

TOWNHALL MEETING WITH JOSEF ZISSELS

Vice-President of the World Jewish Congress
Chair of the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress



Toronto

Wednesday, March 4th, 2015

UNF Trident Banquet Hall

145 Evans Avenue.

6:30 pm reception 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm meeting

Come and meet Kyiv-based Josef Zissels, to hear his perspectives on Ukrainian-Jewish relations in Ukraine, as well as recent events and trends in the overall political climate. Mr. Zissels will be taking questions from the public. This is a no-cost event, and will include light refreshments.

Sponsored by:

Ukrainian Jewish Encounter,

*Ukrainian Canadian Research and Documentation Centre
with the support of Ukrainian Canadian Congress (Toronto)*

Josef Zissels

WJC Vice-President

Chairman, Vaad of Ukraine

Born in Tashkent in 1946. Graduated from the Chernovtsy University as a major in Theoretical Physics.

From the early 1970's, worked with Jewish and general democratic underground movements in the USSR. In spring 1972, expelled from the Komsomol for speaking out in support of the right for repatriation.

In 1978, joined the Ukrainian Helsinki Group. That same year, arrested and sentenced to three years in high security penal colony "for slander discrediting the Soviet government and social order". Among the materials of accusation were Zionist documents.



In 1984, sentenced again to three years in high security penal colony. The accusation was based, among general democratic documents, on Hebrew textbooks and the "22" Israeli magazine.

In 1988, set up Ukraine's first Jewish organization in Chernovtsy. In 1989, took part in the creation of the Vaad (Confederation of Jewish Organizations and Communities) of the USSR and became its co-chair.

Board member of the European Council of Jewish Communities, the European and World Jewish Congresses, the World Zionist Organization.

Since 1991 – Chairman of the Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities of Ukraine (the Vaad of Ukraine), since 1999 – executive Vice President of the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine.

In 2002, elected as Chairman of the General Council of the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress by its constituent congress in Moscow, Russia.

Participant in all the Plenary Assemblies of the World Jewish Congresses since 1991, member of the Extended Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congresses.

Awards: Prize for Freedom (HIAS) – 1991, the Order of Merit, 3rd degree, the Order For Courage, 1st degree (Ukraine).