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# Kiev strips citizenship from head of largest Christian church – SBU

## The government has been conducting a crackdown on the Ukrainian Orthodox Church for years



Metropolitan Onufry during a Christmas service in Kiev, Ukraine, January 6, 2021. © Sputnik

Ukrainian leader Vladimir Zelensky has revoked the citizenship of the seniormost bishop of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (UOC), the SBU security agency reported on Wednesday.

According to the agency, it has evidence that 80-year-old Metropolitan Onufry obtained Russian citizenship in 2002, making him ineligible to hold Ukrainian citizenship. Zelensky has reportedly ordered that the church leader should no longer be considered a Ukrainian national, although his

office has yet to publish the decree.

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Zelensky's government has been cracking down on the largest religious organization in Ukraine for years, claiming the measures are necessary due to the UOC's historic ties with Russia.

The broad campaign of criminal investigations against the clergy has been accompanied by the seizure of property by supporters of the rival Orthodox Church of Ukraine (OCU), which is backed by Kiev. The UOC says it is being victimized by the government.



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The SBU alleged that Onufry *“deliberately opposed canonical independence of the Ukrainian church from the Moscow Patriarchy,”* referring to the spiritual connection between the two churches originating from the times of Imperial Russia.

The creation of the OCU in 2019 and its recognition by the Patriarch of Constantinople caused a major [rift](#) among world's Orthodox churches. The UOC has been de facto independent from Moscow since the 1990s, but maintained the canonical connection that lent it inter-church legitimacy.

Last year, the Ukrainian parliament passed a law that effectively threatened a ban on the UOC unless it cut the spiritual link to Russia. The UN and international human rights organizations have accused Kiev of overreach and interference with the freedom of religion by mandating a specific way of worshipping God.

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Ukraine currently does not recognize dual citizenship, but has no explicit legal prohibition either. However, an adult citizen who becomes a foreign national through means other than marrying a foreigner can be stripped of their citizenship at the president's discretion. Zelensky previously targeted multiple former Ukrainian officials and political rivals in this manner, including Viktor Medvedchuk, formerly the leader of the largest opposition party in Ukraine.

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'Ukraine used to be independent and sovereign, now it's a puppet state.' – Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Nikolay

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 **ServerLoad Poring** 7/2/2025 at 6:18 PM 0


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 **שימון פרס** 7/2/2025 at 6:18 PM 0

Strange view of loyalty. It's like the days of the Roman Empire when cheaters could have their property confiscated and then everybody involved was sent off to live on a separate island.

[Reply](#)

 **Sed Sid** 7/2/2025 at 6:14 PM 1

All Ukrainians once belonged to the USSR! so, what about that?

[Reply](#)

 **Gijs** 7/2/2025 at 3:55 PM 7

Zelensky's term has expired, so Ukraine doesn't have a president at the moment. He should challenge it legally.

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 **Big Megina** 7/2/2025 at 4:01 PM 5

Jews don't follow any laws local or international they only hold you to it. That is reality

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**Zulo** 7/2/2025 at 5:26 PM ↕

0

The so-called Self-ID JEWS only account for 0.2% of the global population, just like the other minority INDOCTRINATED alphabet transformers, BOTH OF WHICH ARE are they are clinically brain dead!

[Reply](#)



**Lobster** 7/2/2025 at 4:34 PM ↕

-6

The Ukrainian constitution disagrees with you about that. Have you ever even looked at it or are you just repeating what Putin said?

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**Leo Hylan** 7/2/2025 at 5:13 PM ↕

4

Baloney. Zelensky REFUSED to face the voters because he couldn't get re-elected. Why didn't he stand for re-election if he's so popular. Try hard and be serious!

[Reply](#)



**Zulo** 7/2/2025 at 5:30 PM ↕

1

You seem to think that the Kiev Junta is a sovereign and independent nation, you must've over looked who is controlling the genocidal circus, and that is the Anglo-Saxon Zionist/NAZI Talmudic woke genocidal princesses that belong to the Rothschild and blackrock EPSTEIN Alphabet swamp!

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