

English translation of the Appeal of the Board of the Association of Ukrainian Cities  
to the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy dated 27 January 2025

President of Ukraine  
Supreme Commander-in-Chief of  
the Armed Forces of Ukraine  
Volodymyr ZELENSKYY

Dear Volodymyr Oleksandrovych,

Pressure on local governments has been increasing.

The matter is not only related to the initiated by you military administrations of localities, 201 of which have already been established, despite the fact that in the temporarily occupied territories there are 157 municipalities.

In particular, the matter concerns violations of the law, procedures and fairness in the conduct of procedural actions by law enforcement and judicial authorities against the mayors of small municipalities already in 2025.

The matter is not only about the violations of the Constitution of Ukraine, to which the Association of Ukrainian Cities drew the attention of you and the Prosecutor General on 28 January 2022.

Oleksandr Supruniuk, Head of the Netishyn City Council, is suspended from his duties for 60 days with house arrest at the initiative of the Shepetivka District Police Department of the Main Department of the National Police in Khmelnytskyi region for purchasing drones for military units.

Taras Kuchma, Head of the Drohobych City Council, was forcibly taken to the police station at the initiative of the Drohobych District Territorial Centre for Recruitment and Social Support because of the celebration of Unity Day in the municipality.

Oleksandr Markushyn, Head of the Irpin City Council, is arrested for 60 days or asked to bail out 30 million hryvnias for the legal travel abroad of a single father whose two-year-old son's mother died.

These are just a few of the cases in the first month of 2025, when municipalities have been deprived of their elected leaders by false cases brought by state authorities.

Systemic pressure on local self-government weakens municipalities and Ukraine as a whole, and therefore leads to a weakening of the country in the war against the aggressor, complicating the path to our Victory.

Local self-government is the foundation of democracy and an important part of defending Ukraine's independence during a full-scale invasion. Strong local self-government is what makes us different from putin's russia.

We appeal to you, Volodymyr Oleksandrovysh, as the President – Guarantor of the Constitution and Supreme Commander-in-Chief of Ukraine, to protect the rights of citizens to local self-government, democracy and justice, to unite the efforts of all public authorities in the fight against russia for Ukraine, for every municipality, for every citizen!

Board of the Association of Ukrainian Cities  
27 January 2025