Dear friends!

You must have already heard about the events that have engulfed Ukraine. We are neither the politicians nor the government representatives: we are publishers, writers, illustrators, and translators of children's literature, and, as conscientious people, we cannot remain silent. We consider it our duty to do everything possible to bring the truth to the people of the World about the events in Ukraine.

We are not asking for sympathy, but we are asking for publicity. Please tell the truth about EuroMaidan (details available at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013_Ukraine_pro-European_Union_protests>) in Ukraine and urge your government to respond to the events in our country, because the threat of a totalitarian dictatorship in Ukraine is a real and imminent danger for the whole European community.

A terrible totalitarian scenario of the brutal destruction of a democracy is currently unfolding in Ukraine. The peaceful demonstration in support of a free-trade deal with the European Union was not successful – the Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych did not sign the deal at a two-day summit in Vilnius, Lithuania.

During the night of November 30th the officers of the special police security forces “Berkut” attacked protesters and committed atrocities against Ukrainian citizens. They severely beat young people and journalists. Consider the fact that the president did not react to this brutality immediately, but waited as long as sixteen hours (!).

The bloodshed of the defenseless students caused the enormous ensuing wave of the people’s resistance. We are a very peaceful and patient nation. We have allowed the oligarchic clans to desecrate our country which they systematically plundered, and to abuse the people, who were absolutely defenseless and disempowered within the imposed political and social system. But the blood of our children raised the whole country in an uproar. About seven hundred thousand people came for the manifestation (a peaceful protest) in Kyiv, and thousands more were also simultaneously protesting at many EuroMaidans in other cities of Ukraine. This peaceful resistance was discredited by a group of provocateurs who had no relation to the peaceful protests. Once again, blood was shed.

And now, the government has started to initiate persecutions against peaceful protesters. The members of opposition were unable to convince the parliament, in which most of the seats are taken by the representatives of the pro-government parliamentarians, to dismiss the current government. This regime is doing everything to keep the power in its hands.

The Ukrainian President and his government did not just betray their people; they act like criminals who do not respect the law. Social activists were beaten mercilessly by the security forces, imprisoned, and falsely accused as provocateurs and instigators. Many of them are well-known in the cultural circles. They are: Mykola Lazarevsky, an architect; Valerij Harahuts, a social activist and a journalist; Yuri Bolotov, a former director of the most famous Ukrainian rock band *Okean Elzy*, and many others. At the same time, none of the security forces were prosecuted. None! And the wave of persecutions against innocent people is picking up.

Dear friends, please listen to us! The best people of the Ukrainian nation are standing on the Independence Square (Maidan Nezalezhnosti) in the center of Kyiv. These are professors, writers, singers, artists, educators, and doctors – the people of many professions. Ruslana Lyzhychko, a winner of the Eurovision Song Contest 2004 and a World Music Award winning and MTV Europe Music Award recipient is out there day and night, as a true heroine who inspires the people. By her side is Sashko Polozhynsky, a famous Ukrainian singer.

Please support us! Otherwise, the government will destroy us!

We are adding some information from the mass media to support our request.