

December 05, 2018

OPEN LETTER FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORT  
OF A TARGETED, GLOBAL EU HUMAN RIGHTS SANCTIONS REGIME

Dear Ministers of Foreign Affairs,

We, the 90 undersigned organizations dedicated to the promotion of universal human rights and/or the fight against corruption, write to voice our strong support for the Foreign Affairs Council to initiate a process aimed at establishing an EU-wide program for the imposition of targeted sanctions on individuals and entities deemed responsible for serious human rights violations. Noting that the Foreign Affairs Council will take up this matter on December 10, 2018—the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights—we urge all state representatives to honor the Declaration by supporting action on such a sanctions regime, and, in so doing, beginning the process of providing the EU with an additional, critical tool to combat impunity and defend human rights worldwide.

Today more than ever, we recognize that the promotion and protection of equal and inalienable rights form the basis of justice, peace, and security. Where human rights are violated and corruption is allowed to flourish, individuals are less safe and communities are less stable and secure. With universal human rights and the rule of law under significant challenge globally, now is thus an opportune moment to take an unmistakable step forward in defense of our common values.

As we have seen in countries that have enacted and utilized “Global Magnitsky” sanctions laws to date, a global human rights and anti-corruption sanctions program can serve as a vital addition to the diplomatic and legal toolkit essential to upholding human rights and the rule of law. In a relatively short period of time, governments such as those in the United States and Canada have used their human rights and anti-corruption sanctions laws to fight impunity for some of the world’s most heinous crimes in countries from Myanmar to Saudi Arabia. A similar tool will provide the EU with the ability to shine a spotlight on and compel changes of behavior in some of the world’s worst human rights violators. Robust implementation also has the potential to deter would-be kleptocrats and those that would use violence to silence dissent and maintain their grip on power.

We applaud the Dutch government for its demonstrated commitment toward achieving a global human rights sanctions program. We also commend those other EU governments that have voiced their support for this effort and encourage in the strongest terms all other EU member states to likewise support the initiative on December 10.

Sincerely,

Aditus Foundation	Institute of Public Policies
American Jewish World Service	India Committee of the Netherlands
Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain	Institute for Development and Social Initiatives
Article 19	Institute for European Policies and Reforms
Association UMDPL Ukraine	International Campaign for Tibet
Boat People SOS	International Partnership for Human Rights
Center for Civil Liberties	Joint Baltic American National Committee
Center for Justice & Accountability	Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law
Center for Policies and Reforms (Moldova)	Lawyers for Lawyers
China Against the Death Penalty	Legal Resources Centre from Moldova
China Change	Legal Transformation Center (Belarus)
China Human Rights Accountability Center	Magnitsky Act Initiative
Christian Solidarity Worldwide	The McCain Institute
Citizen Power Initiatives for China	Media Initiative for Human Rights (Ukraine)
Citizens' Watch	Mexicanos vs Corrupción e Impunidad
Clean Clothes Campaign International Office	National Endowment for Democracy
Committee for Religious Freedom in Vietnam	Netherlands Helsinki Committee
Community WatchDog.md	The Network of Chinese Human Rights Defenders
Council for Global Equality	Norwegian Helsinki Committee
CrimeaSOS	Open Dialogue Foundation
Crude Accountability	Pax
DRA (Berlin)	PEN America
EarthRights International	Physicians for Human Rights
The Enough Project	Platform of Human Rights Organisations in Malta
Estonian American National Council	Project Expedite Justice
Fair Trials	Promo LEX Moldova
Freedom House	Protection of Rights Without Borders (Armenia)
Freedom Now	Public Association "Dignity"

Free Press Unlimited  
Heartland Initiative  
Helsinki Association Armenia  
Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Vsnadzor  
Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights (Poland)  
Hivos  
HRM Bir Duino Kyrgyzstan  
Humanitarian China  
Human Rights Center “Memorial”  
Human Rights Club (Azerbaijan)  
Human Rights Concern - Eritrea  
Human Rights First  
Human Rights Foundation  
Human Rights House Zagreb  
Human Rights Matter  
Human Rights Monitoring Institute  
Hungarian Helsinki Committee  
Religious Liberty Commission, World Evangelical Alliance  
Reporters Without Borders  
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
The Sentry  
Sova Center  
Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International  
Transparencia Venezuela  
Transparency International  
Transparency International Moldova  
Truth Hounds  
Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union  
VETO! Human Rights Defenders Network  
Vietnam Coalition Against Torture  
Vietnamese Women for Human Rights  
VOICE  
World Organisation Against Torture  
Zivilcourage und Anti-Rassismus-Arbeit