

Ukrainian Soviet-Era Dissident Lukyanenko Dies at 89

Ukraine

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Levko Lukyanenko spent 26 years in Soviet prisons.

By RFE/RL, July 08, 2018 00:33 GMT Levko Lukyanenko, a Ukrainian dissident who spent 26 years in Soviet prisons, has died in Kyiv at age 89, the country's president says. "Death has robbed us of Levko Lukyanenko, a living symbol of the invincibility of the Ukrainian spirit and one of those who gained us independence in the 20th century," President Petro Poroshenko wrote on Facebook on July 7. Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman said that "this man has spent his whole life serving Ukraine, fighting for freedom and independence." Lukyanenko, who **died after a long illness**, became one of the symbols of Ukraine's independence, and he helped write the nation's declaration of independence in August 1991 following the collapse of the U.S.S.R. [⋮]
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