

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: June 24, 2016

Re: Urging for a New NATO initiative to be proposed by PM Trudeau at the Warsaw Summit

Ottawa, June 24— Canada should propose a task force to “enhance and enlarge a comprehensive defence strategy for Ukraine” at the NATO Summit in Warsaw next month.

The request, made by the Canadian Group for Democracy in Ukraine in its June 22 letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, stresses the absolute need to assist Ukraine because of “its strategic importance in the defence of Europe against Russia.”

“President Putin is not only fighting a war in Ukraine. It’s his opening assault on NATO and Europe designed to give Russia power via criminality and aggression,” says Oksana Bashuk Hepburn, a Group co-founder. “Ukraine has been Europe’s first line of defence for over two years now. We can’t let it be the meat sandwiched between NATO and Russia defending Europe, and our democratic way of life on its own. Time for more help.”

Even though Ukraine is not a member of NATO Russia’s invasion and annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea and further incursion into the Donbas is a “de facto NATO Article 5 situation,” states the letter.

The Group wants NATO to develop a robust strategy to strengthen its position vis-a-vis Russia globally by strengthening Ukraine. The letter calls for Canada to propose a task-force, under its leadership, to do the job. This should include more military training and additional defence equipment. It should find “a concrete path for Ukraine to NATO’s membership”.

“Such an initiative would benefit Canada. It would give us a greater global profile and restore some of the influence lost by pulling out our CF-18s from the ISIS fight,” she stresses.

The British choice to exit the EU is significant. “Russia perceives UK’s vote as reinforcement for Putin’s aggressive and war-mongering strategy to divide and rule. That makes NATO’s stand for Europe and global democratic values even more vital. Canada’s initiative would work to those ends,” says Myroslava Oleksiuk, a CGDU co-founder.

Letter included & at: <http://cg4du.blogspot.ca/>

-30-

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*The Canadian Group for Democracy in Ukraine is dedicated to the furthering of
democracy in Ukraine*



Canadian Group for
Democracy in Ukraine

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