

5 November 2013

The Hon Julie Bishop MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

Piracy Charges in Russia

I write to request your action on Australian citizens arrested on the Dutch vessel Arctic Sunrise, who are detained in Russia with charges of piracy and hooliganism.

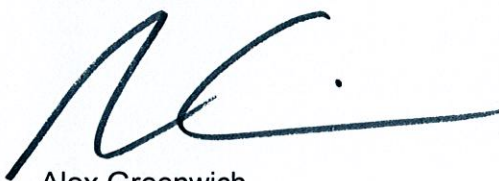
Media reports say that 30 people on board the Arctic Sunrise, including three Australians, have been detained since September 2013 for boarding a fixed oil platform to attach a small Greenpeace banner.

I understand that under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, offences require threats against another vessel or violence on a fixed platform, which does not appear to have occurred in this instance. I share community concern that these charges are extreme and do not reflect the peaceful action taken in this incident.

I ask that the Australian Government take action on this matter to protect citizens and work with the Dutch Government in its case at the International Tribunal for Law of the Sea about the legality of this detention.

Could you please inform me what action you will take to ensure the rule of law and protection of Australian citizens in this case?

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney

