



VERKHOVNA RADA OF UKRAINE

Committee on Foreign Affairs

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Kyiv, May 12, 2016

**Dear Sir Howard Stringer,
Dear Lord Hall of Birkenhead,
Dear Ms. Rona Fairhead,**

Respecting the role of the BBC in promoting and respecting Freedom of Speech in the world,

Acknowledging the paramount impact of the free media on the accountability of the governments,

We, the undersigned Members of Parliament of Ukraine, representing the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Freedom of Speech and Information Policy and the Committee on European Integration as well as of the Interparliamentary Group of Friendship between Ukraine and The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the Parliament of Ukraine would like to draw your attention to the fact that BBC2's 'The Conspiracy Files: Who Shot Down MH17?' documentary, which aired on 3 May, used the term "civil war" to describe what is otherwise universally understood to be Russian military aggression against Ukraine. The term "civil war" has also been used in an article describing the documentary on the BBC website in an article by Mike Rudin from 25 April of this year.

The occupation and illegal annexation of Crimea in February 2014 and the following occupation of parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions by the Russian Federation have been unanimously condemned as acts of aggression by the governments of democratic countries as well as by many non-governmental organizations and supranational bodies, for example in the 17th EU-Ukraine Summit joint statement by President of European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, President of European Council Donald Tusk and President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko, who reiterated their

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