Ms Berit Lindeman
Norwegian Helsinki Committee
P.O. Box 357 Sentrum
0101 Oslo

Oslo, 16 January 2023

Dear Ms Lindeman

Reference is made to the letter of 31 October 2022 from you and Mr Bill Browder regarding the request for targeted sanctions against 13 individuals responsible for human rights violations against Russian politician and human rights activist Vladimir Kara-Murza.

The Norwegian Government is deeply concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in Russia.

The human rights situation has been especially alarming since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February. The prosecution and imprisonment of opposition figures, anti-war protesters and others who are critical of the regime continues. The Putin regime is now displaying clear totalitarian traits.

The Norwegian Government shares your concern about the imprisonment of Vladimir Kara-Murza and the criminal charges that have been brought against him. We are particularly concerned about the most recent charge of treason, for which he could be sentenced to a very harsh and lengthy prison term.

We are closely monitoring the criminal case against Mr Kara-Murza, and the Norwegian Embassy in Moscow has been present at several of his court hearings. Norway will continue to voice its concerns in multilateral organisations and other forums regarding human rights violations in Russia and the case of Mr Kara-Murza and other political prisoners.

In Norway's view, sanctions are most effective when they have broad, international support. According to section 2 of the Norwegian Sanctions Act, Norway can implement sanctions or restrictive measures that have been adopted by intergovernmental organisations or that otherwise have broad international support.

The Norwegian Government will continue to consult with other countries and we will pay close attention to the views of the EU and like-minded countries with regard to the suggestions in your letter.

Yours sincerely

Eivind Vad Petersson

Copy:
Mr Bill Browder
Hermitage Capital Management