

Stockholm 22 February 2012

**To the Swedish Government**

Sergej Magnitskij was one of Russia's leading business lawyers until his death in 2009 at 37 years old. This was when he was murdered during his stay in prison because of his defence of the law and justice in the proceedings against officials who had stolen companies owned by the foreign investment company Hermitage. No one responsible has been punished so far. Quite the opposite – the Russian government has recently taken the unusual step of prosecuting Magnitskij posthumously, a practice that hasn't been followed for 500 years.

Fortunately, the Russian cover-up of this grave violation of justice is not happening quietly. The case is now being heard in the U.S. Senate on the initiative of Democratic Senator Ben Cardin. In the Council of Europe, the EU parliament and a series of national parliaments are making proposals for the bringing of sanctions against these offenders.

The undersigned, Members of Parliament, would in this way like to urge the government to continue to monitor the case of Sergej Magnitskij – which has previously taken place, for example, at meetings of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers – as well as in bilateral contacts with Russia, and on an EU level, for the purpose of coming to an agreement among the EU's member states on the subject of sanctions against the offenders.

Law and justice in Russia – and lastly justice for Sergej Magnitskij – is a question that concerns the entire circle of member states in the Council of Europe and the WTO, of which Russia is a member.

The outcome of this case will establish the country's standing as a state governed by law.

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