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3 December 2013

The Honorable John F. Kerry
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

It has been nearly a year since the passage of the “*Russia and Moldova Jackson-Vanik Repeal and Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012*”. During this time, the Departments of State and Treasury published the initial list of persons subject to a public visa ban and financial sanctions, in adherence to the provisions of the Act. This list was an important first step in the implementation process, and I anticipate that we will see more names added to it very soon. However, as we are expecting a report from the State Department and the Treasury on the implementation of the Law in the coming weeks, I am particularly interested in learning about the steps the executive branch has taken thus far to encourage other governments to implement visa and financial sanctions for Russia’s human rights violators. In particular, Section 407 of the Act requires the Secretary of State, along with the Secretary of the Treasury, to report to Congress annually on efforts undertaken in this regard:

“Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on--... (2) efforts by the executive branch to encourage the governments of other countries to impose sanctions that are similar to the sanctions imposed under this title.”

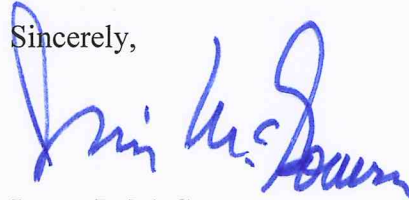
This is a critical component of the law that must not be overlooked. While we must always be willing to act alone when necessary, the power of our action is increased by an order of magnitude when we coordinate efforts with our allies. In passing this Act, Congress intended to create a powerful deterrent to human rights abuses, but until these sanctions are replicated globally, human rights abusers still enjoy *carte blanche* in other countries.

The European Parliament has already passed three resolutions in support of the Magnitsky sanctions in Europe and has called on the EU Council to impose them. However, political and

bureaucratic structures in the EU have been slow to respond to the calls of lawmakers and human rights advocates, possibly fearing Russian retaliation.

That is why your leadership is so timely and important. I urge you to encourage and support our European counterparts, to strengthen their resolve to do what is right for the rule of law and human rights in Russia, to heed the calling from their own elected representatives to finally put an end to impunity, and to do so now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim McGovern". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress