



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-03080**

BY: **MR. BEZAN (SELKIRK-INTERLAKE-EASTMAN)**

DATE: **DECEMBER 11, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE CHRYSIA FREELAND**

Response by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

RUSSIA

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Canada is deeply concerned by Russian actions that undermine the rules-based international order.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs has repeatedly spoken against Russian actions that disrespect and challenge acceptable global norms. Canada has condemned Russia for its involvement in the nerve agent attack in March, 2018; for the downing of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17; for its complicity with the murderous Assad regime in Syria; for the annexation and continued illegal occupation of Crimea; for its support for the insurgency in eastern Ukraine that puts civilians in grave danger; for its support for civil strife in neighbouring countries such as Georgia and Moldova; for its interference in democratic elections and spreading of misinformation; and the other forms of malign activity that the Russian state has undertaken.

On the fourth anniversary of Russia's illegal invasion and annexation of Crimea, the Minister of Foreign Affairs issued a statement condemning this violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, expressing grave concern for the human rights violations committed by state agents of Russia, and calling for the release of all political prisoners held by Russia. The Minister also reiterated Canada's commitment to supporting Ukraine, and announced \$4.65 million to support training for the Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF). This funding will provide equipment to support first aid and military police training to the UAF.

Canada has taken a strong position against Russia's aggression in Ukraine, including by imposing economic sanctions under the *Special Economic Measures Act*. Canada has imposed various measures against over 300 listed Russian and Ukrainian individuals and entities. Canada also took concrete actions in the fall of 2018 by sanctioning 30 Russian individuals in relation to the case of Sergei Magnitsky under the *Justice for Victims of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act*.

The Government of Canada monitors the situation of human rights in Crimea and will take every opportunity to voice its ongoing concerns, including through channels such as the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Our support for the people of Ukraine remains strong, and Canada will continue to contribute to efforts in support of Ukraine, including by hosting the third Ukraine Reform Conference in 2019.

Canada also used its Presidency of the G7 in 2018 to hold Russia to account. The 2018 G7 Foreign Ministers' Communique called on Russia to cease its irresponsible and destabilizing behaviour and urged Russia to live up to its international obligations. Canada will continue to work with our partners to address Russia's ongoing violations of its international legal obligations and commitments. And in November 2018, Canada spearheaded a G7 Foreign Ministers' statement that condemned Russia's continued aggression in Ukraine.