



КОНГРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS

CONGRÈS DES UKRAINIEN-CANADIENS

September 18, 2018

Members of Parliament
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Members of Parliament:

Re: Ukrainian political prisoners illegally jailed by Russia

Canada's Parliament adopted the Justice for Victims of Foreign Corrupt Officials Act (Magnitsky Act) in October 2017. The legislation gives the Government of Canada the tools to sanction foreign nationals responsible for gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.

Since the adoption of the Magnitsky Act almost one year ago, the Government of Canada has taken no action against Russian officials responsible for the illegal imprisonment of over 70 Ukrainian citizens.

Ukrainian political prisoners are subject to serious violations of their human rights, including documented cases of torture, ill treatment, and refusal to provide medical care. The names of the Russian officials responsible for these violations are easily identifiable.

The continuing inaction of the Government of Canada on this issue is a matter of increasing alarm to the 1.3-million strong Ukrainian community in Canada. The UCC has raised this issue in numerous communications with high-ranking Canadian officials.

We ask for your support in demanding that Russia immediately release these Ukrainian political prisoners. We also ask that you support the immediate utilization of the Magnitsky Act by Canada against Russian officials responsible for gross violations of human rights.

Three political prisoners – Volodymyr Balukh, Oleh Sentsov, and Oleksandr Shumkov – are on hunger strikes lasting over 100 days in protest against Russia's ongoing illegal detentions of Ukrainian political prisoners and violations of human rights. Canada, which aspires to leadership in supporting human rights around the world, needs to take immediate action against Russian officials responsible for their imprisonment.

Yours sincerely,

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS

Ihor Michalchyshyn, Chief Executive Officer