

GUS M. BILIRAKIS  
12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
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WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2227 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0912  
(202) 225-5755

DISTRICT OFFICES:

7132 LITTLE ROAD  
NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34654-5514  
(727) 232-2921

600 KLOSTERMAN ROAD  
ROOM 8B38  
TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689-1299  
(727) 940-5860

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0912

September 27, 2019

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
United States Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

I write in support of an investigation under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act into Kuwait's conviction and imprisonment of Maria (Marsha) Lazareva, an Orthodox Christian. Maria Lazareva was arrested on charges that were nullified by the Kuwait Court of Appeal but continues to be prosecuted. Her 474 days of imprisonment caused a 15-month separation from her four-year-old son, who is a U.S. citizen.

Senior Department of State officials, including the U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait, have engaged Kuwait officials on the wrongful detention of Ms. Lazareva. Ms. Lazareva was convicted based on the testimony of a single witness, who has since been convicted of forging the documents used against her. The fact her conviction was overturned, and she still cannot freely leave the country is extraordinarily troubling.

This kind of improper conduct and human rights abuse is not acceptable by a trusted ally in the Gulf Region. The Kuwait government needs to address these concerns.

I find the circumstances of this case troubling and am fully supportive of your office investigating the matter under the Act. Please keep my office informed of the progress of this matter.

Sincerely,



Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

MADELEINE DEAN  
4TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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House of Representatives  
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129 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
202-225-4731

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
115 EAST GLENSIDE AVENUE, SUITE 1  
GLENSIDE, PA 19038  
215-884-4300

101 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE A  
NORRISTOWN, PA 19401  
610-382-1250

June 28 2019

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Re: Request to Initiate a Global Magnitsky Act Inquiry into Kuwait  
Officials for the Human Rights Abuses of Ms. Maria Lazareva

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

I write to urge you to initiate a Global Magnitsky Act (GMA) investigation into the following senior Kuwait officials for detaining business executive Maria (Marsha) Lazareva, on erroneous charges:

Sheikh Khaled Abdullah S. N. Al-Sabah, Chief of Amir Protocol and Chamberlain  
Sheikh Youssef Al-Sabah, General Manager of the Kuwait Port Authority  
Dherar Ali Al-Asousi, Kuwait Attorney General  
Homood Al-Shamy, Kuwait Prosecutor  
Hamad Al-Allayan, Kuwait State Audit Bureau  
Metab Al-Ardi, Kuwait Judge

This detention has separated Ms. Lazareva from her four-year-old son, Yvan Lazareva--a United States citizen, and constituent of the Fourth Congressional District.

Senior Department of State officials, including the U.S. Ambassador in Kuwait, have engaged Kuwait officials on the wrongful detention of Ms. Lazareva for the past year in Kuwait. However, the Kuwaiti government has made false statements about the matter and violated international human rights, warranting a GMA investigation.

Additionally, Louis Freeh, former Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a former U.S. district court judge, has examined the charges against Ms. Lazareva and found them to be false. Mr. Freeh has traveled to Kuwait for a March 24, 2019 hearing against the accused and witnessed abuses of recognized rights of due process and justice. The Kuwait government has failed to address these matters and the United States should not tolerate this behavior.

I do not make this request lightly, but understand that the Kuwait government has failed to address this situation despite multiple trips to Kuwait by former senior U.S. government officials and individuals—including Neil Bush, the son of the U.S. president who liberated Kuwait.

The United State of America should do everything possible to reunite Ms. Lazareva with her son so that they can return to his home in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania from his current residence in Kuwait City. I urge you to initiate a GMA investigation into these officials as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress  
Pennsylvania Fourth Congressional District

PAUL A. GOSAR, D.D.S.  
FOURTH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

504 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2315

122 N. CORTEZ STREET, SUITE #104  
PRESCOTT, AZ 86301  
(928) 445-1683

6499 SOUTH KINGS RANCH ROAD, SUITE 4  
GOLD CANYON, AZ 85118  
(480) 882-2697

220 N. 4TH STREET  
KINGMAN, AZ 86401  
(928) 445-1683

WWW.GOSAR.HOUSE.GOV



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0301

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT  
AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

SUBCOMMITTEES  
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SUBCOMMITTEES  
VICE CHAIRMAN, WATER,  
POWER AND OCEANS  
ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES  
INDIAN, INSULAR AND  
ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS

August 2, 2019

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Re: Support for Global Magnitsky Act Inquiry into Kuwait's  
Treatment of Ms. Maria Lazareva

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

We write in support of an investigation under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act into Kuwait's conviction and imprisonment for 474 days of business executive Maria (Marsha) Lazareva on false charges, causing her to be separated from her four-year-old U.S. citizen son for over 15 months. Kuwait continues to prosecute her under the questionable charges after having her conviction vacated.

Senior Department of State officials, including the U.S. Ambassador in Kuwait, have engaged Kuwait officials on the wrongful detention of Ms. Lazareva. Additionally, we understand that Louis Freeh, the former Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a former U.S. district court judge, examined the charges against Ms. Lazareva and found them unsupported. Mr. Freeh traveled to Kuwait for a June 23, 2019 hearing where both he and a former FBI agent and forensic auditor presented evidence and testimony rebutting all of the charges.

We understand there are serious concerns that the conduct in question has been the result of improper influence on government officials to advance private commercial agendas. The Kuwait government has failed to adequately address these concerns and the United States of America should not turn a blind eye to allegations of improper conduct and a human rights abuse by a trusted ally in the Gulf Region.

We therefore are in support of your office conducting an investigation to determine if improper conduct, including corruption, has resulted in the arbitrary conviction and imprisonment of Ms. Lazareva and if so, take appropriate action against those individuals who have engaged in conduct for which sanctions may be imposed under the Act. We ask that your staff keep our offices informed of the progress of this matter.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

ROGER F. WICKER

MISSISSIPPI

ARMED SERVICES  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION  
COMMISSION ON SECURITY  
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 25, 2019

SUITE 555  
DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-6253  
[www.wicker.senate.gov](http://www.wicker.senate.gov)

The Honorable Steven T. Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20220

Re: Request to Initiate a Global Magnitsky Act Inquiry into Kuwaiti  
Officials for the Human Rights Abuses of Ms. Maria Lazareva

Dear Secretary Mnuchin:

We write to request that you initiate a Global Magnitsky Act (GMA) investigation into the following senior Kuwaiti officials for detaining business executive Maria (Marsha) Lazareva on false charges, also thereby separating her from her four-year-old son, Yvan Lazareva, who is a U.S. citizen:

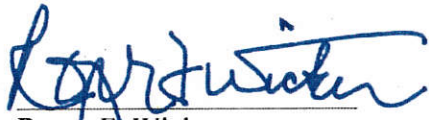
Sheikh Khaled Abdullah S. N. Al-Sabah, Chief of Amir Protocol and Chamberlain  
Sheikh Youssef Al-Sabah, General Manager of the Kuwait Port Authority  
Dherar Ali Al-Asousi, Kuwait Attorney General  
Homood Al-Shamy, Kuwaiti Prosecutor  
Hamad Al-Allayan, State Audit Bureau of Kuwait  
Metab Al-Ardi, Kuwaiti Judge

Senior Department of State officials, including the U.S. Ambassador in Kuwait, have engaged Kuwait officials on the wrongful detention of Ms. Lazareva for the past year in Kuwait. However, the Kuwaiti government has made false statements about the matter while violating international human rights, further necessitating a GMA investigation. Additionally, Louis Freeh, the former Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a former U.S. district court judge, has examined the charges against Ms. Lazareva and found them to be false. Mr. Freeh traveled to Kuwait for a March 24, 2019, hearing against the accused and witnessed abuses of recognized rights to due process and justice. The Kuwait government has failed to address these matters and the United States of America should not tolerate this behavior from a trusted ally.

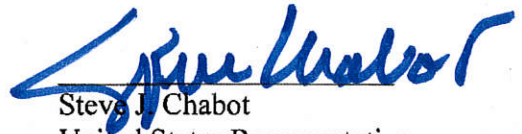
Neil Bush -- the son of the U.S. president who liberated Kuwait -- has also traveled to Kuwait on three separate occasions to discuss this situation. He was denied a meeting with Amir Sabah Ahmad al-Sabah each time.

The U.S. government needs to do everything possible to reunite Ms. Lazareva with her son so that he can return to his home in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania from his current residence in Kuwait City. We request that you initiate a GMA investigation into these officials as soon as possible and that either you or your staff brief us on that investigation's progress.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker  
United States Senator



Steve J. Chabot  
United States Representative

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