



SYNOD OF BISHOPS
of the
TRUE ORTHODOX CHURCH

TO: Donald J. Trump, President
United States of America

Date: September 28, 2025

Respected President Trump,

Last Thursday, 09/25/2025, in broad daylight, the Ukrainian Government kidnapped a priest to conscript him into the army.

Oleksiy Igorevich Lyuboshets is 40 years old. He lives with his wife and two young children in Odessa, Ukraine. He is a priest at our Cathedral of St. John of Kronstadt in Odessa, Ukraine. He was officially removed from military registration in 2002.

Two days ago, this past Thursday (September 25, 2025) at 1:00 p.m., Oleksiy was walking to School No. 35 in Odessa, Ukraine, to meet his son, when a car pulled up to him, several men jumped out, grabbed Oleksiy, stuffed him into the car, and drove off. Unfortunately, I have learned that this has become a common practice in Ukraine - forcing people into the army for the war. To date, the people who kidnapped him are unknown. This is a direct violation of basic human rights.

When his wife finally found where he was taken, he was being held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Representative Office in Odessa, Otradnaya Street, Odessa. He was facing a VLK commission in the city of Odessa.

Yesterday (Saturday 09/27), he was brought to the city of Ovidiopol to the TCC (territorial assembly center). From there, he was sent to a training unit, Military unit A 0665, Desna, Chernihiv region.

Today, Sunday (09/28/2025 - within 4 days), he is at the training ground near the city of Nikolaev, the 75th Assault Brigade. All this time he was not able to see or talk to his wife. Only today was he allowed to make a phone call.

I have to say that such inhumane and heavy-handed tactics remind me of the Communist regime in the former Soviet Union, when people would just "disappear." There was certainly no "due process."

Even an uninvolved bystander would be outraged at such behavior by a "representative" form of government. Yet, I have a more vested interest in the well-being of this priest and the community he represents. The Cathedral of St. John of Kronstadt in Odessa, where Fr. Oleksiy serves, and its diocese in Ukraine, is registered with, and thereby represented by, the True Orthodox Church, a USA church corporation located at 63 Laurel Street, Worcester, Massachusetts, USA. It is from this perspective that I request your attention to this abuse of basic human rights and your intervention in this matter. Please bring Fr. Oleksiy back to his family and church community.

Sincerely,

+ Bishop Victor

+ Bishop Victor (Melehov), Secretary
True Orthodox Church
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Below, please find further data:

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Date of birth: April 15, 1985
Address: Shevchenko Avenue 23,
apt, 41, Odessa, Ukraine
Fr. Oleksiy's phone: +380959068964
His wife, Daria (Dianna)'s phone: +380959068956

Cathedral of St. John of Kronstadt
Odessa, Udelny Lane, 1, Ukraine

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Representative Office in Odessa, Otradnaya Street, Odessa (address, phone number, opening hours, website, map <https://share.google.com/qx0JnWzO4rrVa4Yv3>)
(Government Contact Center » <https://share.google/6XfP3BoLA6Eap03EX>)