

Mr Donald TUSK  
President of the European Council

Mr Antonio TAJANI  
President of the European Parliament

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER  
President of the European Commission

Mrs Federica MOGHERINI  
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice-President of  
the European Commission

14 August 2018

**ADDRESS OF THE BALTIC PARLIAMENTARIANS REGARDING OLEG SENTSOV AND OTHER  
POLITICAL PRISONERS IN RUSSIA**

Dear Madame and Sirs,

We are deeply concerned about the critical condition of the political prisoner Oleg Sentsov, who has been on hunger strike since 14 May 2018. We demand his immediate release without any preconditions, such as personal request for pardon to President Putin. We also demand immediate release of all other Ukrainian nationals who are currently being held in prisons in Russia under politically motivated charges.

As you may know, Oleg Sentsov, a prominent Ukrainian writer and film director, has been sentenced to twenty years in a maximum-security prison in Siberia because of his critical attitude towards Russia's aggression against Ukraine and, first of all, towards Russia's occupation of Crimea. Russian authorities have forcibly declared him and treat him as a Russian citizen, though he has never denounced his Ukrainian nationality. Oleg Sentsov's trial was neither impartial nor fair and there are reasonable grounds to believe that he was tortured in order to obtain an incriminating confession.

Oleg Sentsov announced his hunger strike in protest against injustice, in order to draw the attention of the international community to the situation of political prisoners jailed or detained in Russia and in Crimea, occupied by Russia, and demand their release. Oleg Sentsov has reached 90 days of hunger, and his condition is being described as catastrophic. In addition, he is denied correspondence, meetings with independent observers and adequate medical care. There are reports about him being continuously bullied. Unless rapid action by the international community is taken, the democratic and free world will have another case similar to that of Sergey Magnitsky on its hands.

We call on the leaders of the European Union to step up pressure on the Russian authorities and President Putin demanding immediate release of Oleg Sentsov and other Ukrainian nationals held under politically motivated charges in Russia's prisons. We call on the

European Union to identify persons and officials who have issued orders, executed, facilitated and were otherwise involved in detaining, convicting and imprisoning Oleg Sentsov and announce personal targeted sanctions against them as perpetrators of gross human rights violations.

Gabrielius LANDSBERGIS, MP, Chairman of the Homeland Union-Lithuanian Christian Democrats, Lithuania

Radvilė MORKŪNAITĖ-MIKULĖNIENĖ, MP, Lithuania

Andrius KUBILIUS, MP, Lithuania

Tarmo KRUUSIMÄE, MP, Estonia

Tunne KELAM, MEP, Estonia

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Veiko SPOLĪTIS, MP, Latvia

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