



**Bulletin of Rights Violations
of Ukrainian Orthodox Church parishioners and clergy
for the period from 25/1/2019 to 04/04/2019**

Starting from January 6, 2019, after the creation of the so-called Orthodox Church of Ukraine ("OCU") and the granting of the Tomos of Autocephaly by the Ecumenical (Constantinopolitan) Patriarchate to its Primate, an unprecedented campaign was launched in Ukraine against the parishioners and clergy of the Local Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC).

As part of this campaign, representatives of the Ukrainian state authorities are conducting undisguised agitation for the so-called "transition" of religious communities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church to the "OCU". They are exerting administrative and military pressure against the clergy and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, and are assisting the radical militarised groups, the so-called "activists", to seize churches, and itemise its property which belongs to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. They also help to initiate the adoption of changes to national legislation that violate the Constitution of Ukraine and the fundamental rights of believers.

The main goal of this Bulletin is to inform: the clergymen and parishioners from other Local Orthodox Churches, the representatives of foreign governments, the mass media, human rights and expert organisations **about the most blatant violations of the rights of parishioners and clergymen of the UOC in Ukraine and cases of direct interference of the Ukrainian government into the affairs of the Church.**

During the period from January 25 to April 4, 2019, dozens of cases of gross violations of the rights of parishioners and clergy of the UOC in Ukraine were recorded and confirmed:

1. Factual information about the seizure of churches and other cases of the use of physical force and pressure on UOC parishioners in order to forcefully transfer churches and religious communities to the jurisdiction of the "OCU":

- January 16, 2019. **In the village of Shandrovets, Turka rayon, Lvivska oblast'.** Aggressive civilian "activists" **led by the Chairman of the Shandrovets village council A. Popyl** burst into the house of the Rector of Archangel Michael parish, Fr. Iliya Urus'kyi. After smashing down the door and demanding the keys to the church, these "activists" made threats to the priest and went to ahead to cut all the locks on the doors. The "activists" explained their aggressive actions by the results of the meeting of the territorial community regarding the transfer of the parish to the "OCU" to which neither the parish rector nor the parishioners of the the Archangel Michael church were invited.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/01/16/na-lvivshhini-ochilniki-miscevoji-vladi-u-suprovodi-policiji-zaxopili-xram-upc-u-s-shandrovec/>

- On January 16, 2019, **in the village of Olenivka, Chernihivska oblast', under the leadership of the head of the Regional State Administration** with the support of radical "activists" and the tacit consent of the police, the Holy Ascension church of the UOC was forcibly seized. The genuine religious community of the church had expressed its desire to remain under the authority of the UOC.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/01/20/povernit-nash-xram-zhiteli-s-olenivka-na-chernigivshhini-vimagayut-vid-vladi-povernuti-xram-video/>

- On January 18, 2019, **in the village of Pokhovka, Ivano-Frankivska oblast', with the participation of state officials**, the Annunciation church of the UOC was captured. The supporters of the so-called "OCU" broke the door locks of the church at night, and subsequently replaced the locks and sealed the church building. The meeting held on the eve of these acts was conducted by the Chairman of the village council Mykolay Ostapchuk without the participation of the parish rector Archpriest Volodymyr Shuvar and without the majority of the parishioners of the Annunciation church.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/01/22/u-s-poxivka-na-prikarpatti-za-uchastyu-chinovnikiv-buv-zaxoplenij-xram-upc-video-onovleno/>

- January 19, 2019, on the feast of the Epiphany, **in the village of Brailov, Vinnytsia oblast', the village head V. D. Resydent**, accompanied by representatives of "OCU"

tried to break the rite of the Great Consecration of Water, which was officiated by a UOC priest. The head of the village council made threats and insulted the priest, thereby arousing the indignation of members of the local Orthodox community.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/01/20/na-vinnichchini-selishhnij-golova-namagavsya-zirvati-velike-osvyachennya-vodi-vigukuyuchi-obrazi-na-adresu-svyashhenikiv-upc/>

- On January 23, 2019 **in the village of Pysarivka, Vinnyts'ka oblast'**, under the leadership of **the head of the village council D. Naumenko**, without the participation of members of the local religious community, an attempt was made to transfer the UOC Holy Protection church to "OCU" jurisdiction. The chairman of the village council tried to prevent the rector and parishioners of the Holy Protection church from participating in the meeting.

Details: <http://vinnytsia.church.ua/2019/01/24/u-pisarivci-ne-vdalos-provesti-zbori-teritorialnoji-gromadi-z-golosuvannyam-na-korist-pcu/>

- January 25, 2019 under the chairmanship of the Rector of the UOC Holy Protection church of **the village of Kovpyta, Chernihivskiy rayon, Chernihivska oblast'**, Archpriest Taras Svistun, a meeting of the religious community was held, which consequently voted to keep the parish under the jurisdiction of the UOC. On the following day, January 26, **with the collaboration of the Deputy head of the Chernihiv rayon council, Volodymyr Polishchuk**, representatives of the UOC-KP and visiting radical "activists" held a meeting of the territorial rural community of the village with the purpose of transferring the parish to the jurisdiction of the so-called "OCU"; the meeting was attended by only 72 people from a total of 1,400 Kovpyta residents.

Details: <http://orthodox.com.ua/novosti/v-cherниговской-области-чиновники-пом>

- January 26, after many hours of threats and pressure exerted on the Rector and parishioners of St. Nicholas church **in the village of Nichohivka, Manevtskyi rayon, Volyn'ska oblast'**, civil "activists," headed by **the chairman of the village council, F. S. Svytach and the dean of the "UOC- Kyiv Patriarchate" Andriy Zakydalskyi** forced the rector priest Fr. Taras Bernyk hand over the keys to the church. All this happened in front of the police, which did not respond to the illegal actions in any way or form and ignored pleas for help from the priest.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/01/27/na-volini-popri-zaxoplennya-xramu-religijna-gromada-s-nichogivka-zalishajetsya-virnoyu-upc/>

- On January 27, 2019, aggressively-minded representatives of the "OCU" and civilian "activists" **headed by the head of the department to help ATO participants at the Vinnytsia Regional State Administration, Andriy Grachov**, organised a meeting of the territorial community of **the village of Luka-Meleshkiv of Vinnits'ka oblast'** with the goal of transferring the UOC church of the Transfiguration of our Saviour to the jurisdiction of "OCU". The organisers of the meeting used force to prevent members of the bona-fide religious community (parish) of the Transfiguration of our Saviour church from joining the meeting so as to vote to keep the parish under the jurisdiction of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

Details: <http://vinnytsia.church.ua/2019/01/27/zvernennya-religijnoji-gromadi-sela-luka-meleshkivska-vinnickogo-rajonu/>
- On January 28, 2019, in connection with repeated cases of the violation of the rights of believers, **the Vinnyts'ka oblast' Directorate of the National Police** explained to the local self-government bodies (village councils) about the illegality of the transfer of UOC communities to the "OCU" by convening assemblies of territorial communities.

Details: Official site of the National Police:
<https://vn.npu.gov.ua/news/Informacziya/oflczlino-zvernennya-do-organiv-miscevogo-samovryaduvannya>
- On January 30, 2019, **with the active participation of the mayor of Mogiliv-Podilskyi, P. P. Brovka**, a UOC Church was raided and forcibly seized. The mayor of the city, contrary to the desire of the bona-fide religious community which desired to remain under UOC jurisdiction, held a vote on the transfer to the "OCU" by convening a territorial community meeting and completely ignoring the voice of the UOC believers.

Detailed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjsnwnLd9c4&feature=youtu.be>
- On February 1, 2019, in the presence of the police, a group of civilian "activists" and supporters of "OCU" **in the village of Telchi of the Manevtskyi rayon of the Volynska oblast'**, in the presence of the police, cut the locks to the church of the Three Hierarchs, despite the objections of the head of the local UOC community. At the scene of the offense was a relative of the chairman of the local village council, **deputy head of the Manevtskyi police department**. Before breaking the locks, supporters of the "OCU" took part in a vote, which wasn't attended by the church community's members.

Details: <http://volyn.church.ua/2019/02/01/prixilniki-pcu-v-prisutnosti-policii-zrizali-zamki-na-xrami-trox-svyatiteliv-upc-v-seli-telchi/?fbclid=IwAR1iYwe9eXSeKjwnff1qIX0R46KyTsgQXBpBdk2Xxi-7N00q5TA1iHfK-CI>

Video:https://www.facebook.com/oleg.tochinsky/videos/vb.100006620505466/2334250703472257/?type=2&video_source=user_video_tab

- On the night of January 31 to February 1, 2019, unknown persons jimmed the locks to the Holy Trinity Church **in the village of Bohorodchany** and stole church property. The criminals then proceeded to replace all the locks on the doors to the church and did not allow parishioners into the place where they worship. **Representatives of the village council and local police refused to investigate the offense** and sealed the doors of the church. As a result, the Rector of the church community, Archpriest Volodymyr Shubar and the parishioners of the Holy Trinity Church were forced to pray in the open air.

Read more: <http://ivano-frankivsk.church.ua/2019/02/01/za-dopomogoyu-vladi-vidbuvajetsya-zaxopleniya-svyato-trojickogo-xramu-bogorodchan/>

Video: <https://youtu.be/0WvfpSREOpo>

- Representatives of local authorities **in the village of Mykhaylivka, Sarats'kyi rayon, Odess'ka oblast'** with the participation of **the head of the Sarats'kyi rayon State Administration, Anton Lobanov, and the village council members** tried, in violation of the legislation of Ukraine and without taking into account the opinion of members of the religious community (parish), to hold a meeting of the territorial community in order to transfer the village parish to the "OCU".

Read more: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/01/protipravni-diji-shhodo-religijnix-gromad-upc-na-volini-frankivshhini-ta-odesi-video/>

- On February 3, 2019 supporters of "OCU" staged a fight at the Holy Transfiguration church in **the village of Hnizdychne, Zbarazhskyi rayon, Ternopils'ka oblast'**. Proponents of "OCU" wearing red-black armbands, viciously beat the Rector of the Holy Transfiguration Religious Community of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Archpriest Stefan Balan. Upon arriving at the crime scene, **the chairman of the district council and police representatives took the side of the instigators of the attack.**

Read more: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/03/prixilniki-pcu-ta-policiya-pobili-nastoyatelya-xramu-upc-v-s-gnezdichne-na-ternopilshhini/>

Video: <https://youtu.be/J4M4pIqRmLw>

- February 3, 2019, "OCU" supporters **in the village Urvenna, Zdolbunivskyi rayon** did not allow the Rector of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God church, Archpriest Andriy

Ostapyuk, to celebrate the Sunday divine service, after they had previously held an illegal meeting of the territorial community to transfer the church to jurisdiction of the "OCU" (the decision was made without the participation of genuine parishioners, in total only 58 votes, 27 of which were not even residents of the village). The illegal actions of the "OCU" supporters were publicly supported by the chairman of the Zdolbuniv district state administration, Serhiy Kondrachuk, which included direct insults against the clergy and parishioners of the UOC in social networks.

Details: <http://rivne.church.ua/2019/02/04/prixilniki-pcu-u-s-urvennazdolbunivskogo-rajonu-nedopustili-svyashhenika-zvershiti-bogosluzhinnya-uxram-yakogo-vin-je-nastoyatelem/>

- Father Vitaliy Kremin, a priest of the Yasinyansky district of the Khust Eparchy of the UOC, received insults and threats that his son will be kidnapped from the church raiders and "OCU" supporters led by the so-called "OCU" hierarch Varsonofiy (Rudnyk) who forcibly seized the Church of St. George the Victorious which is in **the village of Yasinya, Khustskyi rayon**.

Details: <https://pershij.com.ua/na-zakarpatti-natsionalisty-pohrozhuiutsviashchenykovi-upts-vykradenniam-syna/>

- On February 5, 2019, a group of unidentified persons entered the premises of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul church **in the town of Bohorodchany**. The police refused to investigate the offenses and give comments to the parishioners and OSCE mission agents who arrived at the crime scene. **The rayon state administration** announced that it has commenced taking an inventory of all property belonging to the UOC community.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/05/nevidomi-proniknuli-vopechatanij-xramupc-v-smt-bogorodchani-na-frankivshhini-video/>

- On February 5, 2019, "OCU" supporters cut the locks on the doors of the Holy Trinity Cathedral of the UOC **in the city of Berestechko** and cut out part of the church door with a chainsaw. Entering the cathedral together with the offenders, was **the head of the city council Valentyna Zalevska and the commander of the local State Emergency Service, Mr. Ivan Pashyniuk**. According all unfolding events were law enforcement officers who were present at the crime scene.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/04/pid-chas-molitovnogo-stoyannya-bilya-zdolbunivskoji-rda-chinovnik-publichno-obraziv-viryan-video/>

- February 10, 2019, during Sunday worship in the UOC church **in the village of Velymche, Ratnivskiy rayon, Volyns'ka oblast'**, civil "activists" conducted illegal campaigning in support of the "OCU" under the guise of a sociological survey. As the "activists" confessed to the members of the religious community, they received a monetary reward for this "survey".

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/12/na-volini-v-xramax-upc-proplacheni-studenti-pid-viglyadom-socopituvannya-provodili-agitaciyu-za-pcu/>

- On February 10, 2019, three "priests" of the UOC-KP arrived at the Holy Trinity church of **the village of Velykiy Budyshcha of the Dykanskyi rayon, Poltavs'ka oblast'**, and along with their attendants, attempted to initiate another assembly meeting of the religious community whose main item on the agenda was transfer to the "OCU". This was after the February 3 religious community meeting, where the parishioners had voted in favour of remaining under the jurisdiction of the UOC.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/12/sprostovano-chergovij-fejk-zmi-na-poltavshhini-prixilniki-pcu-namagalisy-perevesti-gromadu-u-rozkol/>

- On February 10, 2019, civil "activists" blocked the entrance to the church and prevented the celebration of the Sunday service in the church of St. Archangel Michael **in the village of Zadubrivka, Zastavniivskiy rayon, Chernivetska oblast'**. About a hundred parishioners were forced to pray in the street near the church at temperatures around -5 degrees celcius. All this occurred **in front of the police**, who took a neutral position.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/11/na-bukovini-u-s-zadubrivka-prixilniki-pcu-zirvali-liturgiyu-v-xrami-upc-video/>

- On February 10, 2019, **in the village of Kulchyn, Kivertsivskiy rayon, Volyns'ka oblast'**, in violation of the legislation of Ukraine, the so-called "meetings for transferring to the "OCU" were held. As the Rector of the local St. George's church, priest Oleksandr Shmygal, stated, members of his religious community did not participate in these meetings and vehemently oppose such a transition. On February 12, 2019, after a long standoff at the church entrance, supporters of the "transfer to the OCU" **in the presence of law enforcement officers cut off the seals from the entrance** to St. George's church of the UOC and broke down the door.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/13/u-seli-kulchin-na-volini-rejderi-zrizali-dveri-z-xramu-upc-zirvavshi-policejski-pechatki-video/>

- On February 10, 2019, parishioners of the Holy Trinity Cathedral of the UOC **in the city of Berestechko in Volyns'ka oblast'** gathered for the first time to celebrate the Divine Liturgy outside their own church. After the building was forcibly seized by "OCU" supporters, it was decided to temporarily gather in the Holy Protection Chapel, which is located in the neighbouring village of Stari, not far from Berestechko.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/11/100-parafiyany-zaxopenogo-soboru-v-berestechku-na-volini-molilisya-pid-vidkritim-nebom/>
- On February 12, 2019, "OCU" supporters, led by **the former collective kolkhoz chairman V. Solonenko**, who was not a parishioner of the church, held a meeting of the territorial community **in the village of Pidhaitsi in the Shumskiy rayon** to transfer the UOC religious community to the jurisdiction of the "OCU". Permanent parishioners of the local church who, on February 9, at a meeting of the religious community for spoke in favour for the church to remain under UOC jurisdiction, were not invited to this meeting.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/13/porozhni-cerkvi-pislya-perevodiv-u-pcu-na-ternopilshhini-prodovzhuyut-vidbirati-xrami-upc-video/>
- Local authorities in the village of Bohorodchany, Ivano-Frankivska oblast'** closed the UOC Holy Trinity church for the parishioners and priest. The parishioners of the church together with its rector Archpriest Volodymyr Shuvar were forced to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and prayer vigil in front of the closed church on February 12, 2019, on the feast of the Synaxis of the Three Holy Hierarchs, St. Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/13/parafiyani-upc-v-smt-bogorodchani-prodovzhuyut-molitovne-stoyannya-pid-zachinenim-xramom/>
- On February 12, 2019, "OCU" supporters **in the village of Kulchyn, Kivertsivs'kyi rayon**, cut the locks to the church and seized the building. As a result, on February 15, on the day of the Meeting of the Lord, the community of St. George's Church was forced to gather for a festive Divine service in the house where the Rector of the church, Father Oleksandr Shmygal, lives.

Details: <http://volyn.church.ua/2019/02/16/u-seli-kulchin-gromada-zaxopenogo-xramu-zibralas-na-molitvu-v-budinok-svyashhenika/>
- On February 13, 2019, at a specially convened meeting, **the chairman of the Poltava RSA Mr Valeriy Golovko**, demanded the re-registration of UOC religious communities

operating in the Poltavs'ka oblast', and threatened that *"if after a certain period the church is not re-registered, then it will lose its legal entity and will not be able to function legally"*.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/15/ochilnik-poltavskoji-oda-slidom-za-chinovnikami-minkultu-manipulyuje-na-temi-perejmenuvannya-golova-yuridichnogo-viddilu-upc/>

- On February 15, 2019, "OCU" supporters cut the locks with a hack-saw and forcibly seized the church belonging to the UOC religious community in **the village of Ozeriany, Luts'kyi rayon**. Upon entering the church, activists conducted a "revision" of church property. The meeting was attended by **the police** who did not react to the illegal actions of the church-raiders. These events were preceded by territorial assemblies on the "transfer" to the new "OCU" in which members of the local religious community that had previously voted to retain the jurisdiction of the UOC did not take part.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/0/17/na-svyato-stritennya-rejderi-zaxopili-ta-spaplyuzhili-xram-upc-u-seli-ozeryani-na-volini/>

Video: <https://www.facebook.com/oleg.tochinsky/videos/2344761459087848/>

- The religious community of the Holy Dormition Church **in the village of Mikhalcha in Bukovyna** held parish meetings in which by an overwhelming majority decided to remain under the jurisdiction of the UOC. "OCU" supporters refused to recognise the decision of the religious community and made attempts to seize their church. The parishioners of the Holy Dormition church were forced to declare a non-stop prayer vigil and round-the-clock guard around the church.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/17/duxovna-nastanova-nastoyatelya-xramu-s-mixalcha-na-bukovini-do-pastvi-mi-zalishajemos-u-kanonichnij-cerkvi-yaka-bula-je-i-bude-i-vorota-pekeln-ne-zdolayut-jiji-video/>

- On February 15, 2019, the fourth UOC community **in Bukovyna** – the parish of the Holy Archangel Michael **in the village of Zadubrivka** – joins the 24-hour prayer vigil in an effort to stop the radical supporters of the "OCU" who are attempting to break down the gates of the church and trespass onto its territory.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/17/na-bukovini-vzhe-4-a-gromada-upc-doluchilasya-do-cilodobovogo-molitovnogo-stoyannya-u-viri/>

- On February 16, 2019, a group of civilian “activists” cut the locks to the doors of the UOC Church of St. George **in the village of Pisky, Berestechkiv's'kyi rayon, Volyn's'ka oblast'**. According to eye-witnesses, the most active participants were **the commander of the local State Emergency Service Ivan Pashyniuk** who cut the door locks to the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Berestechko, and **a local “UOC-KP servant” Volodymyr Kurchyn**.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/17/na-volini-vandali-z-pcu-prodovzhuyut-zrizati-zamki-i-zaxoplyuvati-xrami-a-gromadi-upc-molyatsya-po-budinkax/>
- On February 21, 2019, **representatives of the Hoshchanskyi rayon state administration, together with the village head** and approximately 50 "OCU" supporters came to the Holy Protection church **in the village of Kurozvany** demanding an inventory inspection and proceeded to illegally seal the doors of the church, closing it for parishioners.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/files/2019/02/viber-image-2019-02-22-11.17.45.jpg>
<http://news.church.ua/2019/02/23/rivnenska-oda-stvoryuje-komisiji-dlya-opisu-majna-religijnix-gromad-upc-foto/>
- On February 22, 2019, a group of "OCU" supporters together with **the hegumen of the Kyiv Patriarchate monastery in Lutsk Nykodym** cut the locks to the doors of the UOC St. Nicholas church **in the village of Zydychyn Kivertsivskyi rayon of the Volyn's'ka oblast'** and forcibly seized it using physical force against women – parishioners of the church. After that, these "OCU" supporters began to *“carry out an inventory count”* of church property. The priest and parishioners of St. Nicholas church were forced to pray in the house where the priest lives.

Details: <http://volyn.church.ua/2019/02/23/v-zhidichini-prixilniki-upc-kp-zaxopili-svyato-mikolajivskij-xram-upc/?fbclid=IwAR2YPXpV5rZW-7PXM3M0OooEPyP%75>
- On February 23, 2019, parish meetings were held in front of the entrance to the St. John the Theologian church **in the village of Kopytiv, Koretskyi rayon, Rivnens'ka oblast'**, where it was decided to remain under the jurisdiction of the UOC. **A representative of the Koretskyi Regional State Administration, Pavlo Sukhiy** actively opposed the decision of the assembly, and subsequently bringing with him residents from neighbouring villages, urged them to cut the locks and seize the church by force.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/23/u-s-kopitiv-na-rivnenshhini-parafiyani-vidstoyali-svij-xram-zrizati-zamki-i-zaxopiti-cerkvu-pidburyuvav-chinovnik-z-koreckoji-rda/>

- On February 24, 2019 "OCU" supporters staged **provocations in five localities of the Chernivtsi-Bukovynian Eparchy**. "Activists" were brought with posters, loudspeakers to the UOC churches, and in the village of Tovtry these "activists" tried to illegally enter the church.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/24/na-bukovini-prixilniki-pcu-organizuvali-provokaciji-u-5-ti-selax-reportazh-z-jeparxiji-onovleno/>
<https://www.facebook.com/orthobuk/posts/585644198577230?tn=C-R>
- On February 24, 2019, "OCU" supporters broke into the house of the rector of St. George church **in the village of Kulchyn, Kivertsivskiy rayon**, Fr. Oleksandr Shmygal, threatening him with demands that he vacate the house where he lives and where he temporarily holds services after the earlier capture of St. George church.

Video: <https://youtu.be/lrjCj60Vpo>
- On February 24, 2019, **in the village of Novoyelyzavetivka , Shyryayivskiy rayon**, "OCU" supporters **led by the secretary of the "OCU" Eparchy, Teodor Orubets**, broke the locks and attempted to forcibly seize the UOC Holy Trinity church.

Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/60384-v-novojelizavetovke-predstaviteli-pcu-srezali-zamki-na-khrame-upc>
- On February 24, 2019, **representatives of the Kyiv Patriarchate and radical "activists" gathered near St. John the Theologian church in the village of Berezhonka, Chernivets'ka oblast'** and proceeded to intimidate and frighten the parishioners of the church into transferring the church to "OCU" jurisdiction.

In details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/25/u-xrami-de-sluzhiv-batko-predstoyatelya-upc-kijivskomu-patriarxatu-ne-vdalosya-vlashtuvati-provokaciyu-video/>
- On February 26, 2019, "OCU" supporters **bashed female parishioners from the UOC community of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God which is located in the village of Yasinya, Rakhivs'kyi rayon, Zakarpats'ka (Transcarpathian) oblast'**. The parishioners had brought with them, to the village Council, the minutes from the meetings of the religious community regarding their decision to remain under the jurisdiction of the canonical Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The beating was carried out with the support of the local authorities and with the tacit consent of the police.

In detail: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/27/na-zakarpatti-prixilniki-pcu-pobili-parafijanok-miscevoji-parafiji-upc/>

- A video appeared on the Web showing how "OCU" supporters were obstructing the celebration of Sunday services **in the village of Bushcha in Rivnens'ka oblast' and where the chairman of the Zdolbunivskyi district state administration, Serhiy Kondrachuk**, was attempting to forcibly enter the church, ostensibly to carry out an inventory count.
Details: <https://spzh.news/ua/news/60400-glava-zdolbunovskoj-rga-ja-imeju-pravo-inventarizirovaty-imushhestvo-cerkvi>
- On March 1, 2019, **Serhiy Kondrachuk, chairman of the Zdolbuniv Regional State Administration**, broke the locks to the doors of the St.Michael church **in the village of Bushcha, Zdolbunivskyi rayon, Rivnens'ka oblast'**, hurling insults at the clergy and parishioners of the UOC.
In detail: <http://rivne.church.ua/2019/03/01/u-s-bushha-golova-zdolbunivskoji-rda-vilomav-cerkovni-dveri/>
- **On March 1, 2019, close to fifteen "activists" barricaded the house of the UOC religious community Priest Fr. Yaroslav Savka in the village of Trybukhivtsi, Buchachs'kyi rayon of Ternopilska oblast'.**
Detailed: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/01/na-ternopilshhini-15-aktivistiv-kijivskogo-patriarxatu-zablokuvali-budinok-svyashhenika-upc/#more-267404>
- March 1, 2019, **officials of the Hoshchanskyi Rayon Administration**, without any permits, under the guise of an "inventory" count, helped "OCU" supporters to seize the UOC church in **the village of Kurozvany, Hoshchanskyi rayon, Rivnens'ka oblast'**. As a result, "OCU" supporters broke the fence surrounding the church, and trespassed onto the territory of the church and proceeded to cut the locks to the church. All this was perpetrated **in the presence of law enforcement officers** who did not take any action.
Details: <http://rivne.church.ua/2019/03/01/u-s-kurozvani-goshhanskogo-rajonu-za-dopomogoyu-miscevoji-vladi-zaxopili-xram/>
- March 2, **in the village of Nova Moshchanytsia, Zdolbunivskyi rayon, Rivnens'ka oblast'**, "OCU" supporters with the direct participation of the head of the Zdolbunivskyi District State Administration S. Kondrachuk, forcibly seized the UOC Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The lawless actions were accompanied by threats and insults.

Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/60555-v-novoj-moshhanice-verujushhije-zahvachennogo-khrama-upc-sobralisy-na-bogosluzhenije>

- On March 2, 2019, **in the village of Poradivka, Vasytkivskiy rayon, Kyivs'ka oblast'**, "OCU" supporters stormed the local Ukrainian Orthodox church of St. Volodymyr, and attempted to break the locks and enter the church. The parishioners of the church said that the day before in the village, a collection of signatures were collected for the "transfer of jurisdiction to the "OCU"" which was **initiated by representatives of the local authorities.**

Details: https://www.facebook.com/1kozaktv/?tn=kC-R&eid=ARA6qgp5dgm3sc_quYZRsHYgjNqP8wz8PSTaNZVyFmJcx3frO4EqFt-MCB-GBpMtNQk7RNhXsMHYwg5p&hc_ref=ARSW-ljO2ukjdxEJELWp6AGEofeBnnrpxYkHNFdeh5LXsLjVw0dQwirMW4Hr1S_240&fref=nf

- On March 2, 2019, **in the village of Levkiv, Zhytomyrs'ka oblast'**, "OCU" supporters without the prior knowledge and participation of the priest and bona fide members of the religious community, held illegal street meetings of the territorial community in order to "transfer" the Holy Transfiguration church to the "OCU". During the meeting, threats and insults were vehemently hurled against clergy and parishioners of the UOC.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hsJDeFeCsc>

- On March 2, **in the village of Dorotyshche, Kovelskyi rayon of the Volyns'ka oblast'**, during the Divine service, an attempt was made to forcibly seize the local church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary by "OCU" supporters headed by **the chairman of the rayon council Andriy Broyilo**. The initiators of the church raid blocked the entrance to the church grounds for parishioners thereby not giving the opportunity for the Divine service to be celebrated.

Details: <http://енархия.укр/dorotyshche-zakhoplennia-khramu-ne-dopustyly/>

- On March 3, 2019, **in the village of Gnizdyche in the Zbarazh district of Ternopil oblast'**, "OCU" supporters with the support of radical "activists" and under the leadership of the "cleric of the Kyiv patriarchate" Ivan Lesyk, seized the UOC Transfiguration church and violently bashed the congregation.

Details: <https://ternopoliany.te.ua/polituka/13047-na-zbarazhchyni-sviashchennyk-deputat-zaimaietsia-politychnym-reketom>

Video: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/03/pid-kriki-moskalyam-tut-ne-buti-vikidali-viryannya-z-xramu-v-s-gnizdichne-pravij-sektor-dopomig-pcu-zavoloditi-xramom-video/>

- On March 7, 2019, **in the village of Berestie, Dubrovytskyi rayon, Rivnens'ka oblast'**, "OCU" supporters jimmed the side doors of the local church of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church with a crowbar in order to conduct an "inventory" count. Male "activists" in hats entered the church through the altar, and they proceeded to write protocols right there on the altar table itself.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/15/na-polissi-prixilniki-pcu-za-pidtrimki-vladi-zaxopili-j-oskvernili-shhe-odin-xram-upc-video/>

Video: <https://youtu.be/6fEi2mP5v8g>
- On March 9, 2019, **in the village of Kovpyta, Chernihivs'ka oblast'**, a UOC church was forcibly seized by "OCU" supporters. Also noticed among the aggressors, was the **"OCU" priest" Yevhen Orda** was noticed. In this instance, the church door was sealed by unknown criminals. Attempts by the clergy to approach the church building was stopped by radical "activists".

Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/60700-v-sele-kovpyta-obshhina-upc-molilasy-vozle-zahvachennogo-radikalami-khrama>
- On March 9, 2019, in the Volyns'ka Eparchy, "OCU" supporters attacked St. Nicholas' church in the village of Skobelka, Horokhivskyi rayon, and the St. Iliya church in the village of Klepachev, Kivertsivskyi rayon. Both of these parishes were previously and illegally reregistered under the jurisdiction of the "OCU", despite the decision of the bona fide religious communities to remain under the legal jurisdiction of the UOC.

Details: <http://volyn.church.ua/2019/03/09/parafiyu-upc-v-seli-klepachiv-pereveli-u-pcu-bez-zmini-kerivnika-gromadi-u-rejestri/?fbclid=IwAR31iWH39cgea7xLbuiV27fbRtzGMm6i7YK6wCmQfsQ5qoa1LHhJBazjZs>
http://volyn.church.ua/2019/03/10/viryani-upc-v-klepachevi-zvershili-moleben-pered-svojim-zaxopenim-xramom/?fbclid=IwAR0I7BdI9k5YC_3p3njB10PdOqvWRnPCaAeyRmqLZnbBuavdToWtuROxXzQ
- On March 9, 2019, "OCU" supporters cut the locks and entered the church of St. John the Theologian **in the village of Bokhonyky, Vinnyts'ka oblast'**. Directly following the illegal seizure of the UOC church, the church's priest wrote a statement to the law enforcement agencies.

Details: <http://eparhia.vinnica.ua/item/593-zakhopenokhramvselibokhonykyvinnytskohoraionu.html?fbclid=IwAR2NOvJqZFs3ZdRbuMZ4TDuQFvIEN5JKpZV3GAm5zOlvlz3DT5I0eZBDbsb>

- March 10, 2019, civil "activists" **with the support of the police and local authorities in the person of the Banyliv village council chairman V.D. Solomko**, locks to the Archangel Michael church **in the village of Berezhnytsia** were cut using an angle grinder and the church was forcibly captured. When carrying out the grossly illegal actions, the head of the village council and other "activists" insulted UOC parishioners and used physical force against them.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/11/stoyannya-u-viri-oglyad-situaciji-z-t-z-perexodami-za-9-10-berezhnya-foto-video/>
- On March 10, 2019, **in the town of Baranivka, Zhytomyr's'ka oblast', local authorities in the person of Deputy Oleh Kovalskyi** convened a so-called "veche" in the town square, at which he called upon the people to forcibly seize the church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary. As a result, the crowd stormed the church. Parishioners were beaten, and dragged from the church-porch and were forced to leave church territory. A deputy from the Radical Party, Oleh Kovalskyi, one of the initiators of the storming of the church, violently struck the mother of the fallen ATO hero, and also sister Demetria (Pasevych) in the shoulder and chest, then in the face. Kovalskyi then proceeded to throw sister Demetria to the ground and beat her with his feet.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/16/pobita-aktivistom-pcu-pid-chas-shturmu-xramu-mati-zagiblogo-geroya-ato-podala-zayavu-v-policiyu-video/>

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ssa6F_vxt4#action=share
- On March 13, 2019, **in the village of Selets, Dubrovytskyi rayon of Rivnens'ka oblast'**, "OCU" supporters cut the locks to St. Nicholas' church of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. The "OCU" supporters **led by the head of the Dubrovytskyi Rayon Administration Mykolay Petrushko**, blocked access to the church, not allowing members of the UOC to enter it and intimidated the church rector Archpriest Mykolay Ivanychko.

In detail: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/13/za-spriyannya-chinovnikiv-zrizano-zamki-v-cherhovomu-xrami-upc-viruyuchi-polissya-vislovyuyut-oburenniya-diyami-vladi/>
- "OCU" adherents after forcibly seizing the canonical UOC Holy Protection church **in Kurozvan, Rivnens'ka oblast'** attempted to seize the home of Archpriest Volodymyr Koval. According to eyewitnesses, the attackers threatened to use force and actually threatened to kill Archpriest Volodymyr and parishioners.

Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/60816-v-kurozvanah-aktivisty-pcu-pytajutsya-otobraty-dom-svyashhennika>

Video: <https://youtu.be/iEvGUJLVikc>

- March 16, 2019, in the village of Luka-Meleshkivska in Vinnyts'ka oblast', "OCU" supporters attempted to seize the UOC Transfiguration of the Saviour church and prevent the celebration of the hierarchical divine service using physical force against the hierarch and the parishioners of the church. The parishioners who came to worship were blocked inside the church and spent the whole night in prayer.

Details: <http://eparhia.vinnica.ua/item/609-uvahaposhyrenonepravdyvuinformatsiui.html?fbclid=IwAR3s2w2pcqHq7pJQb5za3RKRpydT0k1kg5UvhnJKMmjzsOxM6mfbmqx5Tgl>

Videos: <https://youtu.be/fjAYE5rZTMc>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u599ttrGHFw&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3mrgrakv3e9Sq2cMtGjXI7AWJ8E9DgPZSSodD_T_ugtWYjVpIM1DVssE

- On March 16, in the village of Susval (formerly Oktiabrskoie) in the Volodymyr-Volynskyi rayon of the Volyns'ka oblast', "OCU" adherents attempted to seize the local UOC church. "OCU" supporters prevented the rector from entering church territory, explaining that they had brought "their" own priest from the local "eparchy" of the "Kyiv Patriarchate", demanding from the priest that he should hand over the church keys to them.

Details: <https://eparhia.ukr/susval-prykhylnyky-ptsu-znevazhyly-velykyi-pist-i-zirvaly-bohosluzhinnia-v-khrami/>

- On March 17, after the Divine Liturgy, in the church of the Assumption of the Virgin of the village of Pogreby, Brovarskyi rayon, Kyivs'ka oblast', representatives of the rural territorial community who were not bona fide church members of the entered the church building and carried out a provocation. The "OCU" supporters staged a fight right there inside the church and hurled insults and threats at the rector and parishioners. When the police arrived they forced all those present to vacate the church and adjacent territory near the church.

Details: <http://boryspil-eparchy.org/index.php/news/109-life-parafiy/4393-2019-03-17-20-20-47.html>

- On March 17, 2019, aggressively-minded civil "activists" led by former rector Archpriest Mykolay Smolyarchuk, who had been banned from officiating at

church services, trespassed onto the territory of the UOC Holy Annunciation Church in the village of Rakiv Lis Kamin-Kashyrskyi District and started a fight on the threshold of the church. "OCU" adherents beat female parishioners, and forced them out of church territory onto the street and replaced church locks on the doors to the church.

Details: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DZEMQdDjN8&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1hsc9SF0fHcRALpvuKo12hzJJPytM30sYhypsNNQIUuLJFb0L_408StF0

- **Aggressive "OCU" supporters attempted to break into the local UOC church in the village of Krasnosilka, Bershadskyi rayon of Vinnyts'ka oblast', with the active participation of the local police and with the support of the head of the village council I. Pustovit.**

In detail: <http://www.vladyka-ionafan.ru/events/2019/03/17-1>

- **In the village of Vapnyarka in Vinnyts'ka oblast', aggressively-minded "OCU" supporters cut the locks and seized the church of St. Andrew the First-Called. The police who were present at the crime scene, simply filmed the seizure of the church on video camera and did not attempt hinder the perpetrators in any way.**

Details: <http://mp-eparhia.org.ua/?q=uk/news/arhiereyske-bogosluzhinnya-v-smtvapnyarka-bilya-hramu-svandriya-pervozvannogo>

- **On March 23, 2019, in the village of Ivankiv, Kyivs'ka oblast', "OCU" supporters attempted to break into the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos church and capture it.**

In detail: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/61027-verujshhije-ivankova-ne-pozvolili-aktivistam-pcu-zahvatity-svoj-khram>

- **On March 24, 2019, in the village of Mnyshyn of the Hoshchanskyi rayon, Rivnens'ka oblast', radically-minded "activists", together with representatives of the "Kyiv Patriarchate", cut the locks to the Holy Protection Church of the UOC and seized the temple. During the seizure of the temple offenders cited the order given by the head of the Rivne Regional Administration Oleksiy Mulyarenko.**

Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/61035-v-mnishine-upc-kp-i-pravyj-sektor-srezali-zamki-na-khrame-upc>

- **On March 24, 2019, in the village of Tovtry, Zastavniivskyi rayon, Chernivets'ka oblast', "OCU" supporters with the active participation of "OCU priest" of the Zastavniivskyi rayon, Vitaliy Menzak, attempted to seize the UOC Holy-Dormition**

church. "OCU" adherent initiated a fight and insulted the rector and parishioners of the church. The police who had arrived at the crime scene recorded the fact of the attack and received a statement from the victims.

Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/61191-silovoj-konflikt-v-sele-tovtry-sprovocirovalisluzhiteli-pcu>

- On March 26, 2019, **the Governor of Rivnens'ka oblast, Oleksiy Mulyarenko**, in violation of the legislation of Ukraine, issued a decree "On the registration of charters of religious communities in the new revision" in which he mentioned the names of 30 parishes of the Sarnenska and Rivnens'ka Eparchies of the UOC, which had allegedly transferred to the jurisdiction of the "OCU". The issuance of this order led to an aggravation of the confrontation between the believers and justified a whole series of attempts to seize churches and the use of physical force against the clergy and parishioners of the UOC.

Details: <https://rpravda.com/na-rovshhine-nachali-registracii-ustavov-religioznyh-obshhin/500/>

- On April 4, 2019, **"OCU" supporters seized the church of the UOC religious community in the village of Ptycha, Dubenskyi rayon, Rivnens'ka oblast'. The perpetrators of the forcible seizure cut the locks and penetrated the church. The police present at the seizure did not hinder or prevent the offenders from committing their crime.**

Details: <http://vzcz.church.ua/2019/04/05/ocu-adherents-seize-uoc-church-in-pticha-rivnenska-obl/?lang=en>

- **The "Honorary Patriarch of OCU" "Filaret" publicly supported the fact that churches were forcibly seized and publicly supported the direct intervention and meddling of state authorities into the affairs of the church.** According to him, *"The state is on the side of the Church which supports it, and there is nothing wrong with the fact that it obliges officials to exert influence on the parishes"*.

Details: <https://glavcom.ua/interviews/patriarh-filaret-poryadok-yakiy-zaproponovali-greki-nas-ne-zadovolnyaje-nashiy-cerkvi-treba-noviy-statut--577409.html>

2. **Cases of direct administrative and forcible pressure on the clergy of the UOC by the state authorities of Ukraine.**

- Clerics of **the Ivano-Frankivs'ka Eparchy** of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church are **regularly subjected to pressure from law enforcement agencies**. Parish rectors receive threatening phone calls demanding that they report to the law enforcement agencies in order to be interrogated. Militiamen, without any explanation, demand that statute documents, church property ownership documents of the religious communities be provided for "familiarisation" purposes.

Details: <http://ivano-frankivsk.church.ua/2019/01/30/pres-sluzhba-ivano-frankivskoji-jeparxiji-upc-zayavlyaje-pro-tisk-na-svyashhennosluzhriteliv-jeparxiji/>

- **Clergymen of the Rivnens'ka oblast' are being handed summons' with the requirement that they appear to the deputy head of the investigative department of the Security Services (SBU) in the Rivne region, Mr. B. Tuza** for interrogations as witnesses in criminal proceedings. Commenting on the situation, a bishop auxiliary to the Rivnens'ka Eparchy, His Grace Bishop Pimen of Dubno, stated that similar pressure was also being exerted on priests by the regional Directorate of the Security Service of Ukraine.

In detail: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/06/262557/>

- On February 13, 2019, **His Grace Bishop Gedeon (Charon) of Makariv**, a bishop auxiliary to the Kyivan Metropolia, the abbot of the UOC Monastery of the Tithes in honour of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was detained at Boryspil airport. The arrest of the Bishop was carried out by representatives of the State Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), who seized his passport, declaring it "lost" and threatened to deprive him of Ukrainian citizenship and to have him forcibly deported.

According to His Grace, the unlawful actions of the SBU are directly linked to his speech that was delivered in the US Congress where he presented the facts of discrimination against clerics and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC) perpetrated by the Ukrainian government.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/13/jepiskopu-makarivskomu-gedeonu-xaronu-ogolosheno-pro-zaboronu-vjizdu-do-ukrajini-video/>

- On February 18, 2019, **Metropolitan Mytrofan of Gorlovka and Slavyansk was detained at a checkpoint and escorted by a convoy to the Slavyansk city police**

department. The hierarch was searched and a task force called which escorted him to the Slavyansk police department. There was a conversation with the investigator, during which no charges were filed.

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/02/18/mitropolita-gorlivskogo-i-slovyanskogo-mitrofana-pid-chas-povernennya-do-jeparxialnogo-upravlinnya-zatrimala-policiya/>

- On February 26, 2019, **the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) conducted searches at the office premises of the "STELS-1" company, which deals with the protection of churches of the UOC, and in the apartment of its head, UOC deacon Vyacheslav Pavlov.**

Details: <https://spzh.news/ua/news/60479-biblija-i-vojna-vyjasnilasy-kakije-knigi-sbu-inkriminirujet-glave-stels-1>

- **On March 1, 2019, Archpriest Vitaliy Kemin, dean of the Yasinyanskyi rayon of the Khusts'ka Eparchy of the UOC, and Archpriest Oleksandr Hasparovych, the rector of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos church, were summoned to the local department of the Security Service of Ukraine.** The reasons for the "conversation" became grounds for provocations by "OCU" supporters against the rector and parishioners of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary church in the village of Yasinya.

Details: <http://law.church.ua/2019/03/01/v-sbu-proveli-besidu-zi-svyashhenikami-xustskoj-jeparxiji-yaki-vidmovlyayutsya-perexoditi-v-pcu/>

- On March 15, 2019, **the SSU (SBU) officers handed over a notice of suspicion under Articles 161 and 300 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine to Archpriest Viktor Zemlyany, head of the Department for Regulating Interconfessional Conflicts in the Rivnens'ka Eparchy of the UOC.** The archpriest was accused of "deliberate acts aimed at inciting national, racial, or religious hatred", without giving any evidence. Prior to the interrogation by the SBU, Archpriest Viktor recorded a video message in which he stressed that his active position in upholding the rights and freedoms of believers in the Rivnens'ka Eparchy displeases local administration officials and other authorities.

In detail: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/15/protoijerej-viktor-zemlyanij-zapisav-zvernennya-u-zvyazku-z-chergovim-viklikom-v-sbu-video/>

Also: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/15/chas-vam-molitisya-za-nogo-slidchij-sbu-pastvi-o-viktora-zemlyanogo-foto/>

- **On March 28, 2019, a court hearing was held on charges levelled against Archpriest Victor Zemlyany, head of the UOC Department for Regulating Interconfessional Conflicts in the Rivnens'ka Eparchy who was accused under Part 1 of Art. 161 and Part 1 of Art. 300 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine. The court rejected a petition to apply preventive measures against the priest.**

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/28/sud-vidmoviv-slidchim-v-obranni-miri-zapobizhnogo-zaxodu-dlya-o-viktora-zemlyanogo/>

3. Protection of the rights of clergymen and parishioners of the UOC in the judicial field.

- **The Ukrainian Orthodox Church appealed to the court demanding that the decision of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, which obliges it to change its name and state that it belongs to the Russian Orthodox Church, be declared unlawful. According to this appeal, the decision of the Ministry of Culture and the Law on the renaming of religious organisations violates Article 35 of the Constitution of Ukraine and the main provisions of the Law "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organisations", which guarantee non-interference of the state into the affairs of the Church, and in particular the right of communities to freely choose and change spiritual centres both in Ukraine and abroad.**

Details:

<https://zaodessu.com.ua/news/upc-obzhaluet-v-sude-reshenie-minkulta-o-prinuditelnom-pe-reimenovanii/>

- **The court found illegal the inaction of the prosecutor of the Volyns'ka oblast', who did not report to the ERDR (Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations) about the violation of the rights of believers in the UOC village of Zhydychyn. The Lutsk Rayon Court examined the claim of the clergyman of the UOC St. Nicholas Church in Zhydychyn, Fr. Roman Geleta, against the inaction of the prosecutor of the Volyns'ka oblast' and ordered an investigation into this offense.**

Details: <https://spzh.news/ru/news/61034-sud-obyazal-nachaty-rassledovaniye-o-narushenii-prav-verujushhih-upc-v-zhidychine>

- **In the Lutsk Rayon Court, a complaint was made by the rector of the UOC churches in the villages of Sirnychka and Semerynske, Lokachynskyi rayon,**

Volyns'ka oblast' in connection to the inaction of the prosecutor of Volyns'ka oblast' and ordered the prosecutor or other official authorised to receive and register statements and enter the pertinent information into the Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations (ERDR) of criminal offenses committed against the above-mentioned UOC communities and that pre-trial investigations be commenced.

Detailed: <http://volyn.church.ua/2019/03/26/porushennya-prav-viruyuchix-upc-u-selax-sirnichki-j-semerinske-zafiksuvali-v-jerdr-za-vimogoyu-sudu/>

- **The rector of the UOC community in the village of Rakiv Lis, Volyns'ka oblast', which was illegally re-registered as a "OCU community", by order of the Volyns'ka Oblastna (Regional) State Administration No. 123 "On registration of charters of religious communities in the new revision" filed a lawsuit in Volyn District Administrative Court.**

Detailed: <http://volyn.church.ua/2019/03/26/volinskij-okruchnij-administrativnij-sud-rozglyane-pozov-shhodo-zdijsnenoji-pererejstraciji-statutu-gromadi-upc-sela-rakiv-lis/>

- **Archimandrite Nykyta (Storozhuk), Secretary of the Chernivtsi-Bukovynian Eparchy of the UOC, met with representatives of the OSCE monitoring mission, during which new facts of violations of the rights of believers of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Bukovyna, as well as persecution of children in schools on religious grounds were considered.**

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/03/27/u-chernivecko-bukovinskij-jeparxiji-predstavnikam-obsje-povidomili-pro-novi-fakti-utiskiv-viruyuchix-na-bukovini/>

- **The Lutsk District Court of the Volyns'ka oblast' considered the appeal of the religious communities of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and obliged prosecutors or authorised persons to submit to ERDR (Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations), statements from the rectors of the UOC churches in the villages of Sadiv, Shepel, Vesele, Mankiv, Kholopychi regarding the seizure of churches by the representatives of the so-called "OCU".**

Details: <http://news.church.ua/2019/04/01/u-volinskij-jeparxiji-povidomlyayut-pro-rishennya-sudu-na-korist-pyati-parafij-upc/>

Brief information about the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC)

The UOC is the Local Orthodox Church of the people of Ukraine, which is officially recognised by all the Orthodox Churches of the world and is in spiritual communion with them. Spiritual and prayerful unity with the entire Orthodox world is witnessed by the Patriarchs and Primate of all the Local Churches, who repeatedly come to Kyiv to concelebrate Divine services with the Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine.

The UOC is completely independent and self-governing in its administration and structure. The Administrative Centre of the UOC is located in Kyiv, Ukraine. According to the UOC Charter, the Ukrainian Orthodox Church independently elects the Primate and Bishops, ordains priests, conducts administrative and economic activities. The highest authority in the UOC belongs to the Church Council, which is made up of the bishops, ministers and parishioners of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church.

The UOC is the largest Church in Ukraine, uniting millions of believers in 12,092 territorial church communities. The UOC has 258 monasteries, 4,500 monks and 90 bishops. During the time of Ukraine's independence, thousands of churches and hundreds of monasteries have been erected and restored with donations from believers of the UOC.

The UOC has consistently advocated the unity, independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine and unites the Orthodox citizens of Ukraine, regardless of their nationality, political convictions or place of residence. In all its sermons, the UOC blesses Ukraine, the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian state.