



August 7, 2011

**The Hon Martin Ferguson
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra 2600**

Dear Minister,

Further to our correspondence of August 6, seeking the Australian Government's intervention at the arrest of Ukraine's opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko and call for her immediate release, we provide the attached information about current international reaction to the situation.

Over the past 48 hours, the European Parliament, the Governments of USA, Canada, France, Poland, Sweden, Germany, Russian and Great Britain have voiced expressed their concerns publically.

Peak bodies such Freedom House, the Ukrainian World Congress, the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain, Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations have all issued statements which are now posted on various news sites internationally.

We call on the Australian Government to join this list.

I will be travelling to Ukraine on Tuesday August 9, 2011 and have commenced enquiries about the possibility of visiting Yulia Tymoshenko to relay the support of Australia's Ukrainian community. No doubt it would be most heartening to her if I were also able to relay a position of support from the Australian Government at the same time.

As time may not allow for a formal meeting with you due to the tight time constraints I would be most pleased to speak to you on phone on this matter at a time convenient to you.

My contact number is 0419 531255.

Looking forward to your support on this matter.

Yours sincerely

**Stefan Romaniw OAM
CHAIRMAN**

cc

His Excellency Michael Potts
Ambassador of Australia in Vienna

Stanislav Stashevskyi
Embassy of Ukraine in Australia
Chargé d'Affaires

Senator Catryna Bilyk
Chair
Australian - Ukraine Parliamentary Friendship Group

International reaction to the arrest of Tymoshenko as of 7 August 2011

**Materials taken directly from Maidan website which features section -
International reaction to the arrest of Tymoshenko -maidan.org.ua**

08/05/2011 19:43 World-Politics -

(News continually updated)

First response President Jerzy Buzek

"Europe's patience is exhausted"

"I am alarmed by news of the court's decision to detain the former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. Context and conditions create concern about the political nature of this decision and to apply the rule of law in Ukraine. "

Pursuit he wrote in Twitter Wilfried Martens - Founder and leader of the largest in Europe, the European People's Party

"Tymoshenko's arrest brings Ukraine one step closer to authoritarianism Sovetskoho. I'm calling Yanukovich with a request to immediately stop this outrage - Europe's patience is exhausted"

U.S. State Department official promised a statement but ahead of the Foreign Ministry of Russia - it is read here <http://www.interfax.com.ua/rus/main/75977/>
They insist on the legality of gas contracts

Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bild wrote in a Twitter "Lawsuit against Yulia Tymoshenko in Ukraine - a shameful spectacle. It causes serious damage to a large country."

Warsaw, Representative in the EU, arrest ex-premier of Ukraine, leader of the party "Batkyvschyna" Yulia Tymoshenko "and pospeshnoy radykalnoy" COME.

"We ozabochnost While the in connection with the decision of the district Pecherskogo court in Kiev arrested Yulyyu . We Chill that this is-Too pospeshnaya radykalnaya mayor and suppressing Prime Minister for non-compliance with procedures sudebnyh" - said in the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland, the text Kotor transmitted agency "Interfax-Ukraine on Friday in Brussels.

Foreign Ministry of Poland expressed hope that Tymoshenko will be released because of under arrest, and judicial process will be "consistent with standards

EUROPEAN behavior."

"Poland, as represented in the EU, will take on themselves themselves do this, discussion of issues as with partners in the EU, in particular with a representative of the EU Catherine Ashton as a leader in political and from Ukraine - President Viktor Yanukovich, Foreign Minister Konstantin Grishchenko" - said in the statement.
<http://www.interfax.com.ua/rus/main/75990/>

Ukrainian Congress Committee of America requires the immediate dismissal of Tymoshenko
<http://www.voanews.com/ukrainian/news/ukraine/ucca-tymoshenko-126850838.html>

With a sharp statement by the international human rights organization **Freedom House** <http://freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=70&release=1477> - they definitely consider the case harassment of opposition

EU is disturbed by the condition in the rule of law in Ukraine in connection with the arrest of Yulia Tymoshenko.

A question about it talking to the statement jointly EUROPEAN High representative of the Union on issues of foreign policy and security policy, Vice-President of the European Commission Ashton Catherine (Catherine Ashton) and the European Commissioner on issues of policy and European Stefan Füle (Stefan Füle), transferred text of Kotor agency "Interfax-Ukraine" on Friday in Brussels.

".<http://www.interfax.com.ua/rus/main/75997/>

Germany concerned by the arrest of ex-premier Yulia Tymoshenko.
This statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, sends "Ukrainian News".
The corresponding statement was made Vice-Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany Werner Hoyer.
"The federal government approved the arrest today of the Ukrainian opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko with great concern. There is doubt that the detention is proportionate to conduct" - he said.
Hoyer also noted that the fact that many former officials in Ukraine are under investigation for abuse of authority, suspicious of the political motivation of the judiciary in Ukraine.
"Further strengthening this impression would be a significant obstacle to

rapprochement between Ukraine and EU", - he said.

The Minister also urged the Ukrainian government to ensure a fair process of law and independent legal system.

<http://www.pravda.com.ua/news/2011/08/5/6457260/>

Sen JohnMcCain John McCain

Bad sign: Gov't of # Ukraine detains leader of political opposition

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Contact: Brian Rogers or Rachael Dean

Friday, August 05, 2011
(202) 224-7130

STATEMENT BY SENATOR JOHN McCAIN REGARDING THE DETENTION OF FORMER UKRAINIAN PRIME MINISTER YULIA TYMOSHENKO

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator John McCain (R-AZ) today released the following statement regarding the Ukrainian government's detention of political opposition leader and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko:

"I am deeply concerned about the detention today of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in Ukraine. This action is clearly a violation of the basic rights that should be protected for every citizen in a democracy. The implications of this detention go far beyond the fate of one person. Ultimately, what is at stake is the future of freedom and democracy in Ukraine. Unfortunately, today's action by the Ukrainian government calls into question its commitment to the fundamentals of democracy, and as such, will make Ukraine's path toward a future in the Euro-Atlantic community harder to achieve. I urge the leadership in Kyiv to release Prime Minister Tymoshenko immediately and guarantee the rights of all Ukrainians, regardless of their political beliefs. "

French Foreign Ministry expresses concern over arrest of Tymoshenko

France is deeply concerned by the arrest of former Prime Minister of Ukraine, leader of the party "Rodina" Yulia Tymoshenko.

This is stated in the special request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, to the press service of "homeland."

"France is deeply concerned by the arrest of Tymoshenko. We raise doubts about the motives of this trial" - the document says.

"In particular, we think that there was no enforceable right to protection", - noted in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France.

"As we have repeatedly emphasized respect for the rule of law is a key element in building a partnership between France, the European Union and Ukraine", - reads the statement.

The Foreign Ministry stressed that France and its European partners will continue to closely monitor the situation with Tymoshenko.

<http://www.unian.net/ukr/news/news-449968.html>

The U.S. government expressed concern over the arrest of Yulia Tymoshenko and encourages the Ukrainian authorities to reconsider the decision and immediately release it.

This UNIAN reported at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv.

"Yesterday's imprisonment of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko zburylo concern in the international community to apply the rule of law in Ukraine and further developments gave the appearance of politically motivated persecution" - reads the message.

"The U.S. government shares these concerns and calls for review of the decision on detention, Ms. Tymoshenko and consider her immediate release."

<http://www.unian.net/ukr/news/news-449998.html>

Group President of the European People's Party and Christian Democrats in the PACE Luc VOLONTE condemns arrest of former Prime Minister, leader of the party "Rodina" Yulia Tymoshenko.

"The arrest of Yulia Tymoshenko is an act of tyranny and the continuation of unilateral actions of Ukrainian justice against the opposition" - the statement reads L. VOLONTE, reported on the website Tymoshenko.

"I asked President Yanukovich with a request to allow Yulia Tymoshenko to visit the EPP Group seminar at the next plenary session in Strasbourg. This arrest is a clear answer to the leadership of the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Ukrainian government does not want the leader of the opposition participated and took active role in public debates in Ukraine and European countries" - said in the statement.

According to L. VOLONTE, arrest TYMOSHENKO not only violates all European standards, but is the wrong solution to Ukraine's future in Europe. "It is similar to inappropriate use of justice for political purposes. The only purpose of these actions - of harm and intimidate the opposition in Ukraine. The Ukrainian government should immediately release Yulia Tymoshenko and give her permission to participate in our family EPP Workshop to be held in plenary session October" - he said.

<http://www.unian.net/ukr/news/news-449996.html>

U.S. Embassy in Ukraine reports that successfully appealed to the possibility of attending Y. Tymoshenko during her imprisonment.

This UNIAN reported at the U.S. Embassy in Kiev.

"We raised before the Government of Ukraine on our concerns regarding legal proceedings against Ms. Tymoshenko and other opposition figures and will continue to carefully monitor these process" - reminded the Embassy.

<http://www.unian.net/ukr/news/news-450001.html>

Official text of U.S. claims in Ukrainian - here

<http://ukrainian.ukraine.usembassy.gov/>

FCO concerned at the arrest of ex-Prime Minister of Ukraine Yulia Tymoshenko.
The report contained statements Office of Deputy Foreign Minister of Great Britain Alistair Bertha, reports Interfax-Ukraine.

"I was very concerned about the situation with the detention of Ukrainian opposition politician Yulia Tymoshenko on August 5," - he said.

The Foreign Ministry stressed that Britain, together with EU and international partners will continue to monitor the trial of Tymoshenko, as well as on cases against several former ministers of government and its officials.

"I urge Ukrainian authorities to adhere to the highest democratic standards, including those relating to human rights law and ensure independent, transparent and fair trial. They - the prerequisites for closer integration of Ukraine and the EU" - said Deputy Foreign Minister of Great Britain.

In addition, the Canadian Foreign Ministry expressed its concern about the situation with the arrest said.

"Canada is concerned about the obvious political persecution, and now the arrest of Yulia Tymoshenko", - the comments Foreign Minister of Canada John Byrd, published on the Office's website.

According to the head of the Canadian Foreign Ministry, the appearance of political influence on litigation undermines the rule of law.

"Canada urges the Ukrainian government to strengthen judicial independence and continue to direct efforts to build a peaceful, democratic and secured society in Ukraine", - said Baird

[Ukrainian Canadian Congress Condemns Politically Motivated Arrest of Tymoshenko](#)

"The government of Ukraine is pursuing what appears to be politically-motivated, selective justice in a deliberate and systematic program to remove political opposition. This is another step away from democracy," stated Ukrainian Canadian Congress

President Paul Grod. “Today’s arrest of Tymoshenko is another in an ever-growing list of violations of human rights, democracy and the rule of law which have been regressing under the Yanukovich government.”

Ukrainian World Congress Calls for the Immediate Release of Yulia Tymoshenko

Today’s arrest of Ukraine’s former Prime Minister and main opposition leader, Yulia Tymoshenko, during her trial, which is widely viewed as politically motivated, is a major step backwards for the government of Ukraine. Given that Ukraine is representing Europe as Chair of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe until November 2011, co-host of EURO 2012, and Chair of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in 2013, it is critical for Ukraine’s government to release Ms. Tymoshenko immediately, to comply with its international commitments, and to refrain from using criminal proceedings as a means to achieving political ends

Australia’s Ukrainian Community Calls on Australian Government to Condemn Arrest of Ukraine’s Opposition Leader Yulia Tymoshenko

“The Court’s action in arresting Tymoshenko is another example of the violation of human rights and the Yanukovich Government’s systematic program of eradicating any form of opposition. Democratic process are being dwindled away” AFUO Chairman Stefan Romaniw OAM said today.