



23 October 2017

Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP  
Secretary of State  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing to you about an issue that has all the appearance of a grave abuse of the rights of a British citizen, William Browder, the head of the Global Magnitsky Justice movement, by the Russian National Central Bureau of Interpol.

As you will be aware, Mr Browder has been working on a campaign for justice for Sergei Magnitsky who was murdered by the Putin regime after he had discovered and exposed a massive US\$230 million fraud committed by Russian government officials. Since Mr Magnitsky's death, Mr Browder has been conducting a wide-ranging and effective campaign for justice which has led to the passage of the US Magnitsky Act in 2012, the US Global Magnitsky Act in 2016, the Estonian version of the Magnitsky Act in 2016, the Magnitsky amendment to the Criminal Finances Act in 2017, and the Magnitsky Law in Canada in October 2017.

All of these pieces of legislation create serious and meaningful consequences for senior Russian Officials in response to the human rights abuse inflicted on Sergei Magnitsky and other victims.

The Russian State has retaliated in a number of ways against Mr Browder. One of the most pernicious of these tactics has been the abuse by the Russian authorities of Interpol.

Shortly after the US Magnitsky Act was passed, in May 2013 the Russian government made a request to Interpol to arrest Mr Browder. Interpol rejected this request on 24 May 2013 declaring that it was politically motivated and therefore in violation of its Constitution.

The Russian government made three further applications to Interpol between 2013 and 2017 – all of which were rejected by Interpol on the same grounds as their first rejection.

.../2



-2-

It would appear that after four rejections, Russia still continues to seek to misuse the Interpol system.

Last week Russia issued the fifth request to Interpol against Mr Browder in retaliation for Canada's passing of the Magnitsky Law. Russia appears to have circulated its request using Interpol's diffusion system thereby circumventing Interpol's head office. This bears all the hallmark of a massive abuse of power by a sovereign state against an individual, Mr Browder, a UK citizen, a brave justice campaigner, and someone who deserves and should receive the protection of Her Majesty's Government.

Under Interpol's rules, each member country can challenge the actions of other national central bureaus.

Given Russia's abuse of Interpol in this case, I hope the British Government will intervene as a matter of urgency.

I hope you will feel as Home Secretary that it is right and proper that we ensure that Mr Browder is protected from what looks like a clear and egregious breach of his human rights

With kind regards,  
Yours ever,  
Andrew

**Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP**