



U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness

311 Massachusetts Avenue, NE * Washington, DC 20002

(202) 547-0018 (tel) * e-mail: ukrainegenocide@gmail.com

website: www.ukrainegenocide.com

[US-Committee-for-Ukrainian-Holodomor-Genocide-Awareness-1932-33](#)

[@HolodomorAware](#)

September 28, 2020

Mr. Dean Baquet
Executive Editor
The New York Times Company
620 Eight Avenue
New York, NY 10018

Dear Mr. Baquet:

As the chairman of the ***U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness***, I am requesting a meeting with you on behalf of the Ukrainian American community, including the descendants of Holodomor survivors. Since Ukraine's independence from the Soviet Union, the ***U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness*** has worked tirelessly to bring awareness of the atrocities of the Soviet communist regime, and especially of the Holodomor - Stalin's deliberate terror-famine against the Ukrainian nation in 1932-1933. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss the unresolved issue of revoking Walter Duranty's Pulitzer Prize of 1932.

As you know, Walter Duranty was *The New York Times'* Moscow bureau chief from 1922-1936. Historical evidence shows that Walter Duranty's dispatches from Moscow in the 1930's were false. Tragically, they lulled the Western world to discount other journalists' reporting of the Stalin regime's crimes against humanity. The ***U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness*** requests that you, Mr. Baquet, petition the Pulitzer Committee to rescind Walter Duranty's undeserved Pulitzer Prize.

It is well known that Walter Duranty was not awarded the prize for the quality and content of his writing, but arguably for his access to Joseph Stalin. Notably, in June 1931, Walter Duranty reported to A.W. Klieforth, a U.S. diplomat stationed in Berlin, that with the concurrence of *The New York Times*, his official dispatches would always reflect the official opinion of the Soviet regime and not his own. However, no such disclaimer ever appeared in *The New York Times*.

In his dispatches, Walter Duranty penned, "there is no famine or actual starvation nor is there likely to be," but privately confessed to William Strang, a diplomat at the British embassy in Moscow, that perhaps 10 million people had died of starvation. Stalin later would confide the same to Winston Churchill at Yalta. Instead of reporting the truth, Walter Duranty promoted Stalin's propaganda machine and covered up one of the most heinous crimes of the twentieth century. Walter Duranty used his yellow journalism to deny the existence of the Holodomor and bears responsibility for his complicity in the genocide. *Attached please find a compilation of Duranty's articles.*

Two of Walter Duranty's contemporaries, however, did manage to slip away from their Moscow handlers to investigate the widespread rumors of a famine. Malcolm Muggeridge of the *Manchester Guardian* witnessed the famine-genocide in the Kyiv region and on March 27, 1933 he reported that the Ukrainian famine is "one of the most monstrous crimes in history." He also stated that Walter Duranty was "the biggest liar of any journalist he had ever met." Welsh journalist Gareth Jones also witnessed the devastation in Ukraine's countryside and published articles in multiple newspapers including the *Manchester Guardian*, the *New York Evening Post*, and on April 13, 1933, he published a detailed analysis of the terror-famine in the *Financial Times*. Walter Duranty discounted the correspondents' reports as untrue.

A movement to strip Walter Duranty of his Pulitzer Prize began after the U.S. Commission on the Ukraine Famine submitted its findings to the U.S. Congress in 1988, which was coupled with additional evidence reported by the International Commission of Inquiry in 1990. After Sally Taylor's biography of Walter Duranty entitled "*Stalin's Apologist*" was published, *The New York Times* assigned Karl Meyer to write a piece about Walter Duranty's work. Karl Meyer stated that it was "some of the worst reporting to appear in this newspaper."

In 2003, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, of which I was then president, intensified the campaign for revocation. In response to thousands of petitions for revocation, *The New York Times* hired the late Professor Mark von Hagen from Columbia University to review Walter Duranty's work. Von Hagen concluded that Walter Duranty's dispatches were unbalanced Soviet propaganda. "For the sake of *The New York Times*, they should take away the prize," von Hagen concluded in his final report. Bill Keller, then the executive editor of the *The New York Times*, stated that the paper had no objection if the Pulitzer Prize board revokes the Pulitzer Prize and concluded that Walter Duranty's work was "pretty dreadful...it was a parroting of propaganda...his work was clearly not prize worthy."

As a recipient of the distinguished Pulitzer Prize yourself, you are well aware of the honor and responsibility that comes with what the Pulitzer represents. Let it be on your watch that integrity and trust be restored by the long overdue revocation of this prize. It is never too late for *The New York Times* to atone symbolically for the great injury suffered by the Ukrainian nation by taking necessary steps to rescind Walter Duranty's Pulitzer Prize, thus affirming *The New York Times* commitment to its motto: "*All the News That's Fit to Print.*"

A member of the ***U.S. Committee for Ukrainian Holodomor-Genocide Awareness*** will contact your office to schedule a meeting or should you suggest a date, please communicate with the organization by e-mail: UkraineGenocide@gmail.com or telephone: 202 256-2035.

Sincerely,

Michael Sawkiw, Jr.
Chairman

enc.