

Ukraine political crisis continues

by UPI

KIEV - Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko said Sunday he will not rescind his order dissolving parliament and calling for early elections.

However, members of the ruling coalition in the Supreme Rada defiantly say they will await a court ruling on the issue. The coalition brought 11 more lawmakers into the fold in recent days, bringing it closer to a 300-seat constitutional majority that would give it power to override presidential vetoes.

Yushchenko, who set May 27 as the date for new elections, went on television Sunday to push his position, Novosti reported. "Our truth is to live according to the letter and, most importantly, to the spirit of Ukraine's Constitution," he said.

Yushchenko faulted the lawmakers for not enacting a far-reaching plan to raise wages and social standards, improve healthcare, fight crime and rebuild a national identity.

"In the past eight months, none of the provisions of this plan has been fulfilled," Yushchenko said.

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