



Brussels, 22 April 2015

Dear Mr Ambassador,

On 17 October 2014, 61 Members of the European Parliament wrote a letter to H E Mr Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, asking for the release of Ms Nadiya Savchenko, a Ukrainian pilot and Lieutenant in the Armed Forces of Ukraine. In mid-June 2014, Ms Nadiya Savchenko was illegally detained in Russia and currently remains in pre-trial detention.

I am writing this letter on behalf of those Members of the European Parliament, who signed this appeal to the President of Russia, and of many other colleagues who share their concerns regarding the fate of Ms Savchenko.

We, Members of the European Parliament, are convinced that Russia's actions towards Ms Savchenko brutally violate the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms -- and in particular Article 5, Right to liberty and security, and Article 6, Right to a fair trial -- to which the Russian Federation is a signatory.

We should also like to draw your attention to the fact that on 26 January 2015 Ms Savchenko, who was elected to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, became a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. This entails that she is fully entitled to the immunity and diplomatic privileges stemming from this.

As you are aware, Ms Savchenko has been on hunger strike since 13 December 2014 in protest of this illegal detention. Her health status is seriously deteriorating and may result in serious consequences in the near future.

Today is the 131 day of Ms Savchenko's hunger strike.

Mr Ambassador, I remain hopeful that you will convey to your authorities my utmost alarm regarding the fate of Ms Nadiya Savchenko. Expressing my full solidarity with her I am not taking any food today. I remain convinced that there is no legal justification for her continued imprisonment. Despite the military conflict in the region I should like to insist that the Russian authorities respect international standards of justice and react humanly to Ms Nadiya Savchenko's plight.

Member of European Parliament
Cecilia Wikström

H E Mr Vladimir Chizhov
Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the European Union