



The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500  
The United States of America

Prague, 16 March 2022

Dear Mr. President

Allow us to seize this opportunity to turn to you in the time of emergency. We represent the Václav Havel Library and Olga Havel Foundation. The mission of both our organizations is to promote and advocate the legacy of their respective founders – the freedom fighter and former president of the Czech Republic Vaclav Havel and his wife Olga. Although they both hailed from former Czechoslovakia, the story of their lives and their unwavering struggle for freedom and basic human rights is well-known in the United States of America as well.

In deference and loyalty to the legacy of Václav and Olga Havel we are appealing to you and other leaders of the international community to remain steadfast in the face of the Russian doomsday blackmail and to make sure that the Ukrainian people will have everything they need to defend themselves against this barbaric onslaught, including weaponry, intelligence, financial means and humanitarian aid. We call on you to impose further economic sanctions on Russia that would bring the message of our utter revulsion and determination home to both the Russian leaders and the Russian people. And we call on the free world to set up a special tribunal on the aggression against Ukraine to bring to account all those who are responsible for perpetrating the crime of aggression, war crimes and crimes against humanity including those at the very top. We will support any and all other measures that will bring the war to an end and those guilty to face justice.

As we all witness the horrors that people of Ukraine are forced to live through nowadays, we appeal to you as the leader of the free world and head of the most powerful member of NATO to do everything in your power in order to stop the unprovoked and unjust Russian invasion of Ukraine.

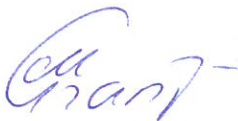
The sanctions that have been imposed on Russia by the West so far already work and cause a lot of economic problems to Russian political and military leaders, oligarchs and even Mr. Putin himself. We truly appreciate your resolute actions in this regard. In order for us to effectively stop Mr. Putin from committing further horrendous war crimes, however, we need to do more than that.

The current situation in Ukraine is extremely severe. And extreme situations require extreme measures. Nations living in Eastern and Central Europe know only too well the price for inaction and indifference in the times of crisis. Vaclav Havel himself put it insightfully when he wrote: "Indifference to others and indifference to the fate of the community is precisely what opens the doors to evil."

In order to stop the evil from spreading further we must not let our brave Ukrainian partners down. Instead, we must act more decisively than ever before.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,



Monika Granja

Director of the Olga Havel Foundation



Michael Žantovský

Director of the Václav Havel Library