

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC

March 19, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Secretary Rubio and Secretary Bessent:

We are writing to bring your attention to the ongoing abductions of children from Ukraine by the Russian Federation and the concerning reduction in American leadership in countering these crimes. Since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Ukrainian government has compiled a list of approximately 20,000 verifiable names of children abducted by Russia and illegally concealed within the Russian adoption system. Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began in 2022, more than 700,000 people from Ukraine have been relocated to Russia.

Along with the Russian Federation, the Belarusian government is complicit in deporting, "re-educating", and fostering children from Ukraine against their will. The Yale School of Public Health Humanitarian Research Lab (Yale HRL) has meticulously documented and assessed with high confidence the complicity of Belarus in this illegal project. Belarus is host to 13 "re-education" camps where children are brainwashed into allegiance to the Russian Federation and are trained with military firearms at a young age.

Russia and Belarus are in violation of numerous international statutes and conventions. These egregious, openly acknowledged violations of the rights of children afforded under international law demand consequences. Currently, several individuals and organizations, including the All-Russian Young Army Military Patriotic Social Movement, Vitaliy Aleksandrovich Suk, and Maria Lvova-Belova, are subject to American sanctions. However, the United Kingdom recently sanctioned several more individuals involved in the forcible removal of children from Ukraine.

We ask that you:

- Align U.S. sanctions with those of the United Kingdom and of other NATO allies to include such individuals as Tetiana Zaval'ska, Igor Kazarezov, Andrey Sabinov, and

Serafim Vikentevich Ivanov who are sanctioned by the United Kingdom, and any others our aforementioned allies have targeted.

- Sanction individuals and organizations operating this abduction and repatriation scheme from Russian occupied areas of Ukraine, including relevant ministerial officials in occupied Donetsk and Luhansk.
- Expand the scope of our sanctions regime against Belarus to ensure accountability for the country's complicity in Russia's abduction of children from Ukraine.

In addition to aligning our sanctions regime with our allies, we must not cede ground on the vital information support we have provided to Ukraine. As alluded to earlier, Yale HRL has compiled three reports, sourced from satellite imagery and biometric data, tracking identities and locations of over 30,000 children from Ukraine at dozens of locations. This data is absolutely crucial to Ukraine's efforts to return their children home. In fact, Yale HRL can be credited with the evidence underpinning the International Criminal Court's indictments of President Vladimir Putin and Commissioner for Children's Rights Maria Lvova-Belova.

The foreign aid freeze has jeopardized, and may ultimately eliminate, our informational support of Ukraine on this front. In conjunction with U.S. State Department, Yale HRL had been preserving evidence of abducted children from Ukraine it had identified, to be shared with Europol and the government of Ukraine to secure their return. Yale HRL's funding has been terminated and the status of the secure evidence repository is unknown. This vital resource cannot be lost.

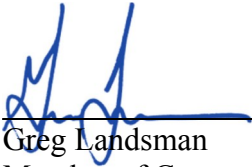
We have reason to believe that the data from the repository has been permanently deleted. If true, this would have devastating consequences. Can you please update us as to the status of the data from the evidence repository?

Additionally, conflict observers like Yale HRL no longer have access to the satellite imagery they need to track the movements of the abducted children. Yale HRL used this imagery to prove to the United Nations Security Council how Russia is abducting and concealing these children within domestic systems.

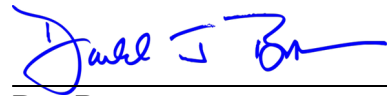
Surrender on this front will result in the total abandonment of at least 30,000 innocent children from Ukraine. Our government is providing an essential service – one that does not require the transfer of weapons or cash to Ukraine – in pursuit of the noble goal of rescuing these children. We must, immediately, resume the work to help Ukraine bring these children home.

As negotiations between Russia and Ukraine begin, we must prioritize the return of these children, as is required by both law and our values.

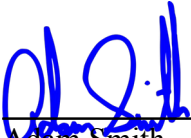
Respectfully,




Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



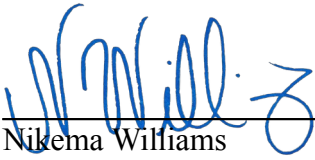
Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Adam Smith
Member of Congress



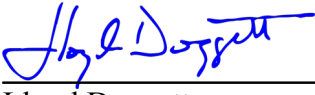
Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



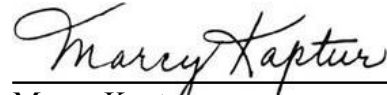
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



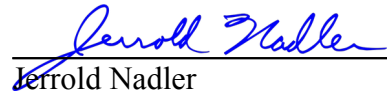
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



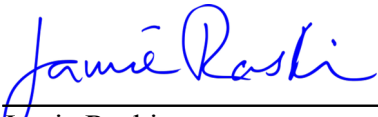
Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



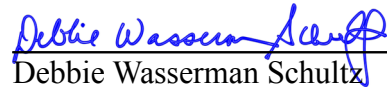
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



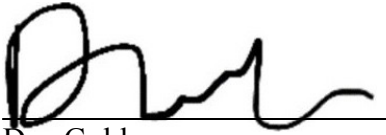
Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



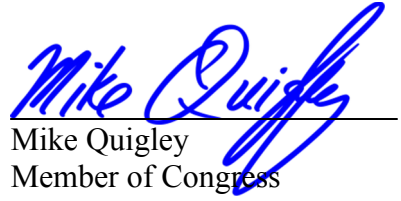
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
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Dan Goldman
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Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress