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The Open Dialog Foundation supports the Global Magnitsky Act

17 March 2015 – The Open Dialog Foundation expresses its full support for the “Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act” (S.284/H.R.624). We welcome the hard work that has been done by the United States of America in addressing the growing issue of international impunity of officials involved in high-level corruption and human rights abuses.

The Open Dialog Foundation welcomes the new global Magnitsky Act, which builds on the positive experience stemming from the current Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, passed by the Congress in 2012 and directed exclusively at Russian officials involved in financial, corruptive and human rights violations. *It is a very good example showing that democratic states can take a firm stand in fighting human rights abuses worldwide by imposing individual sanctions on those involved*, said the President of the Open Dialog Foundation, Lyudmyla Kozlovska.

The fact that both the US Senate and the House have almost contemporarily introduced the new bill is a clear sign of high determination to promptly address the issue. It is a strong message of solidarity towards all those globally challenging corrupt officials and human rights abusers. The new mechanism will allow for what the Open Dialog Foundation has been fighting for since its very foundation. It will shed the light on numerous issues, cases and non-democratic regimes that has so far been freely enjoying the benefits of western financial services, university education, free-market benefits and vacation destinations. It will also help overcome the separation in the discussion about human rights abuses and business and political interests on the highest levels.

We particularly endorse the House version of the new bill, which puts stronger accent not only on the possibility but also the duty of the United States to act against the perpetrators. The Foundation calls on the European Union to follow the path and revive its own discussion on a European version of Magnitsky Bill.

In its recent work on the case of Ukrainian pilot and MP, Nadiya Savchenko, illegally detained by the Russian Federation, the Open Dialog Foundation has looked up to the Magnitsky Law as an example when calling on the international community to impose individual sanctions on those involved in her unlawful kidnapping and subsequent detention. *The Global Magnitsky Act will set example to look up to and give hope to the civil society, while providing a concrete mechanism to counteract horrific human rights abuses worldwide in a systemic and serious manner*, added Lyudmyla Kozlovska.

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For more information on the Foundation’s the call for Savchenko List or any further inquiries, please contact:

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