Ukrainian Catholic Church is widespread, with all attendant attitudes towards homosexuality. These attitudes had secular as well as religious traditions. Under Communism, homosexuality was penalized: gay men were sent to labor camps and gulags, while lesbians were confined to mental hospitals. Homosexuality was decriminalized in the post-communist Ukraine in 1991, but popular homophobia is rising.

... The Gay Ukrainian International website says “Describing Ukrainian gay issues, we should emphasize that coming out still is impossible and absolutely unrealistic here. Homosexuality still is considered as shameful and undesirable, so a majority of Ukrainian gay men try to withhold this aspect of their lives. Actually, it is traditional for all Ukrainians to keep their private life in secret. Since Soviet times our people associate private life with sexuality and feel great shame just thinking that their privacy could be exposed.”

Both sides in Ukrainian politics suffer from their majoritarian tone. Ukraine is in need not only of changes in its civil liberties culture, but also of changes in attitudes toward minorities. Natalia Nahorna tells me that a mix of queer cultural tradition, current research, and emerging activism is creating -- all too slowly -- what she calls a new construction of homosexuality in Ukraine. But change is hard, Nahorna says, when “politicians fear that touching lesbian and gay rights will not win them popularity.”

... “We were campaigning for an anti-discrimination law, but with the instability now, we need to wait,” says Vladislav Topchev. Vladislav hopes that the same political forces that brought about the new elections will bring more democracy and tolerance. Even though Ukraine decriminalized homosexuality nearly fifteen years ago, physical attacks are frequent. Last September, skinheads assaulted the Gay Pride in which Topchev participated. Media coverage of gays is prejudiced: “Even gay-friendly or gay journalists present us as not fully human,” he says (Kitlinski, T. 2004, ‘How Pink is Orange? Phobias of the Revolution’, Bad Subjects website, 15 December <http://bad.eserver.org/editors/2004/kitlinskikiev.html> – Accessed 20 December 2004 – Attachment 4).

On 2 October 2003, the *Kyiv Post* published an article reporting anti-gay violence at the UN-sponsored ‘Race for Life’ charity run – an event which raises awareness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic – held in Kyiv on 21 September 2003. A number of lesbian and gay groups reportedly took part in the run, who stated “they were subjected to protests, acts of intimidation and physical violence”. The alleged perpetrators were apparently “members of religious organisations, Ukrainian Nationalists and “young Russian-speaking men” whose affiliation was unknown” (Macisaac, D. 2004, ‘Anti-gay violence mars event’, *Kyiv Post*, 2 October <http://www.gay.org.ua/libarticle.php?id=608> – Accessed 23 December 2004 – Attachment 5).

In researching the treatment of homosexuals, and other minorities, by UNA-UNSO, the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board compiled the following information in November 2002:

According to an article published in *The Internationalist*, “a publication of Marxist analysis and commentary ... programmatic intervention and polemic”,

[a]lthough homosexuality was decriminalized in 1991, gay groups still face government harassment, there is considerable anti-homosexual prejudice, gays are subject to hostility from the Stalinists (who preach traditional “family values” Reagan-style), and homosexuals are targets of the hatred of fascists, such as the Ukrainian nationalist UNA/UNSO thugs who attack leftists in Lviv and elsewhere (Aug. 2001).

Additional and more recent information concerning the treatment of homosexuals by UNA-UNSO could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2002, *UKR40328.E – Ukraine: The treatment of minorities (specifically Jews, homosexuals and Tatars) by the United National Assembly – Ukrainian Self-Defense Organization (UNA-UNSO), and information on state action taken against the UNA-UNSO for ill-treatment of minorities*, 25 November – Attachment 6).

2. Please provide information about the treatment of ethnic Jews and those who are of the Orthodox faith.

Information from the sources consulted indicates that most reported acts of anti-Semitism have been instances of malicious damage, with perpetrators targeting Jewish places of worship and memorial sites. However, there have been isolated reports of assaults on individuals, as stated below in the ‘Antisemitism Worldwide’ report (Attachment 8). In addition, the US Department of State reported that “Anti-Semitic articles appear frequently in small publications and irregular newsletters, although such articles rarely appear in the national press”. No specific information was found in the sources consulted referring to the treatment of ethnic Jews who are of Russian Orthodox faith. Therefore, the following relevant extracts pertain to the treatment of ethnic Jews in general.

The US Department of State’s report on religious freedom for 2004 states the following in relation to acts of anti-Semitism:

Acts of anti-Semitism continued but were infrequent. There were no reports of anyone having been apprehended following the June 2002 vandalism of a Holocaust memorial in Zhytomyr. One Jewish community leader stated that this and earlier attacks were not indicative of an overall anti-Semitic societal attitude; he did not see a rise in anti-Semitic acts from prior years.

In April Jewish community activists discovered that vandals were removing gold from the mass graves of Jews killed by Nazis at the Sosonky memorial in Rivne. The local police are investigating the case. On May 23 vandals destroyed several dozen tombstones, at Jewish and Christian burial sites, at the Kurenivske Cemetery in Kiev. Police are investigating the incident.

Anti-Semitic articles appear frequently in small publications and irregular newsletters, although such articles rarely appear in the national press. The monthly journal “Personnel,” whose editorial board includes several parliamentary deputies, generally published one anti-Semitic article each month. The Jewish community received support from public officials in criticizing articles in the journal. On April 20, the State Committee for Nationalities and Migration filed a lawsuit with the Kiev Economic Court to stop publication of “Personnel” journal and “Personnel-Plus” newspaper for violation of the Law on Information and the Law on the Print Mass Media. On March 12, the State Committee for Nationalities and Migration

filed a lawsuit against “Idealist” newspaper for publication of anti-Semitic articles. On January 28, the Shevchenkivsky Local Court in Kiev ruled that publication of the newspaper “Silski Visti” be suspended for fomenting interethnic hatred in connection with “Silski Visti” publishing on November 15, 2002, professor Vasyl Yaremenko’s article “Myth about Ukrainian Anti-Semitism”, and on September 30, 2003, another article by professor Yaremenko “Jews in Ukraine: Reality without Myths.” The paper is appealing the ruling. “Silski Visti” views the court decision as an attempt to close the major opposition newspaper (circulation 515,000) prior to the October 2004 presidential elections (US Department of State 2004, *International Religious Freedom Report – Ukraine*, September – Attachment 7).

The Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism and Racism at Tel Aviv University publishes an annual survey, the latest of which is for 2003/4. The relevant extract, illustrating the situation in the Ukraine, follows in detail:

UKRAINE

Antisemitic Manifestations

Violence and Vandalism

Cemetery desecration and antisemitic graffiti on the facades of synagogues and other Jewish buildings are categorized in Ukraine mostly as vandalism. On 20 January, ink was sprayed on the door of the Jewish charity organization Irgun Khesed in Lviv, and a partly burnt Ukrainian flag with a Star of David left there. In Belaya Tserkov, the entrance to the tomb of Tsadik Rabbi Mordekhai of Chernobil was desecrated in April. In the same month, unknown persons entered the dormitory of a Jewish school in Kharkiv and painted swastikas on the staircase. On 12 June, a Jew was attacked in Dnepropetrovsk by a group of unidentified persons, who beat him and shouted antisemitic remarks. Antisemitic graffiti was painted on the Jewish Agency’s building in Kanatov on 19 June. On 23 June the word ‘Yids’ was scrawled on a poster of the exhibition “Ann Frank – A Lesson in History,” held in Kiev. On 4 July, antisemitic slogans were painted on buildings in the center of Sevastopol. On 25 July, a Jewish organization in Drogobych received an anonymous fax threatening a pogrom in August by an organization of skinheads. On 30 July 2003, a young man was attacked on the street apparently because of Hebrew text on his T-shirt. A swastika was painted on a memorial for Holocaust victims in Sevastopol on 7 August. On 13 August, and again on 26 August, swastikas, an antisemitic caricature and antisemitic slogans were painted at the entrance to a synagogue in Mukhachevo. On 28 August, Rabbi Uri Fainshtein was severely beaten near the Brodsky central synagogue by three unidentified persons. On 5 December, stones and a plaque at the Babi Yar memorial, dedicated by Israeli President Moshe Katzav in 2001, were damaged.

Demonstrations and Publications

On 10 November, a nationalist, anti-Jewish demonstration was held in the central square of Lviv. The participants held posters branding Jews as parasites. Other posters read: “Living close to the Jews means a betrayal of God and of Ukraine.” In the same month an antisemitic article was published in the newspaper *Idealist*, warning against the ‘Yids’ who want to destroy the Ukrainian people. Earlier issues of this newspaper contained articles calling for the deportation of all Jews.

Holocaust Commemoration

On 12 July a memorial was unveiled in Sevastopol on the 61st anniversary of the murder of 4,200 Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators there. In October, the Tkuma Holocaust Research Center announced plans to build a Holocaust museum and a Jewish education and memorial center (Stephen Roth Institute for the Study of Contemporary Anti-Semitism and

Racism (Tel Aviv University) 2004, 'Antisemitism Worldwide 2003/4 – CIS & Baltic States <http://www.tau.ac.il/Anti-Semitism/asw2003-4/cis.htm> – Accessed 23 December 2004 – Attachment 8).

In 2004, The Euro-Asian Jewish Congress released a report titled 'Anti-Semitism in Ukraine (2002-2004)'. The following extract provides an account of anti-Semitic actions during the last two years:

Ideologically based violence against Jews is a rare phenomenon. Among the recent incidents of anti-Semitism expressed through violence was the attempted pogrom in 2002 at Kyiv's Brodsky synagogue. While making their way from the city's soccer stadium, where they had attended a soccer game, a group of young people attacked the synagogue's building, breaking windows and assaulting several people who came out of the synagogue. The incident resonated among the public, and the authorities tried their best to track down the responsible parties. In the beginning, the law enforcement authorities rejected the notion that the incident was motivated by racial or religious hatred. The authorities assured the public that the responsible parties were drunk, and, upset as a result of the defeat of their favourite soccer team, vented their disappointment on the first building they stumbled across. Maybe the desire to again ignore the nature of the problem defined the authorities' view of the incident. However, in the course of the successful investigation, law enforcement agencies established without a doubt that the pogrom had been a premeditated act of violence (by the way, without any national – Russian or Ukrainian – tinge), rather than a spontaneous act of hooliganism. The officials commenting throughout the course of the investigation adjusted their positions, too. As a result, those who participated in the pogrom were strictly punished, while other legal actions were taken against the organizers of pogrom.

In 2003, two incidents of anti-Semitic violence were recorded in Kyiv. On July 30, young Anton Miromanov was attacked on the street because of Hebrew text on his T-shirt, and on August 28, Rabbi Uri Fainshtein was severely beaten near the central synagogue.

The majority of anti-Semitic acts committed in Ukraine (like in the post-Soviet space in general) are categorized as various types of vandalism, commonly including cemetery defacement and graffiti on the facades of synagogues and other Jewish buildings. In the past, there have been reports of personal threats directed at Jewish activists, and incidents of burning the doors of Jewish activists' apartments (in western Ukraine where the nationalists are strong). There was also a case of arson at the Israeli Information Center in Kharkiv. The Kharkiv arsonist was caught, although his western Ukrainian "colleagues" were not. The Kharkiv arsonist was a member of a pro-Russian nationalistic movement. The investigation and court hearing revealed that he had also been an accomplice in two other politically triggered arsons. He was sentenced to imprisonment, which he is currently serving.

On the whole, the situation with acts of anti-Semitism in Ukraine can be described as a rather calm one, if compared with that in Russia and many Western countries. Nevertheless, the threat of aggressive anti-Semitism still exists (Likhachev, Vyacheslav 2004, 'Anti-Semitism in Ukraine (2002-2004)', Euro-Asian Jewish Congress website http://www.eajc.org/program_art_e.php?id=14# – Accessed 5 January 2004 – Attachment 9).

In its 2004 *Ukraine Bulletin*, the UK Home Office provides the following overview of Jewish communities in the Ukraine:

Judaism

6.46 The US State Department report on Religious Freedom (December 2003) reported that

“According to the State Committee of Statistics, the Jewish population during the 2001 census was estimated at 103,600, although some foreign observers estimate it at 300,000. Observers believe that 35 to 40 percent of the Jewish population are active communally; there are 262 registered Jewish communities.” [10a] (p2)

6.47 The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance report (July 2002) reported that “Antisemitic articles have appeared in non-mainstream press and tracts have continued to be published and distributed by extremist groups. Although in some cases the authorities have taken action to counter or prevent such occurrences – for instance the Procuracy has warned certain publishers against publishing antisemitic material – in other cases the criminal law provisions against hate speech have not been applied.” [25] (p9)

6.48 Freedom House (April 2004) reported that “Ukraine has a notable record of state protection for the rights of the country’s substantial Jewish minority, and anti-Semitic acts of vandalism are generally investigated with diligence.” [26] (p5) (UK Home Office 2004, *Ukraine Bulletin*, June – Attachment 2).

Please note that two previous RRT Research Responses have addressed the adverse treatment of Jews in the Ukraine:

- *Research Response UKR15358* provides information addressing the adverse treatment of Jews from Chernivtsi; however, the information presented encompasses the entire country (RRT Country Research 2002, *Research Response UKR15358*, 26 August – Attachment 10).
- *Research Response UKR15909* addresses the treatment of Jews in the Ukraine, as well as religious converts, by seeking external advice. Information was received from Rabbi Ulman, Spiritual Leader of the Chabad Lubavitch Congregation in Sydney (RRT Country Research 2003, *Research Response UKR15909*, 29 May – Attachment 11).

3. Is the Ukrainian Self Defence Organisation still a paramilitary organisation and if so who are its leaders? Does it operate in the Ukraine?

4. What is the position of UNA UNSO in Ukraine? It is an effective political force?

Information from the sources consulted indicates that it is unclear whether the Ukrainian National Assembly (UNA) and the Ukrainian Self-Defence Organisation (UNSO) officially joined forces again, and if UNSO still operates as a paramilitary wing. However, reports as recent as January 2005 still refer to the organisation as UNA-UNSO, and make mention of UNA-UNSO maintaining “training camps in western Ukraine’s Carpathian mountains, where its members practise guerrilla warfare skills such as hand-to-hand combat and survival.”

A CBC/Radio Canada article, dated 3 January 2005, discusses the alleged support provided to Viktor Yushchenko’s ‘Our Ukraine’ coalition by ‘Ukrainian paramilitaries’:

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) – Among the orange ribbons, rabbit ears and dyed hair of the Ukrainian students who have become the happy face of the Orange Revolution, a darker colour has become more prominent: the green camouflage uniforms of a far-right nationalist group.

“We are soldiers on an assignment,” said one of them, Roman Dubynevych. “We are here to guard the revolution and to prevent Russia’s interference.”

Dubynevych commands a unit of the Ukrainian National Assembly-Self Defence Organization [Researcher emphasis], which says it has provided much of the muscle behind the weeks of protests in support of opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko – who preliminary results show won last Sunday’s rerun of the presidential run-off.

Although the protests have not been violent and Yushchenko promises to bring western-style reforms to Ukraine, the presence of the group, known by its Ukrainian acronym UNA-UNSO, underlines concerns of Yushchenko’s foes that his leadership will inflame nationalism and intense anti-Russian sentiment.

Members of the UNA-UNSO turned an abandoned sugar factory in Kyiv into headquarters from which they co-ordinated the weeks-long blockade of outgoing President Leonid Kuchma’s office and they provided men to serve in Yushchenko’s personal security detail, Bondarenko said.

UNA-UNSO is reputed to have more than 1,000 members, and they brag about their exploits in the first Chechen war, where they say they fought alongside Chechen rebels; in the 1991-1995 Balkan wars; and in Georgia’s breakaway province of Abkhazia, which has received strong support from Russia.

Dozens reportedly were killed fighting alongside Georgian troops, and then-Georgian president Eduard Shevardnadze decorated the group’s leader, Ihor Mazur, for bravery.

The group maintains training camps in western Ukraine’s Carpathian mountains, where its members practise guerrilla warfare skills such as hand-to-hand combat and survival. Its website includes such items as a statement of solidarity with Chile’s ex-dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet and a report about a treaty of “friendship and co-operation” with representatives of German neo-Nazis. [Researcher emphasis]

However, Mazur rejects widespread claims that the organization is anti-Semitic and neo-Nazi. Leonid Finberg, head of the Kyiv-based Jewish Yudaica Institute, agreed.

“Five or six years ago, there were people with such sentiments, but that was not part of that organization’s policy,” he said.

Much of UNA-UNSO’s bad reputation comes from another group with the same name that paraded through downtown Kyiv with Nazi flags. In a move to distance himself, Yushchenko urged that group’s leader, Eduard Kovalenko, to offer his support to Yanukovich instead. [Researcher emphasis]

Mazur insisted that his group has no relation with Kovalenko’s faction. “We want a democratic Ukraine in a unified Europe,” Mazur said. “We are here because we are Ukrainians, not because of our nationality or religion” (Bukharbayeva, B. 2005, ‘Ukrainians begin New Year with high hopes after revolutionary year’, CBC/Radio Canada website, 3 January <http://www.cbc.ca/cp/world/050101/w010136.html> – Accessed 4 January 2005 – Attachment 12).

A report by The British Helsinki Human Rights Group, dated 24 November 2004, refers to “the uniformed bully-boys of the UNSO movement, so-called Ukrainian Self-Defence forces” in Western Ukrainian towns, and their alleged affiliation with the ‘Our Ukraine’ political party (‘Shadow of Anti-Semitism over Ukraine’s Disputed Election’ 2004, The British Helsinki Human Rights Group website – <http://www.bhhrg.org/LatestNews.asp?ArticleID=51> – Accessed 20 December 2004 – Attachment 13).

The sources consulted suggest that there is currently a Ukrainian National Assembly (UNA) political party, and a registered public organisation named the Ukrainian National Association-Ukrainian People's Self-Defence (UNA-UNSO), in existence. The former is reportedly led by Eduard Kovalenko, and the latter is led by Andrii Shkyl, former leader of the original UNA-UNSO, and now Parliamentary Deputy of Lviv region. However, even the leadership of each organisation seems to be a contentious issue ('Justice Ministry Registers UNA-UNSO Public Organization' 2003, *Ukrainian News*, 26 November – Attachment 14).

In order to understand the current position, and political force, of UNA/UNA-UNSO in the Ukraine, relevant media reports are included below which explain the background to the current situation. The reports, primarily by *Ukrainian News*, follow in chronological order:

- In October 2001, Eduard Kovalenko, the head of UNA-UNSO's political council, announced the party's intention to soften its structure from one of "radical aggressiveness" to "social welfare" in order to attract more people to the party ('UNA-UNSO Restructuring' 2001, *Ukrainian News*, 12 October – Attachment 15).
- In November 2001, Mykola Karpiuk reportedly replaced Andrii Shkyl as elected leader of UNA-UNSO, while Shkyl was in remand prison for his involvement in anti-presidential protests in March 2001. Eduard Kovalenko allegedly disclosed the information to *Ukrainian News*, at the same time as announcing himself as the new Deputy Leader of the party ('Karpiuk Replaces Shkyl As Head Of UNA-UNSO' 2001, *Ukrainian News*, 19 November – Attachment 16).
- In January 2002, ex-UNA-UNSO party leader, Andrii Shkyl, was officially registered as a candidate for Parliamentary Deputy in Lviv region ('Former UNA-UNSO Leader Shkyl Becomes Candidate For Parliament In The Lviv Region' 2002, *Ukrainian News*, 29 January – Attachment 17).
- On 1 April 2002, *Ukrainian News* announced that Andrii Shkyl had won the parliamentary election in the 121st district of Lviv region ('Shkyl Wins Parliamentary Seat From Lviv Region's 121st District' 2002, *Ukrainian News*, 1 April – Attachment 18).
- On 22 April 2002, the Central Committee of UNA-UNSO officially expelled Andrii Shkyl from the party, accused of creating a "schism in the party". Shkyl reportedly announced his intention to seek reinstatement as party leader ('UNA Expels Shkyl' 2002, *Ukrainian News*, 22 April – Attachment 19).
- However, a March 2003 article, by *Interfax Ukrainian News (Russia)*, refers to Andrii Shkil as leader of UNA-UNSO. It continues to discuss the split in UNA-UNSO "as a result of a disagreement between Shkil and his deputy Mykola Karpiuk". UNA-UNSO's press secretary is reported as stating that Andrii Shkil "is supported as party leader by all but one of the regional organisations" ('Secretary. UNA-UNSO led by Andriy Shkil' 2003, *Interfax Ukrainian News (Russia)*, 5 March – Attachment 20).
- On 10 March 2003, *Ukrainian News* reported that "the political party UNA and the UNA-UNSO Party, which isn't registered up until this time, have united in an All-Ukrainian social organization called the Ukrainian National Association of Ukrainian People's Self-Defense" ('UNA And UNA-UNSO Unite In Social Organization

“Ukrainian National Association Of Ukrainian People’s Self-Defense’ 2003, *Ukrainian News*, 10 March – Attachment 21).

- On 17 March 2003, *Ukrainian News* reported that Andrii Shkyl had requested “the Ministry of Justice to confirm the lawfulness of his leadership in the political party Ukrainian National Assembly (UNA)”. The information was reportedly provided to *Ukrainian News* by Ostap Kozak, “the chairman of the Lviv regional branch of UNA-UNSO” (‘Parliamentary Deputy Shkil Requests Justice Ministry To Confirm Lawfulness Of His Leadership In UNA’ 2003, *Ukrainian News*, 17 March – Attachment 22).
- In March 2004, *Ukrainian News* reported that “the UNA-UNSO nongovernmental organization intends to reorganize into a party, according to a decision passed at the second congress of UNA-UNSO”. Andrii Shkyl, the alleged party leader, “proposed a tentative name of the future party – the People’s Self-Defense”, though it is reported that the “party registration may take a year”. The congress was reportedly attended by 204 delegates from 14 regions of the Ukraine, and **the organisation “presently numbers 2,000 members” [Researcher emphasis]** (‘UNA-UNSO Nongovernmental Organization To Reorganize Into Party’ 2004, *Ukrainian News*, 13 March – Attachment 23).

In a July 2004 report by the US-sponsored Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), the leader of UNA is referred to as Eduard Kovalenko, as the following extract illustrates:

OUR UKRAINE WARNS AGAINST PROVOCATION BY NATIONALIST GROUP... The Our Ukraine bloc led by presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko has demanded that President Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, and leaders of law enforcement bodies prevent the staging of what they termed a potentially dangerous and provocative action by the Ukrainian National Assembly (UNA), an extremist nationalist group, Interfax reported on 15 July, quoting Our Ukraine activists Mykola Katerynychuk and Volodymyr Bondarenko. Katerynychuk and Bondarenko told journalists that the UNA is going to hold a congress and a march with flaming torches in Kyiv on 16 July, during which its activists will shout “anti-Semitic and anti-Russian slogans” and express “pseudo-support for Yushchenko.” The Our Ukraine leader recently sent a letter to Kuchma warning that the presidential campaign has activated “forces that profess fascism and ethnic and racial intolerance.” According to Yushchenko, “central television channels popularize the activities of radical, pro-fascist structures” which, the Our Ukraine leader added, are financed by top-level officials. JM

...AS GROUP LEADER VOWS TO STRUGGLE FOR ‘HONEST AND PURE’ GOVERNMENT. **UNA leader Eduard Kovalenko [Researcher emphasis]** told Hromadske Radio on 15 July that the UNA congress and march planned for 16 July has been rescheduled for 31 July, the “Ukrayinska pravda” website (<http://www2.pravda.com.ua/>) reported. “After the conclusion of the congress, we will march with flaming torches to the Castle Hill,” Kovalenko said. “There we will set on fire [a symbol] of wealth as a sign of the beginning of the UNA’s national-patriotic fight for honest and pure government, for establishing Ukrainians in power,” he added. Kovalenko did not say whether this action will be connected to Yushchenko’s presidential bid. “[The UNA action] is necessary to nourish the media image of Yushchenko as a man supported by fascists,” Our Ukraine activist Bondarenko commented on 15 July. JM (‘Our Ukraine Warns Against Provocation By Nationalist Group...As Group Leader Vows To Struggle For ‘Honest And Pure’ Government’ 2004, *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, 16 July – Attachment 24).

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Google search engine

<http://www.gay.org.ua> *Nash Mir* (Our World) – Ukrainian lesbian and gay organisation

<http://www.brama.com/index.html> BRAMA – Gateway Ukraine

<http://www.una-unso.org/av/main.asp> UNA-UNSO – English page

<http://www.risu.org.ua> Religious Information Service of Ukraine

<http://www.jewish.kiev.ua> All-Ukrainian Jewish Congress

<http://www.jew-fund.kiev.ua/> The Jewish Foundation of Ukraine

<http://www.kyivpost.com/> *Kyiv Post*

<http://www.ukraineinfo.us/> Ukraine Info

UNHCR *REFWORLD* UNHCR Refugee Information Online

Databases:

Public *FACTIVA* Reuters Business Briefing

DIMIA *BACIS* Country Information

REFINFO IRBDC Research Responses (Canada)

RRT *ISYS* RRT Country Research database, including
Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch,
US Department of State *Country Reports on Human
Rights Practices*.

RRT Library *FIRST* RRT Library Catalogue

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