

**Oregon Legislature
House Committee On Rules**

**SB583: Designates fourth Saturday of
November of each year as
Holodomor Remembrance Day**

**Tatiana Terdal
March 7, 2023**

Ukrainian Community is grateful for SCR3 that designated November 25, 2017 Holodomor Remembrance Day in Oregon

Senate Concurrent Resolution 3 was the first piece of legislation to be introduced at the request of the Ukrainian American community of Oregon

- Chief sponsors Senator Monnes Anderson, Senator Kruse
- Regular sponsors: Senators Beyer, Boquist, Gelsler, Girod, Hansell, Knopp, Monroe, Roblan, Steiner; Representatives Greenlick, Heard, Malstrom, Piluso
- Adopted ***unanimously*** in both Oregon Senate and Oregon House of Representatives
- Ceremonial signing in the Senate Chamber on September 20, 2017



SB583 designates the fourth Saturday of each year as Holodomor Remembrance Day in Oregon

- Provides official recognition of Holodomor Remembrance Day in Oregon
 - Fourth Saturday of each year
 - Same day as in Ukraine and other countries, including Canada
- Does NOT allocate any funds, or require any specific observances or actions
- Ceremonial recognition preserves the memory of this man-made famine-genocide, and supports Oregon's Ukrainian-American community

“Holodomor” is the famine-genocide of 1932-1933 that caused the death of at least five million Ukrainians

The term “**Holodomor**” is the combination of Ukrainian words “**Holod**” that means “hunger/starvation” and the Ukrainian word “**mor**” that means “epidemic”
Once the Soviet Union strengthened its control of the occupied territories of Ukraine, the Soviet leadership pressured Ukrainian farmers to give up their land and join collective farms

1929	<i>Forced collectivization throughout the Ukrainian SSR brings all labor and landholdings under state control, prompting protests from farmers. Stalin launches the dekulakization campaign to break the resistance of the successful farmers (the "Kulaks") and to eliminate them as a class. More than 500,000 farmers and their families are executed, deported to Siberia, or sent to the Gulag camps. Uprisings are widespread. Political and intellectual elites are also deported, jailed or disappear</i>
1930	Thousands of churches in Ukraine are destroyed; priests are arrested. Farmers are assigned unrealistically high quotas
1931	Ukraine’s wheat harvest is down compared to prior years, yet grain quotas are further increased, forcing collective farms and small farmers to hand over even seed grain reserves set aside for planting

“Holodomor” is the famine-genocide of 1932-1933 that caused the death of at least five million Ukrainians

1932	Famine grips Ukraine. Close to half of the harvest is seized by the Soviet government. Unattainable grain quotas are imposed and people begin to starve. Villages unable to meet the assigned grain collection targets are blacklisted and subjected to blockades; thus preventing goods from entering or leaving 40% of Ukraine’s grain taken by the Soviets
August 7, 1932	<i>A decree known as “The Law of Five Stalks of Grain” is instituted that calls for ten years’ imprisonment or the death penalty for taking even a handful of grain, which is considered state property, from the fields</i>
October 1932	Lazar Kaganovich (for North Caucasus/Kuban) and Vyacheslav Molotov (for Ukraine) arrive with more than 100,000 apparatchiks and military personnel to ensure that grain procurement quotas are met in Ukraine. They travel the countryside conducting house-to-house searches and seizing hidden grain stores
November 1932	Villages and collective farms that fail to meet their grain quotas are "blacklisted" and blocked from receiving any food or other goods. More than 1/3 of all villages are placed on these blacklists.
December 31, 1932	An internal passport system is introduced to prevent starving farmers from moving into the cities or across the borders.

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January 22, 1933	<i>A secret directive closes the borders of Ukraine as local officials are instructed to prevent peasants from leaving Ukraine and the North Caucasus in search for food.</i>
January 24, 1933	The Soviet Politburo passes a resolution condemning Ukraine’s party leadership for failure to carry out its duties and appoints Pavel Postyshev to lead the Communist Party of Ukraine. He initiates the repression of cultural leaders and purges the Ukrainian Communist party. A number of prominent Ukrainians commit suicide
June 1933	<i>In June 1933, the height of the Holodomor, some 28,000 people per day are dying of starvation. Whole villages and collective farms are decimated. Moscow denies there is a famine</i>
August 15, 1933	An All-Union Resettlement Committee is formed, and by the end of the year 117,000 collective farmers from Russia and Belorussia are resettled in the areas where the population died of starvation. Most would eventually return home
1934	The harvest is significantly worse than in 1932 and 1933 and people continue to die of starvation
TODAY March 2023	<i>THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IS CARRYING OUT GENOCIDE OF UKRAINIANS OF ALL RACES AND ETHNICITIES Books about Holodomor are banned in Russian occupied territories of Ukraine</i>

The Soviet Union encouraged Western journalists to suppress the news about Holodomor and report “fake news” from Soviet Ukraine

The New York Times Moscow-based correspondent Walter Duranty is notorious for promoting Stalin regime’s propaganda in exchange for preferential access to Stalin and Soviet leadership

- Duranty built a reputation as a leading authority on the Soviet Union
- Duranty promoted the idea that Josef Stalin was the strong leader the USSR needed. He wrote about Stalin with great admiration
- Stalin rewarded Duranty with interviews and rare degree of access
- A British diplomat recorded in September 1933 that Duranty told him that "as many as 10 million people may have died directly or indirectly from lack of food in the past year." Duranty never wrote about this publicly
- Duranty’s August 1933 article started with this sentence: "The excellent harvest about to be gathered shows that any report of a famine in Russia is today an exaggeration or malignant propaganda."
- Duranty used to reputation to malign and undermine the work of reporters such as Welsh reporter Gareth Jones who traveled to Ukraine and reported on the famine

The Pulitzer Board awarded Duranty Pulitzer Prize in 1932 for "dispassionate interpretive reporting"

The Pulitzer Board has so far refuses all requests to rescind the award

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As millions of Ukrainians were dying from starvation in Soviet occupied Ukraine, the New York Times correspondent Walter Duranty continued to promote the Stalinist regime and justify the genocide.

Duranty wrote in 1933:

“Russia today cannot be judged by Western standards or interpreted in Western terms.”
“To put it brutally, you can't make an omelet without breaking eggs.”



Dead child on the streets of Kharkiv, Ukraine, during the Holodomor, photo by Alexander Wienerberger, 1933.

[Holodomor | Facts, Definition, & Death Toll | Britannica](#)



A young child, showing obvious signs of starvation, during the Holodomor, Kharkiv, Ukraine, photo by Alexander Wienerberger, 1933.. [Holodomor | Facts, Definition, & Death Toll | Britannica](#)



Victim of the Holodomor, Kharkiv, Ukraine, photo by Alexander Wienerberger.

[Holodomor | Facts, Definition, & Death Toll | Britannica](#)

The Russian Federation is committing genocide in Ukraine

On April 3, 2022 Russian state-owned media outlet RIA Novosti published an article outlining Russian plan in Ukraine: “de-Ukrainization” —destruction of Ukraine’s sovereignty as a state and Ukrainians as a people.*

Russia is committing genocide in Ukraine.*



* Sources: [During Harvest, the Tractor Exploded on a Russian Mine - GTInvest \(good-time-invest.com\)](#)



Source: [Ukraine loses up to 10M tonnes of potential crops \(ukrinform.net\)](#)



* Sources: [Russia conducts airstrike against civilian tractor in Kharkiv Oblast - Ukraine meme / The New Voice of Ukraine \(nv.ua\)](#)

* Sources: [Russia's Brutal Honesty Has Destroyed the West's Appeasers \(foreignpolicy.com\)](#); [Russia’s Genocide Handbook – Mgrublian Center for Human Rights \(cmc.edu\)](#)

The Russian Federation is committing genocide in Ukraine

“Genocide does not need to take the form of mass violence in order for it to be legally genocide. Article II of UN Genocide Convention outlaws the intended attempt to destroy national, racial, ethnical, or religious groups. Clearly the stated attempt to destroy the Ukrainian national group is inherently genocidal, therefore. Legally speaking, for genocide to be determined, the attempt to destroy one of the protected groups must be committed through one of the following five acts:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.”*



In the courtyard of their house, Vlad Tanyuk, 6, looks at the grave of his mother Ira Tanyuk, who died because of starvation and stress due to the war, in Bucha, Ukraine, April 4, 2022.

Rodrigo Abd/AP

Source: [Photos show devastation in Bucha in wake of Russian invasion - ABC News \(go.com\)](https://www.abcnews.com/photo-gallery/2022/04/04/photos-show-devastation-in-bucha-in-wake-of-russian-invasion/)



A body of a woman, who according to residents was killed by Russian army soldiers, lies on the street, amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in Bucha, Ukraine April 2, 2022. Zohra Bensemra/Reuters

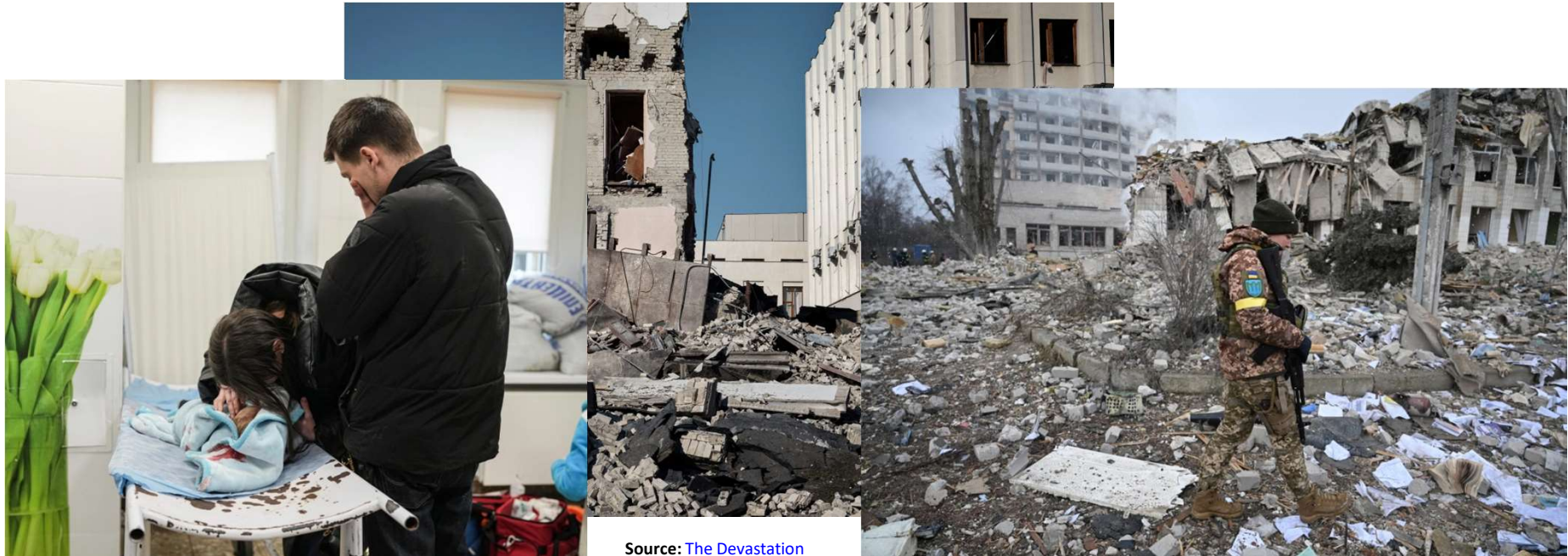
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*Source: [Is Russia Committing Genocide in Ukraine? - Opinio Juris](https://www.opiniojuris.org/en/2022/04/08/is-russia-committing-genocide-in-ukraine/)

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Parents Marina Yatsko and Fedor weeping over their baby son's lifeless body
Source: [Horror pictures show mum & dad weeping over baby killed by Russian strikes as Putin ignores ceasefire in Ukraine | The US Sun \(the-sun.com\)](#)

Source: [The Devastation of Kharkiv, Ukraine | The New Yorker](#)

A Ukrainian service member walks near a school building destroyed by shelling in Zhytomyr
Credit: Reuters
Source: [Horror pictures show mum & dad weeping over baby killed by Russian strikes as Putin ignores ceasefire in Ukraine | The US Sun \(the-sun.com\)](#)

*Source: [Is Russia Committing Genocide in Ukraine? - Opinio Juris](#)

Ukrainians in Oregon – preserving memory and culture for future generations

The pysanka (traditional Ukrainian Easter egg) on the photo was made in Arch Cape, Oregon, by an Ukrainian immigrant in 1978

- The pysanka was donated to the Ukrainian American community of Oregon in memory of the person who created it
- Wheat/stalks of wheat are traditional elements found on many pysankas

The Soviet government in Soviet occupied Ukraine destroyed pysanky museums and tried to eradicate Ukrainian traditions, including the art of pysanka

Ukrainians living in the diaspora outside of the control of the Soviet government carried on traditions and passed them on to their descendants

Michael Powell, one of the co-founders of Powell's Books, donated his family pysanka collection to St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church in SE Portland. It is one of the largest pysanky collections in Oregon and is usually displayed for public viewing around Easter

