



To: Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell

Strasbourg, 19 October 2022

Dear High Representative/ Vice President Borrell,

We are writing to you regarding the illegal imprisonment of Russian political activist Vladimir Kara-Murza, who has been charged with high treason and faces up to 20 years' imprisonment for his activities opposing Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and advocating for Russian prisoners of conscience.

There is no doubt that the accusations against Mr Kara-Murza are unfounded. They are aimed at silencing and turning him into an example that deters other critics of Putin's regime and breaks their links with the international community. Among other political hostages of Putin's regime is opposition politician Ilya Yashin.

We take the position that those involved in the illegal imprisonment and prosecution of Mr Kara-Murza should be included on the EU's list of sanctions under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime (EU Magnitsky Act). There is currently a list of 13 individuals, including police officers, prosecutors and judges, who have been involved in the violation of Mr Kara-Murza's human rights. Please consult the list attached to this letter.

As you are well aware, Mr Kara-Murza is one of the most outspoken supporters of the Global Magnitsky regime of sanctions for grave human rights violations. He has spoken before the European Parliament and the national parliaments of the Member States, as well as in many international forums. He was recently awarded the Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize by the Council of Europe.

It is high time that we, the European Union, expressed our solidarity with political prisoners of Putin's regime, in particular Mr Kara-Murza. The imposition of sanctions on those involved in his prosecution is the right thing to do, and we hope that you will take the lead.

Sincerely,

Petras Auštrevičius, Renew Europe, Lithuania
Domènec Ruiz Devesa, S&D, Spain
Guy Verhofstadt, Renew Europe, Belgium
Morten Helveg Petersen, Renew Europe, Denmark
Mounir Satouri, Greens/EFA, France
Karin Karlsbro, Renew Europe, Sweden
Dace Melbārde, EPP, Latvia
Nicolae Ștefănuță, Renew Europe, Romania
Seán Kelly, EPP, Ireland
Róża Thun und Hohenstein, Renew Europe, Poland

Michaela Šojdrová, EPP, Czechia
Olivier Chastel, Renew Europe, Belgium
Miriam Lexmann, EPP, Slovakia
Anna Fotyga, ECR, Poland
Nils Torvalds, Renew Europe, Finland
Juozas Olekas, S&D, Lithuania
Jan-Christoph Oetjen, Renew Europe, Germany
Liudas Mažylis, EPP, Lithuania
Monica Semedo, Renew Europe, Luxembourg
Elżbieta Kruk, ECR, Poland
Reinhard Hans Bütikofer, Greens/EFA, Germany
Anna Zalewska, ECR, Poland
Rasa Juknevičienė, EPP, Lithuania
Hilde Vautmans, Renew Europe, Belgium
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Andrzej Witold Halicki, EPP, Poland
Andrius Kubilius, EPP, Lithuania
Ivars Ijabs, Renew Europe, Latvia
Bronis Ropė, Greens/EFA, Lithuania
Radosław Sikorski, EPP, Poland
Vladimír Bilčík, EPP, Slovakia
Andrey Kovatchev, EPP, Bulgaria
Adam Bielan, ECR, Poland
Karen Melchior, Renew Europe, Denmark
Antonio López-Istúriz White, EPP, Spain
Alexander Yordanov, EPP, Bulgaria
Sergey Lagodinsky, Greens/EFA, Germany