

## Why must we remember?

- ❑ To pay tribute to the memory of the millions of innocent victims
- ❑ To condemn the crimes of the Soviet Communist regime
- ❑ To restore historical justice
- ❑ To gain international recognition of the Ukrainian genocide.

By making the case of the Holodomor as genocide, Ukraine seeks to increase the international community's awareness of the fact that engineered famines are still being used as a weapon, and through this awareness, helps to prevent such deplorable acts elsewhere in the world.



“[T]he assault by famine on the Ukrainian peasant population was accompanied by a wide-ranging destruction of Ukrainian cultural and religious life and slaughter of the Ukrainian intelligentsia. Stalin [...] saw the peasantry as the bulwark of nationalism; and common sense requires us to see this double blow at Ukrainian nationhood as no coincidence.”

*Robert Conquest  
Holodomor scholar (USA)*

Published by the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations with content produced jointly by the Secretariat of the President of Ukraine, the International Holodomor Committee Ukrainian World Congress and the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory.

Printed with the financial assistance of BCU Foundation's Yuriy Skripchinski Holodomor Education Fund

For sources and links to information on the Holodomor visit [www.ucc.ca](http://www.ucc.ca)



**THE HOLODOMOR:** (based on two Ukrainian words: *holod* - 'hunger, starvation, famine,' and *moryty* - 'to induce suffering, to kill') was an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people, committed by the Soviet Communist regime in 1932-33.

## What is Holodomor?

In the early 1930s, in the very heart of a region considered to be the breadbasket of Europe, Stalin's Communist regime committed a horrendous act of genocide against millions of Ukrainians. An ancient nation of agriculturalists was subjected to starvation, one of the most ruthless forms of torture and death.

“...a massive exodus of peasants ‘in search of bread’ has started... without a doubt organized by enemies of the Soviet Government. [Therefore, regional executive party bodies in Soviet Ukraine and the Kuban are ordered] ...to prevent a massive exodus of peasants... [Peasants from Soviet Ukraine and the Kuban who have crossed borders to the north] shall be arrested... and deported back to their places of residence”.

*Resolution passed on 22 January 1933 by the Central Committee of the Communist Party and the Council for People's Commissars of the USSR “On Preventing a Massive Exodus of Starving Peasants”*

## The Genocide Policy

- ❑ Confiscation of grain and all other food-stuffs in rural districts, including food inside the homes.
- ❑ Enforced isolation of the borders of Soviet Ukraine and the Ukrainian Kuban, as well as the blockade of individual areas.

**GENOCIDE:** The Holodomor conforms to the definition of the crime according to the UN Convention on Genocide. The Communist regime targeted the Ukrainians, in the sense of a civic nation, in Soviet Ukraine as an ethnic group in Soviet Russia, especially in the predominantly Ukrainian Kuban region of the Northern Caucasus.

## The International Community

The Soviet Government refused to acknowledge to the international community the starvation in Ukraine and turned down the assistance offered by various countries and international relief organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross. Moreover, these attempts to offer assistance were denounced as anti-Soviet propaganda.

In order to prevent exposure of the terrible crimes to both the Soviet and foreign public, strict controls were imposed on any trips to the areas hit by starvation. As a result, very few photos were taken.

On Stalin's orders, those who conducted the 1937 population census, which revealed a sharp decrease in the Ukrainian population as a result of the Holodomor, were shot, while the census results were suppressed.

“There was hardly a home where no one had died of starvation. The death rate was appalling.”

*Yakiv Vilchenko  
Holodomor eyewitness  
Kyiv region*

*Children comprised one-third of the Holodomor victims in Ukraine. Large numbers of children were orphaned and became homeless.*

