



Tėvynės sąjunga-  
Lietuvos krikščionys demokratai

## STATEMENT OF THE HOMELAND UNION–LITHUANIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS ON THE ARREST OF BILL BROWDER

30 May 2018

The Homeland Union–Lithuanian Christian Democrats welcomes the prompt release of Mr Bill Browder, however, expresses its deep concern with the fact that Mr Browder, outspoken critic of the Kremlin and of human rights abuses in Russia, was actually arrested by the Spanish National Police on a Russian Interpol arrest warrant.

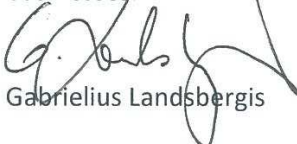
Bill Browder is a true friend of the democratic Russia and former employer of Sergei Magnitsky, who uncovered a massive tax scam by Russian officials and was killed in the Russian jail. Mr Browder is internationally recognised as a promoter of the Magnitsky Act and anti-corruption legislation. Due to his campaign, Mr Browder became a personal foe of Vladimir Putin.

The Russian authorities have, since the death of Sergei Magnitsky, repeatedly tried to get Mr Browder arrested and extradited to Russia, by seeking to use the Interpol system to this end.

We call on the Interpol to immediately remove from their information system any requests by Russia for actions to be taken against Mr Browder. We urge to review the Interpol's regulations and rules as regards the processing of data and requests tabled by Russia and other non-democratic states, and take any other action to ensure that the Interpol system is not be used for political harassment against regime critics.

We appeal the international democratic community to stand firm in defence of whistle-blowers and human rights defenders, like Mr Browder, against the corrupt Russian regime and be vigilant of the Russian regime's efforts to abuse the international police and justice cooperation for suppressing critical voices.

We call on the democratic states to adopt as soon as possible the Magnitsky legislation, providing for visa bans and asset freezes of human rights abusers and corrupt officials, as well as restrictive measures against oligarchs, supporting the Kremlin regime, and their businesses.



Gabrielius Landsbergis

Chairman

