



Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Minister for Europe
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

18 June 2015

Dear Ms. Savchenko,

It has been a year since you were captured then taken illegally across the border from Ukraine into Russia. During 12 months of incarceration, you have shown immense courage and resilience.

Eight hundred years ago, my country embarked on a journey towards the rule of law. The Magna Carta, or Great Charter, may date back to 1215, but one powerful idea lives on to this day: that no person should be subject to arbitrary arrest or imprisonment.

This idea is reflected in the Russian constitution, it is enshrined in human rights legislation around the world, and it is respected by international bodies that Russia has joined.

While you have been in prison, fighting in your country has continued.

Russia is a signatory to the Minsk agreements that were intended to end this conflict. Earlier this month, President Putin told an Italian newspaper that these agreements must be implemented. You will be well aware that they provide for the “release and exchange of all hostages and illegally held persons.”

The British Government calls on Russia to live up to all of its international commitments and to its commitments under the Russian constitution, and to release you immediately.

Ms. Savchenko, your remarkable fortitude and strength of character have sustained you so far. We will continue to press for your immediate release.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon David Lidington MP
Minister of State for Europe
Foreign & Commonwealth Office