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Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to express my dismay at the disbarment of lawyers **Lilya Gemedzhi, Rustem Kyamilev and Nazim Sheikmambetov**, solely for carrying out their professional duties in defence of human rights in Crimea. As you will probably be aware, members of the legal community in Crimea have faced growing reprisals in recent years and months. The disbarment of the three lawyers sends yet another chilling warning.

I am addressing you and the professional lawyers' community to show solidarity and take steps to protect its members who are carrying out their professional duties in line with international standards on the role of lawyers. I specifically urge the Russian Federal Bar Association to exercise its authority and discretion under Article 37.2 of the Federal Law "On Legal Work and Legal Profession" (63-FZ of 31 May 2002) to reverse the decision to disbar and to reinstate the 'advokat' status **of Lilya Gemedzhi, Rustem Kyamilev and Nazim Sheikmambetov**.

Yours sincerely,