

January 23, 2017

His Excellency Petro Poroshenko
President
11 Bankova St.
Kyiv, 01220
Ukraine

Dear President Poroshenko:

We are writing to protest in the strongest possible terms the awarding of the Ukrainian Order of Freedom to Vasil Kvasnovsky, the author of the anti-Semitic books *The Intrigues of the Twins: Zionism and Communism* (“Kozny Bliznetsov: Sionyzma y Kommunyzm”) and *From Darkness to Light: The Moscow-Jewish Syndrome of Ukrainian Holocaust* (“Iz Mraka k Svetu: Moskovskovo-Zhidovsky Syndrom Ukrainskogo Holokosta”).

The bestowing of Ukraine’s highest civilian award to Kvasnovsky is especially disturbing in contrast to two of its recent recipients, U.S. Senator John McCain and Former Senator Richard Lugar, who are true champions of democracy and freedom.

In addition to promoting anti-Semitism, Kvasnovsky founded a branch of the extremist party “Svoboda” in Spain, while he was living there.

It is dismaying to see anti-Semitism continuing to be rewarded, especially following the decision to rename a major avenue after Stepan Bandera, a troubling move that has not yet been rectified.

We urge you to revoke the award. The Order of Freedom, according to Ukrainian law, is given to those “outstanding citizens... [for] consolidation of Ukrainian society, democracy, socio-economic and political reforms.” Its awardees must be those who advocate for human rights and freedom, not hate and divisiveness.

Sincerely,



Daniel Rubin
Chairman



Alexander Smukler
President



Mark B. Levin
Executive Vice-Chairman
& CEO

A coalition of 47 national organizations and over 300 local community councils and federations

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