Dear [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_]

I am writing to you today as your constituent, to raise the terrible case of Vladimir Kara-Murza, a dual Russian/British citizen arbitrarily arrested and locked up in Russia for speaking out against the war in Ukraine.

I ask you to write to the Prime Minister and urge him to consider the recommendation of the Foreign Affairs Select Committee to create a new position in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office – a Director of Arbitrary and Complex Detentions. The role would be similar to the US Office of the Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs. It should be set up to fight for the rights of UK citizens arbitrarily locked up abroad and secure their release.

The priority for this new Director and your Government must be to secure the release of Vladimir Kara-Murza.

Vladimir is a 41-year-old Russian politician, journalist, and filmmaker, husband and father of three. He has dual Russia/British citizenship after completing his education in the UK. He has been a vocal critic of the Putin regime for many years and has travelled the world speaking in favor of Magnitsky legislation which bans visas and freezes the assets of human rights abusers. In response to his work, he was poisoned twice by the Kremlin in 2015 and 2017 with a nerve agent and has been diagnosed with polyneuropathy as a result.

He was arrested in Russia in April 2022 for publicly opposing the war and political repression in Russia. Following the arrest, he was charged with high treason.

Since his arrest and detention, Vladimir has suffered further unjust treatment at the hands of the Putin regime. His health has declined rapidly. As a result of the polyneuropathy, he has now lost feeling in both feet and one arm and he has lost almost 20 kilos. Under Russian law, the diagnosis of polyneuropathy should be enough to lead to his release. The Russian state has broken their own laws in order to keep him in prison. If the UK does not secure his release soon, it is likely that he will die in prison.

As your constituent, I urge you to stand up for Vladimir. He is a British citizen, and the UK Government must do more to secure his release. Creating this new position in the FCDO is the best way of doing this.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,