



**League of Ukrainian Canadian Women
National Executive**

Ліга Українок Канади - Крайова Управа

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For immediate release

LUCW CALLS ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO DEMAND THAT RUSSIA RELEASE NADIYA SAVCHENKO AND OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS

TORONTO: The National Executive of the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women (LUCW) is calling on the international community to put pressure on the Putin regime to secure the release of Ukrainian air force pilot, Nadiya Savchenko, who was sentenced to 22 years imprisonment, following a show trial reminiscent of the Stalin years.

The LUCW joins other human rights organizations in strongly condemning the draconian sentencing of Nadiya Savchenko as part of illegitimate court proceedings based on unsubstantiated charges of the murder of two Russian journalists.

Nadiya Savchenko was abducted, illegally transferred across internationally-recognized borders and unlawfully held in detention before being sentenced by a sham legal proceeding in the Rostov region of the Russian Federation.

During a recent public rally held outside the Russian Consulate in Toronto, LUCW President, Lisa Shymko called on “UN Special Envoys and high-profile activists like Angeline Jolie, George and Amal Clooney, and rock stars such as Bono and Sting to speak out on behalf of Nadiya Savchenko and other political hostages of the Kremlin.” The LUCW is also appealing to feminists around the world, and leading political female voices in Canada, such as Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau, wife of Canada’s Prime Minister, and Rona Ambrose, Leader of the Official Opposition, to take up the cause in defense of this innocent woman.

We support the campaign undertaken by justice activist Bill Browder and call upon the Government of Canada to adhere to its election promise and pass the Canadian version of an expanded Magnitsky Act, aimed at penalizing Russia’s human-rights abusers.

The Kremlin’s list of political prisoners extends beyond Nadiya Savchenko. Ukrainian film director Oleg Sentsov and a co-defendant were sentenced to 20 years imprisonment, and similar proceedings continue in Russia against some two dozen Ukrainians.

For this reason, the LUCW is supporting an [international online petition](#) calling on Hollywood film producers, directors, and actors to condemn Russia’s ongoing attacks on free speech, abuse of judicial power and use of political assassinations and to demand the release of Nadiya Savchenko, Oleg Sentsov, and countless other political prisoners. [Click here to sign the petition.](#)

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