

Upon the initiative of Italian Senator Roberto Rampi  
the Italian Federation for Human Rights, the Open Dialogue Foundation, the  
Nonviolent Radical Party Transnational and Transparty, and the EU-Russian Expert  
Group on Combating Transborder Corruption  
invite you to attend the seminar

“NEW TOOLS TO DEFEND HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE:

# THE GLOBAL MAGNITSKY ACT

AND ITS APPLICATION IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT”

*Thursday, 28 March 2019, from 10:00 to 13:00*

*Sala dell'Istituto di Santa Maria in Aquiro, Italian Senate - Piazza Capranica, 72 - Roma*

The Italian Federation for Human Rights (FIDU), the Open Dialogue Foundation (ODF), the Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty (NRPTT) and the EU-Russian Expert Group on Combating Transborder Corruption are pleased to invite you to a seminar on the application of the Magnitsky law, to be held on March 28, 2019, from 10:00 to 13:00, in the Sala dell'Istituto di Santa Maria in Aquiro at the premises of the Italian Senate. The event is hosted by Italian Senator Roberto Rampi.

The Magnitsky law takes its name from the Russian anti-corruption lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, who between 2007 - 2008 exposed a major fiscal fraud involving high ranking authorities, police, judges, fiscal authorities, bankers and organised crime groups. After exposing such facts he was arrested and, after eleven months of detention in harsh conditions and without a trial, he died under suspicious circumstances in a Moscow prison, at 37, in November 2009. Magnitsky's client, American entrepreneur Bill Browder, thus launched a campaign to impose targeted sanctions against all officials involved, aiming to prevent them from entering the USA and exclude them from the US economic and financial system.

In 2012, the US Congress approved the *Magnitsky Act*, which provided, in particular, for assets freeze and refusals of entry visas to the US. In 2016, the law was broadened in the *Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act*, which enables the government of the United States to impose targeted sanctions against individuals responsible for human rights violations or grave acts of corruption in any other state. The Magnitsky law is an effective legislative tool for combating impunity in those countries where torture and human rights abuses are systematic practices. It also acts as a deterrent to the governments of those non-democratic countries that have committed the most serious violations of international human rights norms, encouraging them to avoid such behaviour and to act responsibly before the international community and its citizens.

In addition to Canada, several EU member states have also adopted the Global Magnitsky Act following the example of the United States, such as the United Kingdom, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Netherlands. Moreover, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe have carried out effective steps to promote the Magnitsky law. On December 10 2018, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the EU Ministers of Foreign Affairs unanimously approved the Dutch proposal for an *EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime* based on the model of the Global Magnitsky Act. On Thursday, 14 March 2019, in a resolution, the European Parliament voted in favour of an EU human rights sanctions regime, which will symbolically carry the name of Sergei Magnitsky.

This event aims to present the features of this diplomatic model and its concrete application in the countries where it has already been adopted, with the aim of supporting its implementation in the Italian and European context. The first part of the event will be devoted to the analysis of the implementation of the legislation at international, European and national levels, and its connection with human rights. The second part will be dedicated to assessing the Magnitsky law's effectiveness in other contexts where the law is already in force, and its possible transposition into the Italian legal system. The speakers will include human rights defenders, Magnitsky law campaigners, NGO representatives and victims of human rights abuses fighting impunity in non-democratic countries such as Russia, Venezuela, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Moldova and others. The event will be chaired by Senator Roberto Rampi and is open to every political faction.



9:45

Registration

10:00

From the "Global Magnitsky Act" to the Council of Europe:  
the application of the Magnitsky legislation and human rights in the world. Where are we in Italy?

**Roberto Rampi** – member of the Committee for Culture of the Italian Senate and of the Italian Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

**Antonio Stango** – President of the Italian Federation for Human Rights, co-founder of the *Italian Helsinki Committee*

**Alice Stollmeyer** – activist and Executive Director of *Defending Democracy*, a civic initiative and advocacy digital strategist for European affairs

**Bill Browder** (by video-link) – founder and CEO of the *Hermitage Capital Management* and leader of the global justice campaign for the adoption of the Global Magnitsky Act

**Gunnar M. Ekeløve-Slydal** – Deputy Secretary of the *Norwegian Helsinki Committee* (NHC)

**Laura Harth** – representative of the *Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational Transparty at the United Nations* (PRNTT)

**Jared Genser** – US lawyer and Managerial Director of *Perseus Strategies* LLC, founder of *Freedom Now*, an independent NGO dealing with political prisoners around the world

**Francesco Miraglia** – lawyer, member of the Human Rights Committee of the Forensic National Council

**Moderator:** Antonio Stango

*Speeches by parliamentarians*

## Q&A session

11:45

The impact of the Magnitsky law on the protection of human rights.  
Testimonies from different countries.

**Paola Gaffurini** – Advocacy Officer at the *Open Dialogue Foundation* (ODF), international human rights NGO active in the defense of political prisoners and victims of politically motivated persecution in the post-Soviet region

**Emin Huseynov** – Azerbaijani investigative journalist and founder of the *Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety* (IRFS)

**Rodrigo Diamanti** – Venezuelan human rights activist and campaign expert, research fellow at Harvard Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation and founder of *Un Mundo Sin Mordaza* non-governmental organisation

**Anastasia Kirilenko**, investigative journalist based in Paris, researcher at the *EU-Russian Expert Group on Combating Transborder Corruption* and co-producer of the documentary *Putin and the mafia* (2018)

**Oleksandra Matviychuk** – Ukrainian lawyer, activist and President of the *Center for Civil Liberties* (CCL), based in Kyiv. Oleksandra also leads the international *LetMyPeopleGo* campaign for the release of Ukrainian political prisoners in Russia and is co-ordinator of the *Euromaidan SOS* initiative group

**Maigul Sadykova** – activist and blogger from Astana. Maigul fell victim to frequent unjust treatment and arbitrary detention for supporting the peaceful opposition movement *Democratic Choice for Kazakhstan* (DVK) that was banned by the Kazakh authorities in March 2018 as an "extremist" organisation

**Moderator:** Antonio Stango

*Speeches by parliamentarians*

## Q&A session

*For more information please contact:*

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*Access to the room – with proper dress code and, for men, obligation of suit and tie – is allowed until the maximum capacity is reached.*

*Journalists should demand accreditation by sending a fax to 06.6706.294*