



**THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**  
**LE CONSEIL CANADIEN DES ÉGLISES**

8 November 2013

Honourable John Baird  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
2249 Carling Ave, Suite 418  
Ottawa, Ontario K2B 7E9

Fax: 613-993-6501

Email: [minister@international.gc.ca](mailto:minister@international.gc.ca)

**Re: Paul Ruzycki and Alexandre Paul**

Dear Minister Baird,

I am writing to you regarding the situation of Paul Ruzycki and Alexandre Paul, two Canadians detained in Russia following a peaceful protest in international waters north of Russia.

I understand that the ongoing presence of Canadian diplomats in Murmansk has been invaluable to Paul, Alexandre, and their families and I want to thank the Canadian government for acting so well and so swiftly in this regard.

As the situation is urgent, I would like to ask the following questions:

- will you make a public call for the immediate and safe release of Paul Ruzycki and Alexandre Paul?
- how are you raising this issue with your contacts in the Russian Federation?
- do you support the Dutch government's initiative regarding this matter at the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please be assured of the continued prayers for wisdom and a desire to work for justice among Canada's public servants.

Sincerely,



The Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton  
General Secretary

Cc: Paul Dewar, MP, New Democratic Party of Canada  
Marc Garneau, MP, Liberal Party of Canada  
Jean-François Fortin, MP, Bloc Québécois  
Elizabeth May, MP, Green Party of Canada