



Mr Joseph Borell

High Representative of the European Union
and Vice-President of the European Commission

Brussels, 20 July 2022

Dear High Representative and Vice-President Borell,

We, the members of European Parliament continue to be appalled by the degree of antidemocratic and antihuman suppression of dissidents in the Russian Federation. The oppression and prosecution has reached critical and unprecedented levels following the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and the changes in criminal laws, especially Article 207.3 of the Criminal Code (the public dissemination of knowingly false information about the operations of the Russian Armed Forces).

Detention of our friends and partners Vladimir Kara-Murza and Ilya Yashin as well as Andrei Pivovarov have been a sad confirmation of our worst fears regarding prosecution of the remaining and already decimated opposition in Russia. As parliamentarians, we are especially dismayed by the sentence against a colleague, a deputy at Moscow's Krasnoselsky district council Alexei Gorinov. The parliamentarian was sentenced to seven years in a penal colony by the judge Olesya Mendeleyeva in Moscow. His only crime was that he dared to speak out the truth about the Russian war against Ukraine during a session of his district council. This is notably the first verdict with a real prison term passed under Article 207.3 of the Criminal Code, the two previous involving substantial fines or suspended sentence.

It is absolutely appalling to see how criticism of the Russian imperialistic aggression brings severe consequences to those who dare to speak out the truth. It is even more appalling that Gorinov's capacity as elected official and the fact that his assessment of the Russian aggression had been expressed in his parliamentary capacity did not lead to his immunity, but in the contrary aggravated his sentence. Though his defense has been convinced that Gorinov should have enjoyed the right of parliamentary immunity, the Court used the fact that he was parliamentarian to severe the sentence. Instead of indemnifying it sentenced the parliamentarian on an aggravated basis: stating that he committed the crime "using his official position" and "motivated by political hatred". This is a situation hardly imaginable in any parliamentarian system.

With this letter we express our professional solidarity with Alexei Gorinov and our unconditional political solidarity with him and many other Russian citizens fighting against this inhumane and unjustified war of aggression. We will do our best to support Ukraine in its fight against Russian attack. We will also do everything in our powers to remain seized by the fate of few, courageous

Russian citizens who dare to protest the illegal and criminal decisions of their government. We demand that Alexei Gorinov, his fellow opposition deputy Elena Kotenochkina, who managed to leave the country, as well detained Vladimir Kara-Murza and Ilya Yashin as well as sentenced Andrei Pivovarov be immediately acquitted and/or released.

We call on the High Representative Josep Borrell to closely follow the situation around the aforementioned cases.

Yours sincerely,

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Viola von Cramon-Taubadel MEP

Petras Austrevicius MEP

Raphaël Glucksmann MEP

Dorien Rookmaker MEP

Nils Ušakovs MEP

Yannick Jadot MEP

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Carles Puigdemont MEP

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Giuliano Pisapia MEP

Helmut Geuking MEP

Liudas Mazylis MEP

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Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield MEP

Karima Delli MEP

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