

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 25 June 2018

Dear ~~President~~, *Dear Mr. President*

During my working visit to Moscow last week, I had an opportunity to discuss with the Ombudsperson of the Russian Federation the situation of a number of persons deprived of their liberty in Ukraine and Russia, and whose cases the Council of Europe has been closely following. Ombudsperson Moskalkova informed me about the joint steps taken together with Ombudsperson Denisova of Ukraine to address the plight of those concerned.

I am encouraged by the fact that their co-operation was made possible following your latest agreements with President Poroshenko of Ukraine. In the course of recent years, the Council of Europe and I personally have been actively supporting such engagement, including the efforts of the current and former Ombudspersons of the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the transfer of prisoners from Crimea in 2016.

In this context and in my capacity as the Depositary of the European Convention on Human Rights, I should like to address you regarding Mr Oleg Sentsov who is currently serving a prison sentence in Russia. Bearing in mind the important humanitarian concerns in his case, I ask you to consider using your constitutional powers to grant him a pardon.

Such a gesture on humanitarian grounds would be in line not only with the Russian Constitution but also with the spirit of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland

Mr Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin
President of the Russian Federation

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