



RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

[New Search](#) | [About RIRs](#) | [Help](#)

30 June 2004

UKR42792.E

Ukraine: Treatment of Armenians in Ukraine and availability of state protection
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Information on the treatment of Armenians in Ukraine could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. However, the following information may be relevant.

Various sources place the size of the ethnic Armenian community in Ukraine at between 57,000 (Joshua Project n.d.) and 60,000 persons (Ethnic Groups Worldwide 1998, 92; Professor, n.d.), most of whom reside in Kyiv City and eastern and southern cities (ibid.). More recent population estimates of the Armenian population in Ukraine could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.

On 18 May 2003, several prominent Armenians including singer Charles Aznavour, as well as Ukrainian president Leonid Kravchuk, attended the re-consecration of an Armenian cathedral in Lviv (*The Ukrainian Weekly* 8 June 2003). After 50 years in government hands, the cathedral was given back to the Armenian community, and approximately 1,000 people walked in a procession through city streets to celebrate the event (ibid.).

According to an *Itar-Tass* article quoting Ukrainian premier Viktor Yanukovich during a 60th anniversary commemoration of the forcible deportation of Tatars, Armenians, Bulgarians, Greeks and Germans from Crimea, Ukraine, "there has been not a single acute ethnic conflict in Ukraine throughout its existence as an independent state..." (*Itar-Tass* 17 May 2004). However, this statement could not be corroborated by any other source consulted by the Research Directorate (ibid.).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

Ethnic Groups Worldwide: A Ready Reference Handbook. 1998. David Levinson. "Europe - Ukraine." Phoenix: Oryx Press.

Itar-Tass [Moscow]. 17 May 2004. Lev Ryabchikov. "Ukraine: Prime Minister Says No Room for Ethnic Strife at Tatar Remembrance Meeting." (Dialog)

Joshua Project. n.d. "Armenian of Ukraine."
<<http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php>> [Accessed 22 June 2004]

Professor Volodymyr Yevtoukh. Centre for Ethnosociological and Ethnopolitical Studies. n.d. "National Minorities in Ukraine: Status, Rights, Prospects."
<<http://www.znak.com.pl/eurodialog/ed/ftp/yevtoukh.pdf+armenians+ukraine&hl=en>> (Google cache) [Accessed 22 June 2004]

The Ukrainian Weekly [Parsippany, NJ]. 8 June 2003. No. 23, Vol. 71. "Armenian Cathedral in Lviv is Reconsecrated."
<<http://www.ukrweekly.com/Archive/2003/230305.shtml>> [Accessed 22 June 2004]

Additional Sources Consulted

A professor at the Armenian Studies Program of California State University in Fresno did not provide information within time constraints.

Unsuccessful attempts to contact the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan, Embassy of Armenia in Kyiv, and the Union of Armenians in Ukraine.

Internet sites, including: Amnesty International (AI), *The Economist*, Embassy of Armenia in Ottawa, Ethnologue, Freedom House, European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI), Human Rights Watch (HRW), Netarménie.com, United Kingdom Home Office Country Information (IND), United States Department of State, World News Connections (WNC).

Publications: *World Directory of Minorities*.

The attached reproduction is a copy of an official work that is published by the Government of Canada. The reproduction has not been produced in affiliation with, or with the endorsement of the Government of Canada.