**SUBJECT: URGENT intervention to free Ravil Mingazov**

to: kaidanowTS@state.gov

Dear Ms Kaidanow:

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen who has been made aware of Ravil Mingazov’s case. He is a Russian Tartar citizen who was held unlawfully in US custody for 15 years in Bagram and Guantanamo, where he faced torture and abuse.

Despite the lengthy time he spent in Guantanamo Bay, Ravil was never charged with a crime and was never designated for trial. When he was set to be released from Guantanamo Bay, he was given the option of returning to Russia, which he refused, based on the risk of harm and persecution he would face upon returning there. He had heard about other Guantanamo Bay prisoners who returned to Russia who had been subjected to abuse and arbitrary detention. One returned prisoner had been killed extra-judicially by the Russian security services.

In 2017 Ravil was transferred to the UAE with an understanding that he would be resettled there and would be able to rebuild his life. This unfortunately did not happen. Ravil’s arbitrary detention and torture has only become more severe. He has been in solitary confinement in the UAE more than 6 years. He has been denied legal representation and has had limited contact with his family, who have seen him only once in the past 3 years. Ravil’s son, Yusuf, lives in the UK. Yusuf does not remember his father, since he was so young when his father was taken from him, and he has been able to speak with his father only on phone calls of a few minutes during Ravil's detention in the UAE.

Of the 23 former Guantanamo prisoners sent to the UAE, Ravil is the only one who remains in custody. He must be freed immediately. Many who have been freed have described the conditions in prisons in the UAE as far worse than Guantanamo. One Afghan who was detained there for 4 years said “I’ve faced many prisons, but the worst was our stay in the UAE.”

The US is responsible for the conditions Ravil is facing currently. He has suffered 6 years in breach of non-refoulement in the UAE and he faces further risk of torture and abuse if he is sent back to Russia. Insofar as Russia has been accused of war crimes in Ukraine, the notion that Ravil could be sent there with tacit approval by the US government is unconscionable.

The UN recently suggested that the treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo is a ‘crime against humanity.’ Ravil’s ongoing imprisonment is a clear continuation of that crime. I am requesting your urgent intervention in Ravil’s case as the senior representative of Guantanamo affairs overseeing detainee transfers. Please ensure that Ravil is relocated to a state where he will be free and safe and will be able to reunite with his son, who is a UK citizen and resident. I hope to hear from you regarding this request.

Yours sincerely,

**[Add Your Name]**