



November 29, 2018

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
2201 C Street Northwest
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As you prepare for the upcoming Ministerial Council meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), we want to draw your attention once again to the horrific human rights situation in the Russian republic of Chechnya.

While it is well known that the Chechen government has long perpetrated a variety of human rights violations, the authorities there launched a particularly vicious attack in early 2017. They rounded up men who were suspected of being gay or bisexual and detained them under brutal conditions, torturing them and even killing a number of them. Even while releasing many of them, the government called on Chechen people to kill their own family members if they suspect them of being gay or bisexual.

Governments and human rights organizations around the world have condemned these atrocities and called on the Russian government to investigate the crimes and hold the perpetrators accountable. Unfortunately, without any serious action by the Russian government, 16 OSCE countries including the United States invoked the "Moscow Mechanism" in early November. That process established a fact-finding mission to look into the events that took place in Chechnya and laid out recommendations for the Russian and other governments going forward. That report was delivered to the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in late November.

This is a critical moment for you to make your voice heard and to speak out against the Chechen government's horrific anti-LGBTQ human rights violations and the Russian government's unconscionable complicity. While the U.S. has taken some action by sanctioning several senior members of the Chechen government, cutting off their access to U.S. commerce and banks, you have yet to personally make a statement condemning the atrocities and calling for an investigation. As you meet with your Russian counterparts at the OSCE and as you

make public comments during the ministerial meetings, it is essential that you break your silence and make it clear that the U.S. is monitoring this process very closely at the highest levels and that we and our allies demand that the perpetrators be held accountable. It is crucial that the Russian government and the world community hear that message.

I urge you to speak out at this important moment, and begin to restore the U.S. position as a global leader on human rights for all people, no matter who they are or whom they love.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Stacy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Stacy
Government Affairs Director