



Earth Month Network, Inc. TM

March 24, 2026

Volodymyr Zelensky
President of Ukraine
11 Bankova St.
Kyiv, 01220
Ukraine

Subject: **CURING OF THE DENIAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS
OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES IN UKRAINE**

Dear Mr. President:

This writing is humbly presented in positive light of which to cure the dismal situation involving the continual persecution and treatment of Jehovah's Witnesses by the nation-state of Ukraine, and relief from **THE DENIAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES IN UKRAINE** by agents in the nation-state of Ukraine and for the *Release of Jehovah's' Witnesses from unlawful captivity* within all of Ukraine's territorial and judicial districts.

Earth Month was founded on Saturday April 4, 1970, as the full month of April is Earth Month. Earth Month Network, Inc. (EMN) is a legal entity nonprofit, NGO located in Maricopa, Arizona USA that operates the affairs for Earth Month. These include but are not limited to: Environmental Awareness, Activism, Stewardship, Wildlife Conservation, Education, Environmental and Social Justice, Civil, Constitutional and *Human Rights* on a global basis. Much like efforts in Ukraine e.g., local conservation, green reconstruction, April Toloka, and now *Ecocide* and *UAnimals*.

The focus complained of herein emanates from the imposition of negative actions taken against *Jehovas's Witnesses in the free exercise of their religious faith*, which has resulted in harassment, threats, intimidation, arrests, assaults, judicial proceedings jail incarcerations and sentencing to terms of imprisonment.

This is due to a grave misunderstanding of the religious beliefs and faith of Jehovah's people in *neutrality* and the *sanctity of life* and by agents of Ukraine comprehension of the law on the matter in re to military inscription and *conscientious objection*.

Contrary to what some may believe, it is a fact that, Jehovah's Witness (JW's) have great respect for government. The Apostle Paul wrote "Let every person be in subjection to the superior authorities, for there is no authority except by God; the existing authorities stand placed in their relative positions by God". *Romans 13.1,2*. This also means that the superior authorities or in this case government entities in Ukraine and their representatives stands in place to its relative position only by the grace of God, Jehovah. Does this not deem respect for the nation-state of Ukraine?

The activities of Jehovah's Witnesses and the publications that are produce encourage love of God and neighbor, love for family, and respect for government. There is absolutely nothing "extremist" or criminal in such Bible-based publications. Historically, JW's take the personal interest of others first or of others before their own as a core spiritual duty, aiming to imitate Jesus' love and sacrifice. *Mark 12:29-31*. This involves showing genuine kindness, prioritizing congregation needs, and placing spiritual goals (God's Kingdom) over selfish pursuits, including sacrificing personal preferences to avoid stumbling others.

You may ask to what extent is this accomplished in Ukraine? A brief history of endurance under trial demonstrates that Jehovah's Witnesses — Bible Students, as Jehovah's Witnesses were once called, have been active in Ukraine since 1891. They had initial growth in Ukraine until WWII when Germany under Hitler proposed to oppress fifteen different religious groups including the Jewish religion and people. Even after WW II the Soviet regime continued against JW's. It was on February 28, 1991, the religious organization Jehovah's Witnesses was officially registered in Ukraine. This was the first simultaneous registration of Witnesses in the USSR and one of the first registrations of religion in Ukraine. ¹ Now there are about 37,000 congregations registered in Ukraine.

Even under trial then as today with the conflict imposed by the Russian Federations genocide against Ukraine the resolve and activities of JW's remains the same. With thousands of JW's in Russia have been cruelly oppressed in many ways, and there are currently 181 of my dear brother's and imprisoned. Ten more were sentenced and added on March 16, 2026. At times my spiritual sisters are severely oppress and they are at times jailed and a few convicted and released. 69-year-old Valentina Baranovskaya became the first female Jehovah's Witness to be imprisoned in Russia on February 24, 2021, receiving a two-year sentence in the Republic of Khakassia for exercising her faith. With separation of family and removed from homes what are they to do. It is very difficult for aid to get to them...but it does.

As Russia extends its presence in Ukraine over and above what was done in Crimea, they continue to intentionally attack residential areas, hospitals, schools and target religious places of worship. When they first took Mariupol (renamed Zhdanov) January 15, 2024, many JW's were forcibly removed by the FSB and arrested, taken to Russia and abused in many forms, the graphics need not be reiterated.

1POST-SOVIET HISTORY OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES IN UKRAINE: FROM A CLOSED SECT TO AN OPEN DENOMINATION By Vita Tytarenko and Liudmyla Fylypovych, from: OCCASIONAL PAPERS ON RELIGION IN EASTERN EUROPE (DECEMBER 2023) XLIII, 10
<https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2478&context=ree>

In Ukraine approximately 80 Kingdom Halls as places of worship have been destroyed, over 600 residences destroyed, some 1,880 homes damaged, more than 100 killed, over 150 injured, and close to 25,000 displaced. The larger question is how do JW's react and 'take the interest of others first' in that face of a conflict they are no part of? This goes beyond what is normal, it is a spiritual brotherhood put into positive action as love for one's neighbor, a greater good over evil. How so?

Jehovah's Witnesses have been in large cities to the remote parts of Ukraine to bring the good news, comfort and hope to others for over 100 years. This has not changed because of the invasion of your country and people by Russia. In fact, they have provided many good services to their neighbors and to many they do not even know, extending compassion and care to those of other faiths.

They have performed search and rescue, provided medical care, food and lodging to others. They have taken in some 5,400 refugees into their homes and cared for their needs, transferred the ownership of a truck to the Lviv Regional State free of charge for humanitarian use, to use houses of worship for to accommodate thousands of fellow believers who became temporarily displaced persons. Kingdom Halls of Jehovah's Witnesses, religious buildings, were converted to receive and provide shelter for refugees. As of now more than 200 tons of humanitarian aid (cereals, legumes, fish and canned meat, as well as hygiene products) had been delivered to Ukraine from Poland. Made way for the evacuation of people from the war zone, provided practical assistance to the community with the examples of Mykolaiv, Odessa, Solotvyno, and Rivne. See *Post Soviet History* foot note 1 page 74 through page 79.

This and more are evidence that the Jehovah's Witnesses in Ukraine are more than a valuable service to *civil society* but go out of their way and voluntarily help those in dire need of which to save people, their very lives as well as to give them hope, many of which they do not even know.

Jehovah's Witnesses base their faith upon the Bible and adhere to the principle that human life is sacred and the spilling of the blood or killing of another human being that Yahweh YHWH/יהוה created is not only impermissible but one is held accountable for that loss of precious life. ² "All the souls—to me they belong," says Jehovah. (Eze 18:4) Therefore, to take life is to take Jehovah's property. Every living thing has a purpose and a place in God's creation. No man has the right to take life except when God permits and in the way that he instructs. ³

Jehovah's Witnesses are known worldwide to be politically neutral ⁴ and do not take up arms or go to war. As such, due to their Bible based foundation of faith they do not participate in politics or war activities and remain neutral as conscious objectors. ⁵

² Jehovah as the source of life Psalms 36:9 NWT.

³ Blood, Taking a life Insight on the Scriptures Vol 1 P 344, Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York May 2023 <https://wol.jw.org/en/wol/d/r1/lp-e/1200000774#h=3>

⁴ Why Do Jehovah's Witnesses Maintain Political Neutrality? ijwfaq article 37 Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of NY.

⁵ Why Don't Jehovah's Witness Go To War? ijwfaq article 23 Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of NY.

Since the invasion by Russia into Ukraine, you issued a decree “On the Introduction of Martial Law in Ukraine” dated February 24, 2022^{6 7} which considered under these conditions, as the *issue herein* of holding individuals criminally liable for evasion of conscription during mobilization, and provided criminal liability for draft evasion during mobilization was established in Article 336 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (hereinafter – the CC of Ukraine), which provides for imprisonment for a term of five to ten years. The renewal of Martial Law was first renewed after 30 days and is renewed every 90 days, and it has not changed in its text since.

With all due respect Mr. President, Article 336 of the CC of Ukraine is being *miss applied and perverts* its intent and meaning of which you gave it. It’s misapplied intent and meaning allows the negative actions perpetrated against Jehovah’s Witnesses (as well as all other religions) for the authorities, law enforcement, prosecutors, justice, and the military of Ukraine to abuse it to their advantage.

Mr. President, as a matter of fact and implemented in law by your decree, you never intended for this decree to be enforceable upon religious organizations and individuals of those organizations. When martial law is declared, there are specific provisions of that nation’s constitution that are suspended, and they must be declared and spelled out/articulated.

Within your decree you specifically stated which parts of the Constitution of Ukraine were suspended, those being specifically articulated as Articles 30 - 34, 38, 39, 41 - 44, 53. *It was your intent not to include Articles 24 point 1 and 2, Article 35 point 1 and 4 which are the Constitutional protections for religious rights and freedoms, otherwise you would have included them.* [emphasis added] See Decree of the President of Ukraine pp 3. 6

As such, the negative actions perpetrated against Jehovah’s Witnesses contravenes the highest law, the Constitution of Ukraine in the nation-state of Ukraine, as well as police, prosecutors, justices and the military knowingly, intentionally and *willfully disobeying* your decree of February 24, 2022, to wit:⁸

CHAPTER 1 General Principals

Article 3 Point 1 and 2

Article 8 Points 1 and 2

Article 11 **Religious Identity**

Article 13 Points 2, 3 and 4

Article 15 Points 1 **Ideological diversity** and 3 **Censorship is prohibited**

⁶ DECREE OF THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE №64 / 2022, On the imposition of martial law in Ukraine
<https://rm.coe.int/1680a5b041>

⁷ President signed a decree on the imposition of martial law in Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada approved it, President’s Official Website, 4 February 2022 - 08:57, <https://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/prezident-pidpisav-ukaz-pro-zaprovadzhennya-voyennogo-stanu-73109#:~:text=Current%20events-,President%20signed%20a%20decree%20on%20the%20imposition%20of%20martial%20law,entities%20will%20also%20be%20imposed>

⁸ Constitution of Ukraine Adopted at the Fifth Session of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on 28 June 1996, Current Version Jan 20, 2020. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/254%D0%BA/96-%D0%B2%D1%80#Text>

Chapter II Human and Citizens' Rights, Freedoms and Duties

Article 21 Point 1 Human rights and freedoms are inalienable and inviolable

Article 22 Point 1 The rights and freedoms of man and citizen, enshrined in this

Article 22 Point 2 Constitutional rights and freedoms are guaranteed and cannot be abolished

Article 24 Points 1 Rights and Freedoms and 2 Religion

Article 27 Points 1, 2 and 3

Article 28 Points 1 and 2

Article 29 Points 1 and 2,

Article 30 Points 1 and 2

Article 34 Points 1 right to freedom of thought and speech, to free expression of their views and beliefs.

Article 34 Point 2 disseminate information orally, in writing or in any other way of their choice.

Article 35 P 1 Everyone has the right to freedom of thought and religion. This right includes the freedom to profess any religion or not to profess any, to freely practice religious cults and rituals, individually or collectively, and to engage in religious activities.

Article 35 P 4 No one may be exempted from his duties to the state or from the execution of the laws on grounds of religious beliefs. If the performance of military duty contradicts the religious beliefs of a citizen, the performance of this duty must be replaced by alternative (non-military) service.

Article 55 Points 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

Article 60 Point 2 Legal liability arises for giving and carrying out a clearly criminal order or command.

Article 62 Points 1, 2, and 3

Article 64 Point 1 Constitutional rights and freedoms of man and citizen may not be restricted, except in cases provided for by the Constitution of Ukraine.

Article 64 Points 2 In conditions of martial law or a state of emergency, certain restrictions on rights and freedoms may be established, indicating the period of validity of these restrictions. The rights and freedoms provided for in Articles 24 , 25 , 27 , 28 , 29 , 40 , 47, 51 , 52 , 55 , 56 , 57 , 58 , 59 , 60 , 61 , 62 , 63 of this Constitution may not be restricted.

To further aspirate such actions, the government officials within the last part of Article 35 point 4, refuse to allow “If the performance of military duty contradicts the religious beliefs of a citizen, the performance of this duty must be replaced by alternative (non-military) service.” Instead, they are prosecuted and sent to prison in violation of Article 60.2 and 64.1 of the constitution. Non-military service is civil in nature much like the *works voluntarily performed to society* by Jehovah’s Witnesses and has no presence in or with a military unit. This section has not been specifically articulated and is void for vagueness з самого початку (ab initio), and not applicable to conscientious objectors.

The negative totality of actions against Jehovah's Witness continues to this day which are violations of Human Rights pursuant to the **United Nations Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR):** ⁹

Preamble

Article 1 Reason and conscience

Article 2 Religion, opinion, social origin, property

Article 3 Security of person

Article 5

Article 6

Article 7 Equal protection against any discrimination

Article 9 Arbitrary arrest

Article 10

Article 11 Points 1 and 2 presumption of innocence

Article 12

Article 17 Point 2

Article 18 Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

Article 19 Freedom of opinion and expression

Article 20 Point 1 freedom of peaceful assembly and association

Article 28

Article 29 Point 2

Furthermore, freedom of thought, conscience and religion is *non-derogable*, even in times of armed conflict, as stated in *Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and General Comment No. 22*. Furthermore, national security is not grounds for limiting manifestation of this guaranteed freedom. ¹⁰

It has come to be past time for the Curing of the Denial of Constitutional and Human Rights of Jehovah's Witnesses in Ukraine. There was a time when the son of Amram, the grandson of Kohath, and the great-grandson of Levi was Moses. This 80-year-old Hebrew was appointed by Jehovah to deliver the Israelites out of captivity in Egypt. Jehovah had commissioned Moses to approach Pharaoh with a message of which to have the Israelites released so that they could celebrate the Passover. "Afterward, Moses and Aaron went in and said to Phar'ao: "This is what Jehovah the God of Israel says, 'Send my people away so that they may celebrate a festival to me in the wilderness.'" Exodus 5:1

The value of this is pointed in that the authorities do not have a legitimate reason to continue their aggression and hold Jehovah's people in face of your constitution and international law. These continual negative actions are not Ukraine. No matter what, a nation that has constitutional protections in the exercise of freedom of religion (FoRB) much like the nation-state

⁹ United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, December 10, 1948 <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

¹⁰ General Comment No. 22: The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion (Art. 18) 30/07/93, United Nations Office For The High Commissioner For Human Rights. <https://www.equalrightstrust.org/ertdocumentbank/general%20comment%2022.pdf>

of Ukraine has, and when those protections are violated who is responsible? Such nation demonstrates lawlessness against itself and is no longer truly a free nation for the people.

The Passover of Nisan 14 is April 2nd this year at sundown. Are my dear brother in prison allowed to celebrate the Passover by observing the Memorial of Jesus Christ? Jesus commanded that it be observed. “Also, he took a loaf, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them, saying: “This means my body, which is to be given in your behalf. ***Keep doing this in remembrance of me.***” Luke 22:19 ¹¹ This of which you and yours are invited to.

Mr. President, I humbly approach you and appeal to your ethical and moral inner self and let all the Jehovah’s Witnesses go...to be released from unlawful confinement, to be with their family and friends, and continue the much-needed good work.

The Petition Is Made to:

1. Allow for delegation from the Jehovah’s Witnesses Religious Center in Lviv to arrive and assist in resolving matters.
2. That all police actions against Jehovah’s Witnesses cease and desist.
3. That all past, pending and future court actions criminal or civil cease and desist.
4. That all convictions against Jehovah’s Witnesses be set aside and dismissed, so that the members be fully restored to their previous position without further molestation of rights.
5. That all Jehovah’s Witnesses held in custody by the authorities in the nation-state of Ukraine be released from captivity.
6. That all property seized of Jehovah’s Witnesses be returned to them.
7. That pursuant to Article 64, 102 and 104 of the Ukrainian Constitution that as President a decree or order issue to fully restore, enforce and protect the Constitutional, Religious and Human Rights of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Ukraine.

Mr. President, as you have read this do not just hear me — truly listen and be moved to take positive action to cure the situation for the Jehovah’s Witnesses as citizens and people you faithfully are to serve of the nation-state of Ukraine as penned in your Constitution.

Thank you for your valuable time and serious consideration and positive actions in this important matter.

Respectfully yours,

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¹¹ Invitation To the “Memorial Of Jesus’ Death” for April 2, 2026, Watchtower and Bible Tract Society of N.Y.

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*Please note that the Watchtower Bible & Tract Society of New York and Jehovah's Witnesses are not associated with Earth Month or the Earth Month Network, and this writing is of my own volition for the curing.

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