



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-02587**

BY: **MR. BEZAN (SELKIRK-INTERLAKE-EASTMAN)**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 18, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **SIGNED BY THE HONOURABLE CHRYSZIA FREELAND**

Response by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

RUSSIA

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

Canada's position is clear: we condemn Russia's pattern of unacceptable international behaviour. This includes Russia's illegal annexation and occupation of Crimea, the violence perpetuated by Russian-backed forces in Eastern Ukraine, and Russia's continued support for the Assad regime in Syria.

Over recent years, Canada has imposed a broad range of restrictions against Russian individuals and entities, including sanctions under the Special Economic Measures Act (SEMA), in response to Russian aggression in Ukraine. These include economic sanctions on key officials involved in the illegal annexation of Crimea and ongoing insurgency in eastern Ukraine, and restrictions on Russia's finance and energy sectors, and prohibitions related to Crimea.

Canada has imposed various measures against over 300 listed Russian and Ukrainian individuals and entities and continues to closely monitor the situation in Ukraine and in Russia. Moreover, the adoption of Bill S-226, the Justice for Victims of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act (JVCFOA) added a new and powerful tool to our toolkit: the ability to take restrictive measures against foreign nationals responsible for gross violations or abuses of human rights and acts of significant corruption. The legislative framework provided for under JVCFOA does not include a clause for sanctioning family members, unlike Canada's SEMA (Russia) Regulations which do target the family members of individuals included on the lists.

While the duration of our sanctions is clearly linked to Russia's complete implementation of its Minsk agreements and respect for Ukraine's sovereignty, as reiterated by G-7 Leaders in June, Canada's sanctions against Russia remain in place until repealed.

As Canada is actively considering all possible options at its disposal to maintain pressure on Russia, Canada has established a rigorous due diligence process to consider and evaluate possible individuals / entities to be added to our sanction list, within the context of Canada's other ongoing efforts to promote human rights and combat corruption.

We will consider each case and assess applicability in accordance with the relevant legal authorities and policy considerations noted above and will continue to closely coordinate with our international partners and through international institutions to address these grave concerns.

With respect to visas, these policies do not fall under the purview of the Minister of Foreign Affairs but rather the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. With respect to investigations and the deportation of individuals collaborating with Russian secret services, this authority lies with the Minister Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness.