

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Financial Services and General Government
2000 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Graves
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Financial Services and General Government
2000 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Quigley and Ranking Member Graves,

We, the undersigned democracy, human rights, and anti-corruption organizations and experts, write to request that \$1 million in additional funding be included in the Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill to ensure robust enforcement of the *Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act* (PL 114-328, Subtitle F).

The *Global Magnitsky Act*, which authorizes visa bans and asset freezes for human rights abusers and corrupt officials, is one of the most powerful foreign policy tools created in recent memory. It enjoys broad bipartisan support, and is widely viewed as one of the United States' most effective methods for addressing human rights abuses and corruption – two key drivers of instability around the world.

We have collectively documented numerous firsthand accounts from human rights activists around the world about the law's powerful deterrent and accountability effects on corrupt activity and human rights abuses. Authoritarian leaders have taken notice. The law's novel provision requiring the consideration of information submitted by international human rights organizations has empowered civil society to play a key role in holding kleptocrats and abusive actors to account, helping to energize and organize collaborative efforts in even the most repressive of environments.

Since the *Global Magnitsky Act* was signed into law in 2016, sanctions have been imposed on over 100 human rights violators, corrupt actors, and associated entities in 17 countries around the world. This remarkable success is a testament to unprecedented cooperation between Congress, the Executive Branch, and civil society, and a demonstration of a shared conviction about the law's utility.

We respectfully request \$1 million in additional funding above current levels for the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI), apportioned according to need across TFI's component offices and bureaus tasked with *Global Magnitsky* enforcement.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury is the U.S. government's lead agency for enforcement of the *Global Magnitsky Act*. Assisted by the Department of State and Department of Justice, Treasury is tasked with assembling packages of information about each individual on whom the U.S. government plans to impose *Global Magnitsky* sanctions. Unfortunately, demand for gathering, vetting, and assembling materials for these sanctions packages significantly exceeds current capacity. Funding for the hiring of additional personnel focused specifically on *Global Magnitsky* enforcement in offices such as TFI's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) and Office of Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes (TFFC) would enable the completion of additional sanctions packages, ensuring more robust enforcement of the law, and the advancement of a critical U.S. policy priority.

Corruption and human rights abuses perpetuate and are born from violence and criminal activity, and exact an enormous toll socially, economically, and militarily. The United Nations estimates that the costs of corruption alone equal \$2.6 trillion – roughly five percent of total global gross domestic product.

Addressing corruption and human rights abuses is of paramount importance for U.S. foreign policy, and *Global Magnitsky* sanctions are one of the most powerful tools for doing so.

We respectfully urge you to provide this modest additional funding for *Global Magnitsky* enforcement in the FY2020 Financial Services and General Government appropriations bill. We appreciate your consideration of this request and would be happy to meet with you in person to discuss this request in greater detail.

Sincerely,

Freedom House
Human Rights First
American Jewish World Service
Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain
Boat People SOS
Center for Justice and Accountability
China Change
China Human Rights Accountability Center
Church of Scientology National Affairs Office
CINTOC
Citizen Power Initiatives for China
Council for Global Equality
EarthRights International
Enough Project
Falun Dafa (Falun Gong) Association of Washington DC
Free Russia Foundation
Global Witness
Human Rights Campaign
Human Rights Foundation
International Christian Concern
International State Crime Initiative, Queen Mary University of London
Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights
Lithuanian American Council
Magnitsky Act Initiative
Open Dialogue Foundation
Open Society Policy Center
Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project
PEN America
Physicians for Human Rights
Pretrial Rights International
Reporters Without Borders
The Freedom Initiative
Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International
Transparency International
Transparency International Mongolia
Truth Hounds NGO
Vietnam Democracy Fund (VDF)
Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
“WatchDog.MD” Community (Republic of Moldova)
David J. Kramer, former Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor

Cc: The Honorable Nita Lowey, Chairwoman
The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member