



Pekka Kallioniemi @P_Kallioniemi

Mar 6, 2024 · 21 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1765407405393707148](#)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll talk about the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) and how pro-Kremlin propagandists, oligarchs and lawyers are using its "persecution" as a tool to reduce support for Ukraine and its government.

1/20

UOC-MP Metropolitan called Ukrainian authorities the "beast" at war with the saints

24.10.2023, 13:05 STATE



In his address, Metropolitan Yevlogy of the UOC-MP stated that the Ukrainian authorities are the "beast" engaged in a war against the saints and must conquer them.

In Oct 2023, @tuckercarlson published an episode on Joe Biden "backing the Ukrainian government as it throws priests in jail," in which he interviewed Bob Amsterdam, a lawyer representing the UOC-MP. He was hired by a Russian oligarch, Vadym Novynskyi, for the job.

2/20



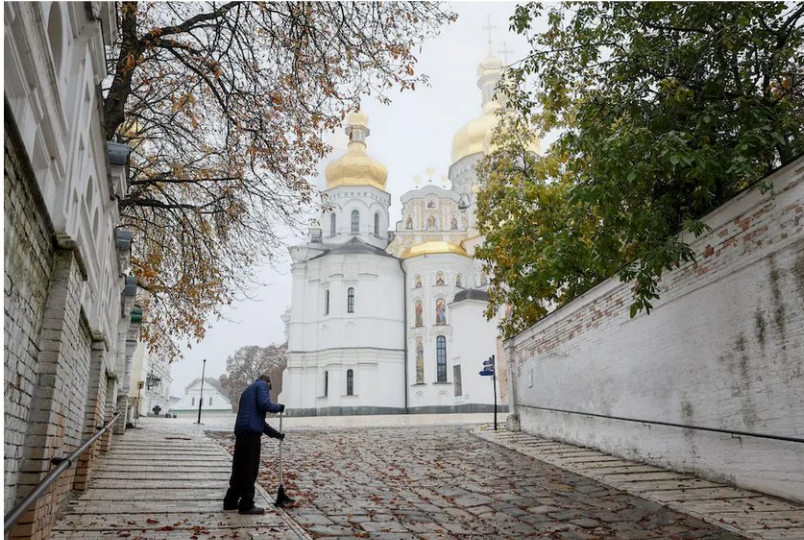
The case is related to so called Draft Law 8371, a bill that would give Ukrainian authorities power to investigate the connection of religious groups in Ukraine to the Russian Federation and to ban those that have leadership under the control of the Kremlin.

3/20

RELIGION

Ukrainian lawmakers move to bar Russian-linked church from operating in the country

By David I. Klein
October 20, 2023 at 10:39 a.m. EDT



A man this month sweeps leaves from a path at the compound of Kyiv Pechersk Lavra, or the Monastery of the Caves. (Alina Smutko/Reuters)

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The Ukrainian parliament passed a preliminary vote on Thursday for a bill that could ban the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which has close ties to the Russian Orthodox Church, from operating within Ukraine's borders.

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Amsterdam's client, Novynskyi is one of the Russian businessmen who got rich during the early 90s in Russia. He later obtained a Ukrainian citizenship from Viktor Yanukovych & was involved in politics in Yanukovych's Party of Regions & later in anti-Maidan Opposition Bloc.

4/20





Novynskyi has been sanctioned by Ukraine (thus, it violates Ukrainian law to be paid by him) and his assets were seized by the Ukrainian authorities for "aiding the aggressor country [Russia]". He is said to be seeking to avoid the sanctions by transferring his assets.

5/20

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Europe

Ukraine says it seized assets of billionaire accused of aiding Russia

By **Max Hunder**   

April 14, 2023 11:42 PM GMT+3 · Updated a year ago

KYIV, April 13 (Reuters) - Ukraine's security service said on Thursday it had seized more than 3.5 billion hryvnia (\$96 million) worth of assets belonging to exiled billionaire Vadym Novynskyi, but a representative for Novynskyi said he was no longer their owner.

The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) has accused Novynskyi of "aiding" Russia, which invaded Ukraine last year. The representative, who did not want to be named, on Friday said the billionaire denies the charge.

Chief Executive Officer Julia Kiryanova of Smart Holding, one of the entities which has had some of its assets seized, told Reuters on Friday that the company was transferred on Dec. 1 from Novynskyi to a trust owned by citizens of Cyprus, and was no longer connected to him.

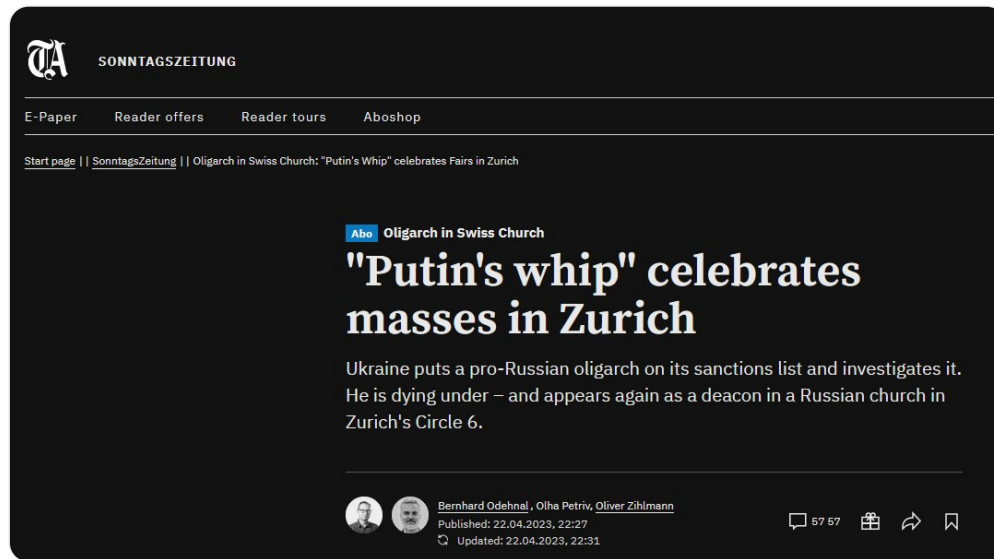
In its statement, the SBU security agency said Novynskyi had tried to avoid the sanctions by transferring his assets to affiliated commercial structures.

Kiryanova dismissed the SBU's assertions as "nonsense" and said Novynskyi had transferred his assets to the trust before the sanctions were put in place.

Novynskyi is also a priest in the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) of the Holy Resurrection in Zürich, Switzerland (Incidentally, Kirill also worked for the KGB in Switzerland). According

to official records, he also still holds a Russian passport.

6/20



As this rather thick soup has quite a lot of names and abbreviations, here's a handy cheat sheet that you can check whenever you have trouble remember them all:

7/20

UOC-MP = Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate (Pro-Kremlin)
ROC = Russian Orthodox Church (connected to UOC-MP, the Kremlin and the Russian intelligence)
Vadym Novynskyi = Russian oligarch, priest of the ROC
Robert Amsterdam = Lawyer hired by Novynskyi to defend UOC-MP

Amsterdam has falsely claimed that UOC-MP has been "completely separated from Moscow in May of last year [2022]". Canonical unity, even subordination of the UOC-MP to the ROC is actually hidden in the UOC-MP's statute and UOC-MP never declared full independence from ROC.

8/20



Diploma of Alexy the Second, by the grace of the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Metropolitan Filaret of Kiev and All Ukraine



We, the humble Alexy II, by the mercy of God, the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, is at a bath with all the Evely bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church - the Moscow Patriarchate, who gathered at the Bishops' Council of 25-27 October 1990 in the Holy Danilov Monastery in the God-Sweet City of Moscow, guided by the desire to have a blessed peace, God's God's love of God.The Church, to take into account the desire and petition of her Eternal Archpastaries, who gathered on 9 July this year, 1990 in the Bog-Sweet City of Kiev to discuss and decide their ecclesiastical life on the basis of independence and independence,

We bless through the present Gramota our mighty and the Living Spirit to be from now on the Orthodox Ukrainian Church independent and independent in its administration, and to you, unanimously elected on July 9, 1990, the episcopate of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, its Primate. We trust that the Ukrainian Orthodox Church will be governed according to the Divine and sacred canons and the customs of the Cafolitic Orthodox Church and the definitions of this Archaeist Council. We pray with one heart and one mouths the Shepherd of the Lord for the revelation of heavenly help and blessings of the Holy Ukrainian Church.

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church, united through our Russian Orthodox Church with the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, without a conciliar decision of the entire Orthodox Catholic Fullness, but does not change anything about the dogmas of faith and the holy canons.

The Comepeable and Almighty Life-Science Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, may always strengthen the Holy Orthodox Ukrainian Church, may she be married by glory and honor, and may she bless her being to save the pious tidy.

Signed in the city of Moscow 1990, October 27 days

ALEXY, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia

On October 28, 1990, Sunday, at the Divine Liturgy in the ancient Cathedral of St. Sophia in Kiev, His Holiness Patriarch Alexy II of Moscow and All Russia handed the Diplomatic to the Metropolitan of Kiev and All Ukraine Filaret.

Actually, there are some priests within the UOC-MP who have been persecuted: a number of UOC-MP priests were banned from liturgies because of their criticism of the church's pro-Kremlin leadership, so they started their own NGO called St. Sophia Brotherhood.

Bob Amsterdam works his fees to perfection.

Our channel's sources in Washington say that there is considerable indignation in Republican circles about the policy of the UOC.

"We are all religious people. We will defend freedom of religion. For us, this is the main value. Religious persecution must stop", - precisely such messages, which are the result of counter-propaganda, are conveyed by Republicans to Ukrainian politicians. And any conversation on the topic of Ukraine now takes place through the prism of the events surrounding the UOC.

In our opinion, the battle for Law 8371 by the Office of the President has been lost. This round, with the support of Amsterdam, was won by Protodeacon Novinsky and the UOC Synod. The Ukrainian authorities underestimated the power and connections of the ecclesiastical-political wing in the UOC. The pressure on the Office of the President and the leadership of the Verkhovna Rada will increase.

We predict that there will be no positive vote on Law 8371.

As many of you know, Soviet and Russian intelligence agencies have used the Orthodox Church extensively for intel operations and propaganda, as the West fears harassing churches as it looks like an attack on freedom/democracy. This allows these spies to fly under the radar.

10/20

KGB/FSB's New Trojan Horse: Americans of Russian Descent

Konstantin Preobrazhensky, Andy Glad Graphic Design (Illustrator), Various (Editor)

★★★★☆ 4.00 1 rating - 1 review

The shocking truth about Russia's spy network in the US and the brutal suppression of democracy in Russia. Former KGB Colonel Konstantin Preobrazhensky gives his informed perspective about Putin's real intentions in America, the looming danger posed by the infiltration of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad by the re KGB, and how Putin has already shut down freedom of speech and free enterprise in Russia's still-born democracy.

224 pages, Paperback
Published January 2, 2009

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The FBI suspected an employee of the Russian Orthodox Church of recruiting agents for Russian intelligence services in the United States

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation suspected Dmitry Petrovsky, an employee of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department of External Church Relations, of working for Russian intelligence.

The FBI believes that Petrovsky, under the cover of the Russian Orthodox Church, was engaged in recruiting agents for Russian intelligence services among priests and parishioners of the Russian Orthodox Church and other Orthodox churches in the United States.

In May 2021, Petrovsky was searched upon entering the United States. Files related to Russian intelligence were found on his computer. Among the documents found were dossiers on well-known Orthodox priests in the US with details of biographies of their family members. The FBI believed that such information was necessary for Petrovsky to blackmail these people during the recruitment process.

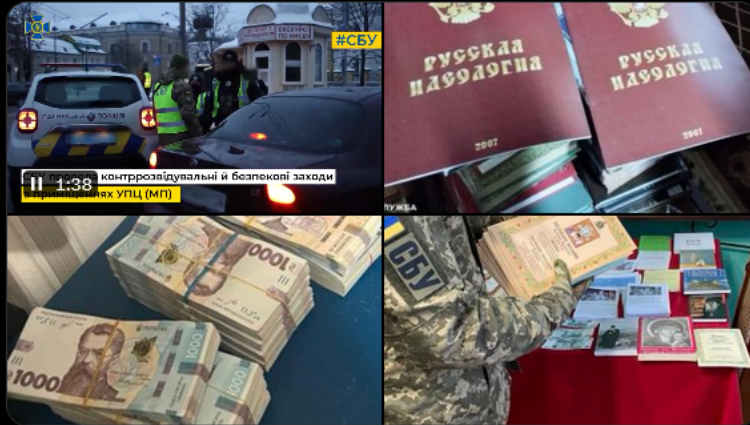
One of the files found was marked "confidential." The FBI cited it in full in its warning. Thus, according to the agency, this document contained a description of the areas of cooperation between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian special services - SVR, GRU and FSB.



5:22 PM · Sep 20, 2023 · 641.8K Views

mai ke
@maike809588

The SBU found pro-Russian literature, millions of cash and "doubtful" citizens of Russia during security measures in the premises of the UOC-MP. In more detail: • pro-Russian literature used in teaching at the seminary and parochial schools, including for propaganda of the.



10:01 AM · Nov 23, 2022

The Kyiv Independent
@KyivIndependent

⚡ Priest of Moscow-linked church sentenced to 15 years for spying for Russia.

An abbot of the Kremlin-linked Ukrainian Orthodox Church – Moscow Patriarchate (UOC-MP) has been sentenced to 15 years in prison for spying on the Ukrainian military for Russia, Ukraine's Security Service (SBU) reported on Oct. 25.

SBU



7:21 PM · Oct 25, 2023 · 143.7K Views

While invading Ukraine, Russia has also actively and forcibly closed, seized and investigated most (but not the UOC-MP) Ukrainian religious organizations in the captured regions. Religious leaders are then tortured, killed and/or deported by Russia's intelligence services.

11/20

The image is a screenshot of a news article from the website EUROMAIDAN PRESS. The page has a dark theme. At the top left is the logo for EUROMAIDAN PRESS, which includes a stylized blue and yellow graphic. To the right of the logo are navigation links: 'Ukraine', 'International', 'Russian Aggression', and 'More'. Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: 'All articles > Latest news Ukraine > Russian troops kill Ukrainian priest who refused to convert to Moscow patriarchate'. A small black box with white text reads 'LATEST NEWS UKRAINE'. The main headline is 'Russian troops kill Ukrainian priest who refused to convert to Moscow patriarchate' in large, bold white font. Below the headline is a short summary: 'Renowned for his pro-Ukrainian stance, Stepan Podolchak, a Ukrainian priest, firmly refused the demands of the Russian occupation administration to convert to the Moscow Patriarchate.' Below the summary is the author information: 'BY IRYNA VOICHUK · 17/02/2024 · 2 MINUTE READ'. The main image shows a man in a dark purple clerical robe standing in a garden. To his right is a stone structure with a statue of the Virgin Mary in a blue robe. The garden is filled with various flowers, including red and yellow lilies. At the bottom left of the image, there is a small caption: 'Stepan Podolchak. Credit: social media'.

In research on religious repressions conducted by Verstka, since the beginning of the Russian full-scale invasion, 43 instances of the targeted persecution of clergy have been recorded:

"As a result [of Russian persecution], in 18 cases, ministers were forced to flee the city, go underground, or completely cease activity. In 12 cases, they were forcefully expelled. In eight, they were taken prisoner, and in five, killed."⁵⁹

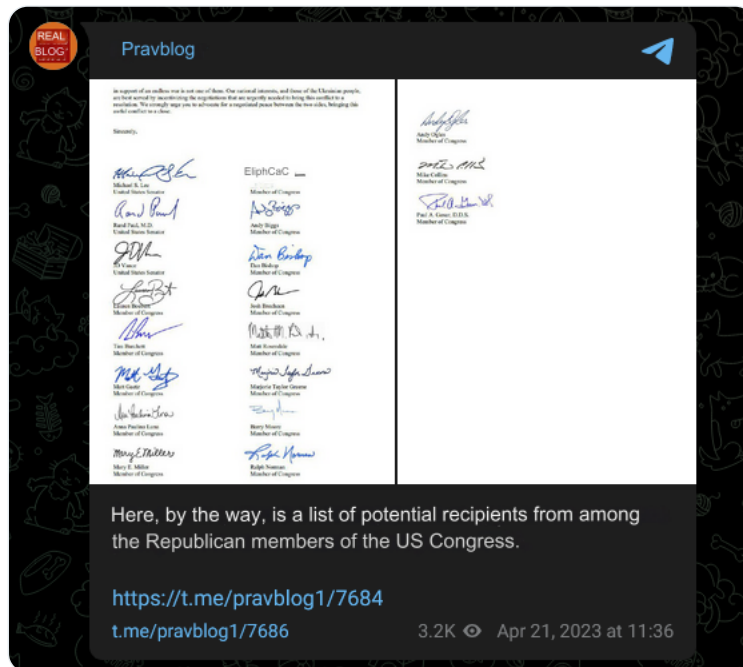
Ministers were pressured through their families, children, and close ones. It is a known fact that Russians kidnapped a priest's son and held him in a prison cell for weeks to pressure his father regarding his religious activity.⁶⁰

When they could not gather enough evidence to charge priests and pastors, the occupation authorities organized open provocations. Weapons and compromising materials implicating them in terrorist activities were planted on church ministers.⁶¹ Russian authorities have used this kind of provocation since the occupation of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in 2014. For example, a supposed commendation from the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and literature with the alleged signatures of Ukrainian soldiers were planted on one pastor. Such falsified "evidence" has led to the arrest and violent torture of priests and their family members.

"My friend's son was taken prisoner. They beat him and tortured him with electricity. Then they let him go. A part of his body was twisted. When the boy returned home, his father did not even recognize him. He thought that some homeless person was standing in the yard."⁶²

Also, the idea about "persecuted Christians" probably originated from pro-Kremlin Telegram sources like "Pravblog" and Alex Voznesensky (who's collaborating with Russian intel), who theorized about using religion to attack the Ukrainian government already back in Apr 2023.

12/20



In this regard, a question arises. Why don't the affected dioceses of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church send detailed letters about violations of the fundamental rights of believers to Congress? To the same representatives of the Republican Party? Yes, and finally, personally to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Kevin McCarthy? By adding numerous videos of violations and harassment to the letters...

In our opinion, this would be a much more effective move than signing meaningless petitions to the Ukrainian authorities.

In this case, the algorithm for implementing the task may be as follows. Let's take, for example, the most problematic Ivano-Frankivsk and Khmelnytsky dioceses. They can publish the text of a standard appeal to US congressmen on their official websites, and then send corresponding letters from the e-mails of the dioceses to the e-mails of American politicians. Adding to them evidence of violations in video format, screenshots, etc.



Religion and politics. Alexander Voznesensky
Forwarded from Pravblog

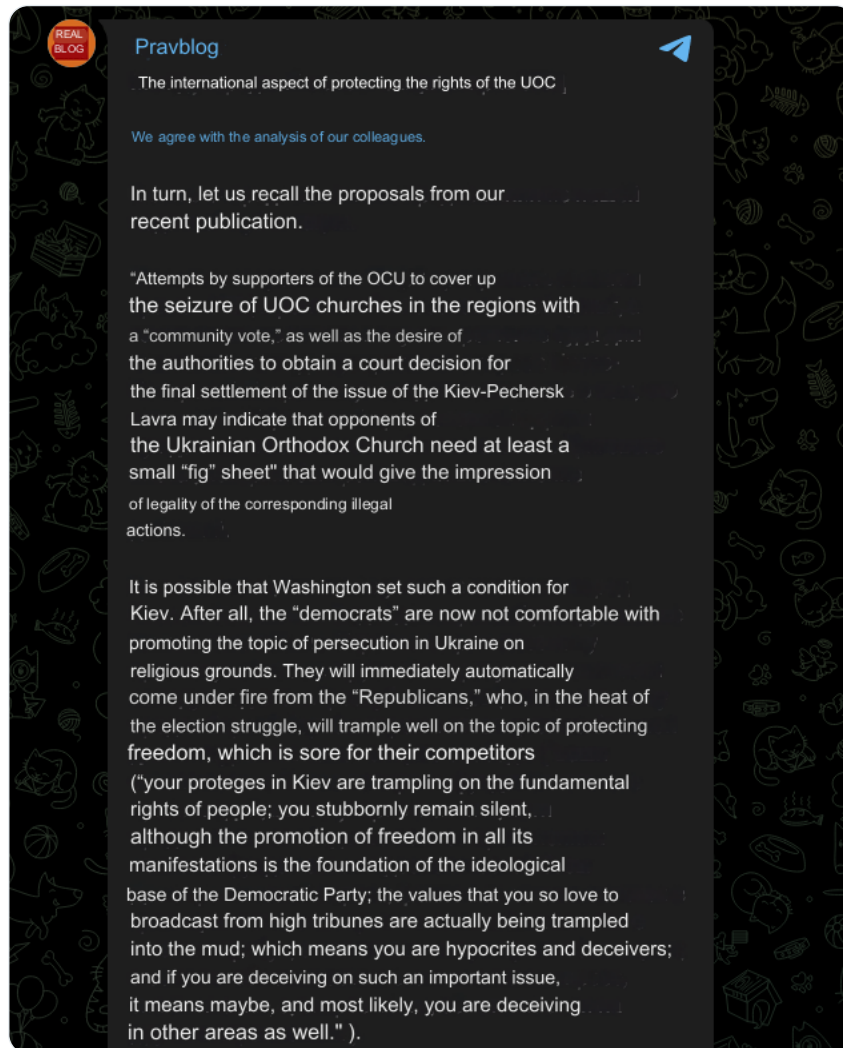


A real opportunity to protect the positions of the UOC

Louisiana Congressman Mike Johnson was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives today.

If at the level of the leadership of the UOC there is still a desire not to imitate, but to really fight for the rights of believers, then one could officially appeal to Johnson with an appeal to pay attention to the violation of religious freedoms in Ukraine.

Judging by his political views, the new speaker could well take up the relevant topic for development. And, as you know, they listen to signals from the American government offices in Kyiv.



This "persecution" is being pushed not due to religious freedom, but because Russia hopes it will split the Western and US support for Ukraine. The reason the Draft Law 8371 is being considered is that the Russian Orthodox Church is a key tool of influence of the Kremlin.



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POLITICS

Trump tells religious broadcasters he'll defend Christianity against perceived threats from the left



1 of 5 | Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at the National Religious Broadcasters convention at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024, in Nashville, Tenn. (AP Photo/George Walker IV) [Read More](#)

 **BY WILL WEISERT**
Updated 5:52 PM GMT+2, February 23, 2024 [Share](#)

Amsterdam has been positioned as a "human rights activist", but he's a hired and paid lawyer who basically acts as a lobbyist for the Kremlin's causes. He spoke to Strana, media site under Ukrainian sanctions and gave an interview to pro-Kremlin blogger Alexandr Shelest.



Sitting on streams, bought Lexus. Why in Ukraine break records sales of luxury cars, despite the war

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Latest news . American lawyer Amsterdam, representing the interests of the UOC, in the coming days will go to Kiev

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Metropolitan of Banchen monastery of the UOC announced the beating.
Photo by

Law enforcement officers opened a criminal case on self-rule on the seizure of the temple of the UOC in Vinnytsia region

The lawyer of the UOC said that the law on the prohibition of the Church to the Church, the deputies of the Rada may face criminal prosecution

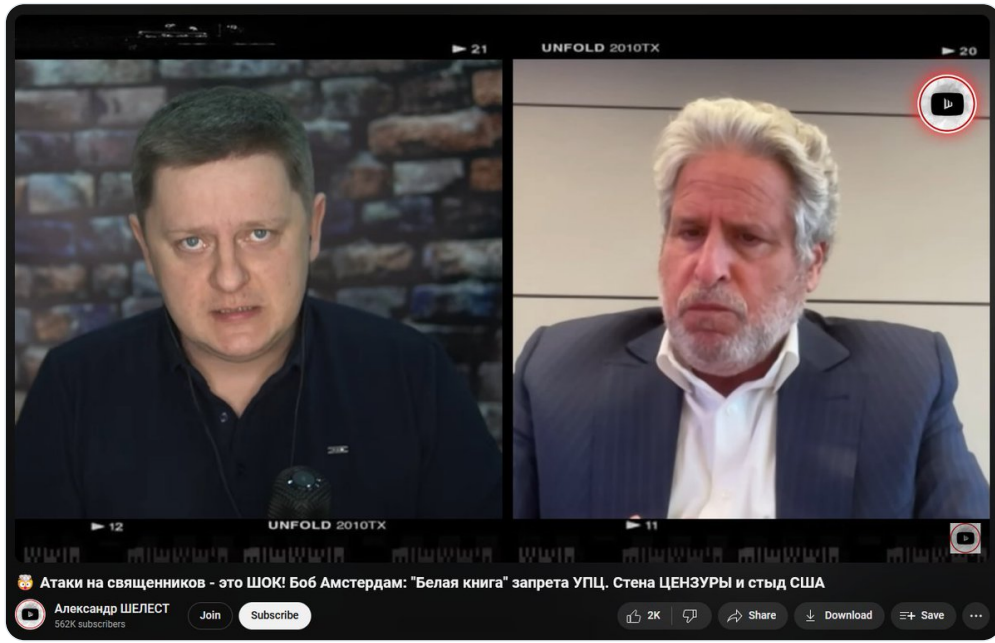
American lawyer Amsterdam, representing the interests of the UOC, in the coming days will go to Kiev

15:54, 7 February 2024



📷 Lawyer of UOC Robert Amsterdam. Photo: X

The famous American lawyer Robert Amsterdam, who as a lawyer represents the interests of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church from the fall of last year, will go to Kiev in the coming days.



Now, some (including Bob himself) will claim that Amsterdam can't be pro-Kremlin because in 2003 he defended Russian oligarch and dissident Mikhail Khodorkovsky. So, instead of calling him pro-Kremlin, I'll just call Mr. Amsterdam pro-money. Naturally, he's claimed...

15/20



...that neither him nor his firm has any contacts or relationships with the Russian Orthodox Church or Patriarch Kirill, but forgets to mention that his client does: Novynskiy met with KGB priest Kirill in 2019, after which he was excluded from the Russian sanction list.

16/20

Russia lifts sanctions against Ukrainian MP, oligarch Novynsky

12:00, 21.04.20 1 min. 5114



The measures were introduced late in December 2018.

MP Novynsky / Photo from UNIAN

MP Novynsky / Photo from UNIAN

Ukrainian Member of Parliament and oligarch Vadym Novynsky and Andriy Kiseliov whose interests include metallurgy were excluded from Russia's sanctions list on April 20.

As Russia's [news agency Interfax reported](#), Novynsky and Kiseliov were removed from the list of individuals subject to special economic measures of Russia under a decree of the Government of the Russian Federation, signed on April 20 and published on the official portal of legislative acts.

Now Bob, if you were genuinely interested in defending priests against persecution, why haven't you commented on the atrocities the Russian troops have conducted in the temporarily occupied territories since 2014? You know, torture, murder, exile & other inhuman activities.

17/20

In Russia occupied Ukraine, in contrast, there is no religious freedom. All Ukrainian RO's have been forcibly closed, seized, and investigated by Russian intelligence services. Religious leaders and RO members are tortured, killed, imprisoned, and deported. The ROC-MP is the main beneficiary of this situation, absorbing formerly Ukrainian Orthodox congregations as well as buildings of other closed churches. The only option for Ukrainian RO's is to agree to become part of a Russian RO and to align with the Kremlin's views on the war.⁴ Few, if any, chose or are able to do so. As is well documented, Russia is engaged in an effort to erase Ukraine as a nation, a genocide. It has committed unspeakable war crimes and human rights violations and seeks to eliminate every trace of Ukrainian sovereignty and even its history, stealing children, art, historical relics, household appliances, farmland, and businesses. If Russia succeeds, all of Ukraine's achievements in religious freedom and democratic institutions will be lost.

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OPINION · Published July 16, 2023 8:00am EDT

Putin and Russian Orthodox Church forge an unholy alliance to take over Ukraine

Putin's Russia isn't just at war with Ukraine, it's at war with Christianity

Earlier this summer, an adviser to the mayor of Mariupol, Ukraine, posted that Russian soldiers had seized the city's [Ukrainian Christian Evangelical Church of the Holy Trinity](#). After ruthlessly expelling the clergy, the staffer noted that as many as 30 troops remained in the building, at least in part because it provided a "human shield" for troops. The church is located just feet from occupied residential buildings.

[The takeover of a Christian church](#) might seem strange at first. What threat could a church filled with worshipping men, women and children pose to a modern army? But according to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), this incident is "part of a wider systematic religious persecution campaign in occupied Ukraine."

While it has been grossly underreported in the U.S. press, [Russia has been waging a brutal campaign](#) against Christians and religious minorities in Ukraine.

Russian soldiers frequently threaten evangelical Christians in Ukraine, labeling them as "American spies" and "enemies of the Russian Orthodox people." One Russian soldier told an employee of a Christian institute in Ukraine "evangelical believers like you should be completely destroyed ... a simple shooting will be too easy for you. You need to be buried alive."

Is it because your client is actually a Russian citizen who is working as an active priest in the Russian Orthodox Church? Or because you try to stir things politically in the US by promoting a pro-Kremlin narrative of "religious persecution" in Ukraine? Maybe both?



News

Former MP Novinsky was spotted in Zurich — he serves in the Russian Orthodox Church there

Sofia Telishevska • 18:34, 2 april 2023



Radio Svoboda

To conclude: pro-Kremlin actors, together with Mr. Amsterdam, are trying to create an illusion of persecution of religious groups in Ukraine to reduce the Western support for Ukraine. The church that they are defending is closely related, canonically and otherwise,...



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5:22 PM · Sep 20, 2023 · 641.8K Views



 **Sonja Eftimovska**
@sonjaeftimovska

A little about the "Orthodox" tastes of the [#MetropolitanPavlo](#) of UOC-MP


During the presentation of suspicion from the SBU, he lit up a Patek Philippe watch for almost 40 thousand euros (almost UAH 1.6 million) , as well as a Louis Vuitton scarf for \$687 (UAH 25 thousand) .





6:32 PM · Apr 1, 2023 · 701 Views

 **David Brookfield (大卫) - #NotACat** 
@DMBrookfield


The SBU served a notice to the Metropolitan of the Cherkasy Diocese of the UOC-MP, who denied Russia's armed aggression & justified the actions of the Russians

In 2020, on his orders, the diocese created a new website based on the ROC template. There, he praised Moscow priests 

 **ГРУНТ**  @grntmedia · Apr 6, 2023

СБУ повідомила про підозру митрополиту Черкаської єпархії УПЦ МП, який заперечував збройну агресію рф та виправдовував дії росіян.

У 2020 році за його розпорядженням в єпархії створили новий відомчий сайт за шаблоном РПЦ. Там митрополит вихваляв московських священників...
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II 0:51

12:34 PM · Apr 6, 2023 · 768 Views

...to Russian Orthodox church that is itself connected to Russian intelligence and the Kremlin.

At the same time, Russian invaders are actually persecuting, torturing and murdering clergymen of Ukrainian origin in the temporarily occupied regions.



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