

His Excellency Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker

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President of the European Commission

The European Commission

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Sent via: Electronic mail

Her Excellency Ms. Federica Mogherini

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

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Sent via: Electronic mail

December 27th, 2017

Re:

Situation in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation and request for sanctions to be enacted and enforced in response to the situation

Situation in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and request for sanctions to be enacted and enforced in response to the situation

His Excellency Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker and Her Excellency Ms. Federica Mogherini,

I am sending you this letter regarding the situation in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation and regarding the situation in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. I am hoping that both of you will be able to look into everything that is addressed in my letter to you all and I am also hoping that in response as to this letter to you all, that the European Union will take action in response to everything that is listed in this letter. I am absolutely hoping that the European Union will issue and enforce sanctions and will open criminal investigations and hearings into all of the atrocities that have been asserted as to having been committed in those regions of our world because as a world, I believe that it is imperative for all of us to understand that atrocities cannot be tolerated in any part of the world. I further believe that all countries or unions of countries must all work together to ensure that atrocities are prevented, that they are not allowed to occur, and that the perpetrators behind the atrocities are

criminally prosecuted in a way that is fair and just, with respect the procedural due process rights of the accused individual.

Situation in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation:

With regard and pertaining to the situation in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, it has been reported that officials of the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation have been involved in committing atrocities against individuals that openly identify as being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.¹ It has been reported that officials of the Chechen Republic have a procedural history of abducting, torturing, and imprisoning individuals on the basis of their perceived sexual orientation.² It has been reported that government officials in the Chechen Republic have used a variety of ways as to being involved in entrapment schemes as an attempt to lure victims, in which often the victims have been reported to have been beaten and humiliated if the entrapment methods that the government officials have used worked.

Once an individual was detained by government officials in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, per se after an entrapment scheme was a success or by or through another way, it has been reported that the detained individuals have been reported that they were sent to so called concentration camps as an attempt by those government officials to try to exterminate minority individuals that live in that region of the world. This type of genocidal extermination practice by government officials in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation does remind me of the same type of concentration camps that Adolf Hitler established in which he sent minorities, such as individuals that identified as being Jewish, to as a form of punishment and to attempt to eliminate them from the world. It is extremely concerning and saddening to see concentrations camps being established in certain parts of our world against any type of minority class of people. This is supposed to be the 21st century and I believe that the world should never refuse to take action whenever any country decides to get involved in setting up concentration camps to try to exterminate a group of people. This cannot be tolerated by the world and action, including but not limited to financial sanctions, travel bans, and international criminal investigations being conducted, should never be overlooked by any country or by any union of country in our world.

It appears as if the United States in response to the situation in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation, that sanctions have been imposed on the head of the Chechen Republic, Mr. Ramzan Kadyrov, and against some of the other individuals that have been accused of being the perpetrators behind the atrocities in the region of the Chechen Republic in the Russian Federation. I respectfully agree with the United States issuing sanctions against some of the individuals that are known to be responsible for the atrocities that have been committed. Further, the sanctions that the United States have issued was primarily due to the fact that the Chechen Republic was “an administration involved in disappearances and extrajudicial killings.” As with this case, I do respectfully agree with the United States and the sanctions that were imposed.

Currently, it does not appear as if the European Union has taken actions as to this issue. I would like to respectfully request that the European Union take action on this issue be enacting and enforcing sanctions to be placed against the Head of the Chechen Republic Ramzan Kadyrov and other leaders and

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoNkFoR4i6M>

² <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/05/26/russia-anti-gay-purge-chechnya>

political figures in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation that have been asserted to have been involved in atrocities. Even though the government of the Russian Federation has asserted that they would be investigating the Chechen atrocity issue, a reasonable person would harbor serious doubts as to the integrity of such an investigation by the government of the Russian Federation. If the government of the Russian Federation will not allow all individuals to run against President Vladimir Putin in the Russian Presidential Election, then how can a reasonable person conclude that the government of the Russian Federation will conduct a fair and an unbiased investigation into an atrocity that is and that has occurred in their own country. The world knows good and well that all government officials in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation will never be brought to justice and that the government of the Russian Federation will probably attempt to cover up the atrocities that have occurred in that region of the Russian Federation. Please remember, that the government of the Russian Federation has continuously showed the world that they are deliberately indifferent to respecting the domestic and the international rights of their people.

Situation in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar:

With regard and pertaining to the situation in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I am extremely saddened and concerned over atrocities that have occurred against the Rohingya people and the reckless deliberate indifferent conduct that the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has showed towards that group of people and their attempts to cover up atrocities that have been committed against those individuals. As I hope that you already know, the Rohingya people are considered to be some of the most persecuted people in our entire world.³ It appears as if it has been asserted that the Rohingya people were victimized by government crackdowns in 1978, the 1990s, 2012, 2015, 2016 and 2017. This persecution against the Rohingya people has been labeled by officials with the United Nations and Human Rights Watch as ethnic cleansing and further, officials with the human rights envoy of the United Nations to Myanmar reported that "the long history of discrimination and persecution against the Rohingya community... could amount to crimes against humanity."⁴ Investigations that officials with the United Nations has conducted appeared to have findings that showed increased incitement of strong disgust and religious intolerance against the Rohingya people. It has been asserted that security forces in Myanmar have been the perpetrators of summary executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture and ill and degrading treatment and punishment and forced labor being committed against the Rohingya people. Recently, military officials have found a mass grave in Rahkine State and after military officials have discovered this, your country decided to ban the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.

As part of their attempt to cover up that atrocity against the Rohingya people, the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have arrested and has detained two Reuters journalists as well as I believe two police officials who were involved in working on a story that has something to do with the Rohingya people.⁵ It appears as if the Ministry of Information for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued a statement that both of the journalists and the two police officials that have been arrested do

³ <https://www.economist.com/news/asia/21654124-myanmars-muslim-minority-have-been-attacked-impunity-stripped-vote-and-driven>

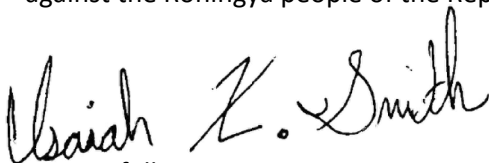
⁴ <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47517#.WjW-Ud-nHIV>

⁵ Mr. Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo are believed to be the two Reuters journalists that are being detained by government officials in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

face charges under the British Colonial-era Official Secrets Act. It appears as if this is due because it has been asserted that the charged individuals “illegally acquired information with the intention to share it with foreign media,” as the Ministry of Information stated in a statement regarding the detentions. In response to this, the United States has demanded that the government of Myanmar immediately release all of the detained individuals. I must respectfully agree with this demand that the United States has made through the United States Department of State on this issue. Personally, and respectfully, I believe that the arrest of the two Reuters journalists and of the two police officials is an attack on freedom of the press, freedom of speech and freedom of association that I believe that all individuals in every country have or should have a right to engage in. The two journalists with Reuters and the arrested police officials did nothing more than do their job to the best of their abilities and to help serve and defend the rights of members of the public. I, like the government United States I am assuming believes, that none of the detained individuals did anything wrong. I hope that the European Union agrees because it does not appear as if the European Union has taken a strong stance on this issue.

Conclusion:

I would like to respectfully request that the European Union conduct hearings and investigations into the atrocities that have occurred in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation and into the atrocities that have occurred against the Rohingya people in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Both of those two countries, a reasonable person would conclude, would not and will not be able to effectively or properly investigate the atrocities that have been committed in both of those countries. I would like to respectfully request that the European Union issue sanctions, including but not limited to travel bans, against all individuals for their individual responsibility, beyond a reasonable doubt and pursuant to a preponderance of evidence, into all of the atrocities that have been committed in the Chechen Region of the Russian Federation and against the Rohingya people in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. I also hope that the European Union will open criminal investigations into the perpetrators of both of the atrocities in those aforementioned two countries and that the European Union will seek arrest warrants and that the European Union will criminally prosecute all individuals that are responsible for the atrocities that have been committed in the Chechen Republic of the Russian Federation and against the Rohingya people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.


Respectfully,

Isaiah X. Smith⁶

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