

President
Vladimir Vladimirovič Putin
President's office
Ul. Ilyinka, 23
103132 Moscow
Russia

Dear President,

I am deeply concerned by the ongoing persecution of human rights defenders (HRDs) in Russia. Contrary to Russia's international commitments to support and protect HRDs and promote human rights, criminal cases against HRDs are fabricated, attacks on HRDs are not investigated effectively and certain Russian officials, including the Head of Chechnya, Ramzan Kadyrov, issue inflammatory statements vilifying HRDs. I call on you to defend Irina Maslova, who defends the rights of sex workers, and who had been detained on various occasions just because she was doing her work.

I urge you to ensure, that in the year when the international community will be marking the twenty year anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, Russia demonstrates true commitment to fulfilling its international human rights obligations and provides full support and protection to HRDs.

Sincerely,