

September 12, 2017

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretaries Tillerson and Mnuchin,

As organizations dedicated to the promotion of universal human rights and the fight against corruption, we commend you for your commitment to implementing the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (PL 114-328, Subtitle F), which authorizes the President to impose financial sanctions and visa restrictions on foreign persons in response to certain human rights violations and acts of significant corruption. We were pleased to see President Trump pledge in April that his administration will engage in “robust and thorough enforcement” of the Act, and that he intends for his administration to “fulfill our commitment to hold perpetrators of human rights abuses and corruption accountable.”

“Global Magnitsky” is a potentially revolutionary tool. It allows the United States the ability to sanction the world’s worst human rights violators and corrupt actors wherever they may be, putting them on notice that accountability knows no borders. Robust implementation of the Act has the potential to deter would-be kleptocrats and those that would use violence to silence dissent and maintain their grip on power, forcing these actors to think twice before committing their crimes. In short, the law positions the United States to take a leading role in the international community in combating impunity and protecting human rights defenders worldwide.

Global Magnitsky’s promise will only be realized, however, if the U.S. government acts. With this knowledge in mind, we, the undersigned organizations, have come together in a coordinated effort to document cases from around the world that we believe satisfy the Act’s stringent requirements and are deserving of rigorous investigation by the U.S. government. We have been pleased to provide your staff at the Departments of State and Treasury with case files as summarized in the appended annex.

Throughout the process of assembling our case files, our goal has been to gather and organize pertinent evidence in a manner that we believe will assist the U.S. government in making timely, meaningful, fact-based, and apolitical sanctions designations. Evidence in the cases we

have assembled often combines credible reporting from international and local non-governmental organizations with the work of investigative journalists and first-person testimony from victims and their attorneys.

The cases we have elected to highlight come from every region of the world, and involve horrific stories of torture, enforced disappearance, murder, sexual assault, extortion, and bribery. The implicated perpetrators vary in power and influence, and their victims range from full-time human rights activists to members of religious communities to students demonstrating against injustice. In cases dealing with acts of significant corruption, victims often include entire societies.

As evidenced by the President's April 20, 2017 initial report to Congress on Global Magnitsky's implementation, testimony provided by Secretary Tillerson during his January 11, 2017 confirmation hearing, and our formal and informal conversations with representatives of your departments and the Department of Justice, it is our understanding that the Trump administration is committed to implementing the Act robustly. We believe that the materials we have provided will assist the administration in carrying out its stated goal. We look forward to working with you on this worthy endeavor.

Sincerely,

Americans for Democracy & Human Rights
in Bahrain

American Latvian Association

Boat People SOS

Center for Justice and Accountability

China Human Rights Accountability Center

Chinese Human Rights Defenders

Council for Global Equality

Enough Project

Estonian American National Council

Freedom House

The Freedom Initiative

Freedom Now

Human Rights Campaign

Human Rights First

Human Rights Watch

Joint Baltic American National Committee

Lithuanian American Council

PEN

Project on Middle East Democracy

Reporters Without Borders

Relieve

Transparency International

Yemen Peace Project

Cc: LTG H.R. McMaster, National Security Advisor