NATO-backed Ukraine escalates war on labor: Union leaders arrested, halls seized

written by Lev Koufax
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Grygorii Osovyi, President of the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine, arrested, Trade Union House seized.

Just over 11 years ago, fascist mobs cheered in central Kiev as the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine (FPU) [roared with flame](#). The FPU's headquarters, known as the Trade Union House, was a target of the right-wing crowds throughout the

"EuroMaidan" protests in 2014.

It should be noted, this was not the only trade union hall that Maidan mobs burned. Just three months after the attack on the Kiev Trade Union House, Ukrainian neo-Nazis burned the [Odessa House of Trade Unions](#), murdering nearly 50 labor organizers and progressive activists. If only Ukraine's fascist war on labor unions ended there.

Fast forward to the present day. As of April of this year, the Ukrainian government placed FPU president [Grigoriy Osovyi](#) under house arrest and [illegally seized](#) the Trade Union house and all affiliated assets. Control of the 14,000-square-meter property, worth 850 million Ukrainian hryvnia, or approximately $20 million, was handed over to the Kamparitet business consortium. The consortium manages all assets seized by fascist Ukraine.

The Ukrainian government also moved against trade union organizations in Lviv. The Lviv Regional Council seized the local Trade Union House from the Association of Trade Unions of the Lviv Region. The Ukrainian regime took similar actions against unions in Poltava and Zakarpattia, confiscating various trade union property. The largest trade union coalitions in Europe, the [ITUC](#) and the [EPSU](#), have both condemned these policies.

Ukraine's recent repressive actions against its labor movement represent a broader fascist assault against the country's working class. Before the Ukrainian parliament is a draft law that would represent an existential threat to labor unionism in Ukraine. This abomination is formally known as [Draft Law No. 6420](#) "On the legal regime of property of trade union public associations (organisations) of the former USSR." This law is part of Ukraine's ongoing disgraceful "decommunization" campaign. Ukraine's "decommunization" policy is set on destroying socialist and working-class history and replacing it with fascist mythology.

Draft Law No. 6420 would completely legalize the fascist government's seizures of union property. Further, the law would allow employers to unilaterally suspend union contracts and cease salary payments to employees who are mobilized into the country's military. Currently, Ukrainian private employers are required to pay a base salary to all workers sent to the front lines.

These policies are aimed at one thing: completely dismantling what remains of organized labor in Ukraine. Zelensky's fascist assault on labor union property and leaders reflects a broader agenda in the region. In its current form, the Ukrainian government is entirely propped up by U.S. and European military and financial aid. As such, there is tremendous pressure on Ukraine from the West to ramp up the profit margin on its investments. What better way to do this than through martial law, austerity, and the stripping of all workers' rights and organizations?

Ukraine has given us another example of its transparent role as a Western running dog in the U.S. imperialist war against the global working class. Ukraine's internal fascist repression against the labor movement reflects a country being molded to further serve the interests of NATO and U.S war profiteers.

https://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/2025/06/07/nato-backed-ukraine-escalates-war-on-labor-union-leaders-arrested-halls-seized/