



## **Benajmin L. Cardin (D-MD)**

U.S. Senator

From expanding access to health care to boosting job growth to making homeownership affordable to improving the environment, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin is a recognized leader with a record of legislative success. The Washington Post has said Ben Cardin has a “command of issues, proven integrity, formidable intellect and an unstinting work ethic.” As a member of the Senate Finance and Budget Committees, he is on the front lines of efforts to solve our current fiscal crisis and continue progress toward domestic job creation and economic recovery.

Senator Cardin has a deep interest in foreign affairs and has worked across party lines to further our national security and protect universal human rights. As the fourth-ranking member of the Senate Relations Committee, he currently chairs the Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance – using every opportunity to ensure that gender-equity and the empowerment of women are integrated as part of our foreign policy efforts. He has been a Commissioner on the U.S. Helsinki Commission since 1993, serving as chairman in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress and as co-chair in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. He also is Vice President of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Parliamentary Assembly. Through the Helsinki Commission, Senator Cardin has worked to raise awareness of the escalation of global anti-Semitic violence, anti-Muslim laws, and other forms of intolerance while working to promote peace, tolerance and equality.

Senator Cardin also has become a leading advocate for transparency in the extractive industry. *The Wall Street Reform Act*, also known as Dodd-Frank, included a provision authored by Senators Cardin and Richard Lugar requiring publicly traded companies to report payments to foreign governments for drilling and mining rights. Senator Cardin has said that transparency in the extractive industry is critical to good governance and will help promote stability in oil-rich or mineral-wealthy countries.

Most relevant to these proceedings, Senator Cardin has become the leading voice in the Congress urging that the U.S. take action against human rights violators in Russia and around the world when their own countries fail to act. Author of the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act that was passed by both the Senate Finance and Senate Foreign Relations Committees, Senator Cardin fought for and won the 2010 travel ban by this administration against 60 Russian

officials involved in Sergei's torture and death. He has made it clear to Russian officials and others that visiting the United States and having access to our financial system, including U.S. dollars, are privileges that should not be extended to those who violate internationally recognized human rights. In his words, inclusion of the human rights provisions named for the late Sergei Magnitsky in PNTR will assure that the United State will continue to be a world leader in respecting human rights and punishing violators of those rights.



**Ms. Susan Corke**

Director for Eurasia Programs  
Freedom House

Susan Corke is Director for Eurasia programs at Freedom House. In her current role she oversees all of Freedom House's programs in Eurasia. She has published and contributed to articles, blogs, advocacy campaigns, briefings, and publications on human rights issues in Eurasia and has testified before the Commission for Security and Cooperation in Europe in the U.S. Congress on Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Ms. Corke is a skilled practitioner in supporting human rights and democratic reform in Europe and Eurasia. Before joining Freedom House, she spent seven years at the State Department, the first two as a Presidential Management Fellow and most recently as the Deputy Director for European Affairs in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL), where she worked to promote human rights and democratic reform in some of the most repressive countries in the region, such as Belarus and Russia. She oversaw the editing for the State Department human rights country reports for Europe and had supervisory oversight for DRL's 25+ civil society, media, and human rights programs in Europe. She also did stints at U.S. Embassy Moscow, U.S. Embassy Prague, in the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, and the Bureau of Public Affairs. Prior to the State Department, Corke helped found and manage the U.S. Foreign Policy Institute at the Elliott School of International of Affairs at George Washington University. She has also worked at the German Marshall Fund and as a media strategist at several advertising agencies in New York. Corke has a Master's degree in International Affairs from George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs and a Bachelor's degree from the College of William & Mary.



**Mr. William Browder**  
Chief Executive Director  
Hermitage Capital Management

William Browder is the Founder and CEO of Hermitage Capital Management. Mr. Browder was the largest foreign investor in Russia until November 2005, when he was suddenly denied entry to the country and declared “a threat to national security” for being an outspoken fighter against corporate corruption in Russia.

In 2008 Mr. Browder’s lawyer, Sergei Magnitsky, uncovered a massive fraud committed by Russian government officials that involved the theft of US\$230 million of state taxes. He testified against the government officials who had committed the crime and was subsequently arrested and imprisoned by the same officers he had exposed. For almost a year he endured horrifying detention conditions and was regularly denied medical attention when it was requested. He died on 16 November 2009 at the age of 37, leaving a wife and two children.

Since that time, Mr. Browder has been leading a worldwide campaign using media, political and legislative tools to expose the corruption, rule of law and human rights abuses committed by Russian government officials. Mr. Browder is working with individual states to implement policies against corrupt officials so that there are real repercussions for those who break the law and abuse human rights.

Through the advocacy campaign being driven by Mr. Browder, a law was introduced in the United States Congress entitled the “Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2011”. This would impose visa entry bans and asset freezes on Russian officials who commit human rights abuses as well as on those who cover up corruption.

In July of this year, the US Government imposed visa bans on the Russian officials who played a role in the false arrest, torture and death of Sergei Magnitsky.



**Ms. Tanya Lokshina**

Deputy Director

Human Rights Watch, Moscow office

Tanya Lokshina is Deputy Director of Human Rights Watch's Moscow office. Having joined Human Rights Watch in January 2008, Lokshina authored reports on egregious rights abuses in Chechnya and Ingushetia and co-authored a report on violations of international humanitarian law during the armed conflict in Georgia in the summer of 2008. Lokshina runs a column for the Russian current affairs website Polit.Ru. She is recipient of the 2006 Andrei Sakharov Award for Journalism as Civic Accomplishment.

Prior to joining Human Rights Watch, Lokshina headed a prominent Moscow-based human rights think-tank Demos, which carries out research and advocacy projects in such areas as human rights abuses in armed conflict zones; arbitrariness and excessive use of force in the activities of state agencies; effective implementation of international human rights standards, and human rights education.

Since 2003, Lokshina's work has largely focused on Chechnya and the Caucasus. Her books include *Chechnya Inside Out* and *Imposition of a Fake Political Settlement in the Northern Caucasus*. Lokshina also published articles on human rights issues in some prominent Russian and foreign newspapers, including *Novaya Gazeta*, *Washington Post*, and the *Guardian*.



**Ms. Fatima Tlisova**

Correspondent

*Voice of America's* Russian Service

Fatima Tlisova is an investigative journalist, researcher and expert on the North Caucasus region of Russia, currently working with the Voice of America. She has written extensively on Russia and the North Caucasus, including such topics as the Circassian nationalism, the role of Islam in regional affairs, human rights abuses, torture, disappearances, corruption and freedom of the press. While in the Caucasus she worked with Novaya Gazeta, and reported for the Associated Press.

Fatima was a fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, a Nieman Journalism Fellow at Harvard University and National Endowment for Democracy. Fatima is a recipient of Pulitzer Center grant for her multimedia project on the relations between the FSB and the press in Russia.

She has won numerous international awards including: the Lyons award for Conscious and Integrity in Journalism from the Nieman Foundation, the German Zeit-Stiftung Award for commitment to reporting on the conflict in Chechnya, the Rory Peck Freelancer's Choice Award for "continuous bravery, commitment to the story and efforts to help fellow journalists", the Human Rights Watch award for journalism as advocacy, the Amnesty International Media Award for best magazine article, and an AP award for best report on a hostage situation.