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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

September 9, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin,

We are writing to express serious concern that the new designations required by the Russia Magnitsky sanctions program are long overdue. Since the 2012 passage of the Russia Magnitsky Act [Pub. L. 112-208], our expectation has been that OFAC announces annual designations by the close of each calendar year; however, it is September 9th and we still do not have the 2019 round of Russia Magnitsky designations from the Administration. To this effect, we urge the release of a robust and credible list of designations immediately.

This program is one of the most effective tools the United States has to hold human rights abusers in Russia to account. We believe the Treasury Department fully understands the importance of designation mechanisms. This year alone, dozens of individuals associated with Iran, China, and Venezuela have been designated by OFAC, but only 17 Russia-related designations have been issued. It is critical that the Treasury Department dedicate the necessary resources to make the designations required by the Russia Magnitsky Act of 2012.

During the release of the 2018 round of designations, Under Secretary Mandelker said the department would continue to “impose costs on those involved in the detention, abuse, and death of Sergei Magnitsky, and is committed to addressing boarder human rights violations across Russia.” There continue to be a host of individuals for whom both the Sergei Magnitsky prong and Gross Violations of Human Rights prong of this Act would apply.

Any further delay of the 2019 round of designations is unacceptable under the law and hinders the United States’ ability to hold to account those who have committed atrocious acts within Russia. Know that we stand ready to support the Treasury Department in fulfilling this requirement. We look forward to a release of a robust and credible set of designations without further delay.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
Ranking Member



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator