



Amnesty International

Group 524

February 2023



**No February Meeting
War In Ukraine Anniversary
Rocky Myers Documentary**

Welcome

I hope everyone is well and tolerating the roller coaster style weather this month. This month's focus is on efforts to keep the spotlight on Ukraine and death row inmate Rocky Myers.

War In Ukraine Anniversary

As we approach the one year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, members of Congress have threatened to cut U.S. support for Ukraine. Please see the information on page 2 and the sample letter on page 3.

Congressional Addresses

Our new Congressional delegation's addresses are listed on page 4.

Rocky Myers Documentary

Last year we wrote on behalf of Rocky Myers, a death row inmate. A new documentary is available and detailed on pages 5 and 6.

Amnesty International Group 524

Meeting Schedule: Third Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Providence Heights
9000 Babcock Blvd.



Contact John Belch (joheb@aol.com or 412-766-1894) for more information on material in this mailing, or visit the Amnesty USA web site (www.amnestyusa.org) and Group 39's Amnesty Pittsburgh web site (www.amnestypgh.org).



Spotlight: Congress; Don't Abandon Ukraine!

As we approach the one year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, members of Congress have threatened to cut U.S. support for Ukraine. This is unconscionable, as the Russian government's unlawful war of aggression and ongoing stream of war crimes continue to devastate Ukrainian civilians. Tens of thousands of Ukrainians have been killed and many thousands more have been injured. Millions have been forced to become refugees, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency.

We can and must stop Congress from abandoning Ukrainians. As their constituent, you have the power to influence them.



Since the Russian military invaded Ukraine a year ago this month, tens of thousands of Ukrainians have been killed and many thousands more have been injured, including countless children. Families have been torn apart, and millions of Ukrainians have become refugees. They are counting on U.S. aid to survive.

Though the war in Ukraine may not be front page news, support must be sustained, especially as the Russian government continues to deliberately target Ukraine's critical energy infrastructure in the middle of a harsh winter. In many cases, U.S. foreign assistance is the difference between life and death for Ukrainians on the cusp of humanitarian disaster.

Take action today to demand that your Members of Congress do everything in their power to support the human rights of Ukrainians, end Russia's war of aggression, and hold Russian officials accountable for war crimes.

[Online Action to your Representative and Senators](#)

or sample letter on the next page. New addresses are on page 4.

**A REDUCTION IN U.S. AID
IS UNCONSCIONABLE.
WE CANNOT LET IT HAPPEN.
ACT NOW FOR UKRAINE**



Congress Must Not Abandon Ukrainians

Dear _____,

As we approach the one year anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, I am deeply concerned by news reports that a number of Members of Congress plan to cut U.S. support for Ukraine. This must not happen.

Russia's war on Ukraine is an unlawful act of aggression under the U.N. charter. The Russian military has committed war crimes on a devastating scale. Tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilians have been killed and millions have been forced to become refugees, according.

As the Russian government continues to deliberately target Ukraine's energy infrastructure in the middle of winter, U.S. foreign assistance is more critical than ever. In many cases, U.S. support is the difference between life and death for Ukrainians on the cusp of humanitarian disaster caused by the Russian government's war of aggression.

Congress should be doing everything in its power to support the human rights of Ukrainians, end Russia's war of aggression and hold Russian officials accountable for war crimes.

I care deeply about this issue and will be watching the Congressperson's actions closely.

Thank you,

Group 524
February 2023



Congress Addresses New for 2023

Senator Robert Casey

393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator John Fetterman

Dirksen Senate Office Building
50 Constitution Ave NE
Washington, DC 20002

Pittsburgh

Representative Summer Lee

243 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC, 20515-3812

North Boroughs and North Hills

Representative Chris Deluzio

1222 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



Last year we wrote on behalf of Rocky Myers, a death row inmate in Alabama, asking for clemency. Amnesty is still highlighting his case and on February 23 is sponsoring a You Tube streaming of a documentary concerning his life and case. Details are below:

Rocky Myers: A Documentary from Alabama's Death Row

AIUSA [and@Justice4RockyM](#) invite you to watch the premiere of Rocky Myers: A Documentary from Alabama's Death Row February 23rd 7pm ET/6pm CT/4pm PT.

Use the [documentary link](#) here to watch the film on your own, with friends, or your AIUSA group on February 23rd at 7pm ET/6pm CT/4pm PT.

NEARLY THREE DECADES ON ALABAMA'S DEATH ROW, SEEKING JUSTICE

Rocky Myers is currently on death row at Holman Correctional Facility in Atmore, Alabama.

Rocky Myers was convicted by a nearly all-white jury who sentenced him to life without the possibility of parole for the murder of his white neighbor. The trial judge overrode their decision and imposed a death sentence – a practice now outlawed in Alabama. No evidence linked him to the scene of the murder of which he was convicted, except for a video-recorder stolen from the victim, which he maintains he had found abandoned in the street. Key testimonies against him were tainted by inconsistencies and allegations of police pressure, with one later recanted as untrue.



At age 11, Rocky Myers was diagnosed with an intellectual disability. His assigned lawyer for post-conviction appeals abandoned his case without notice, making him miss key deadlines for judicial appeals. The courts relied primarily on IQ tests, a standard which the US Supreme Court found to be inadequate in 2014, to reject his request for a deadline extension submitted on the grounds that he is a person with an intellectual disability.

Racial and class bias also affected the proceedings against him. Rocky Myers faced execution in 2004 and 2012.



If you didn't have a chance to write in support of Rocky Myers an online action is available on Amnesty's website.

[Rocky Myers](#)

