

Warsaw, 22 March 2022

Ms. Teresa Sanjurjo
Director
The Princess of Asturias Foundation

Dear Director Sanjurjo,

The Union of Polish Metropolises (UMP), an influential organisation of twelve biggest cities in Poland, recommends Mariupol – a partner city of Gdańsk in south-eastern Ukraine, as a candidate for the prestigious Princess of Asturias Award in the Concord category.

Mariupol has been the target of most intense attack for three weeks now, and under military blockade by the Russian army for sixteen days. Mariupol has become a dramatic symbol of the destruction of towns and villages as well as crimes against civilians taking place all over Ukraine. This easternmost European city, as its residents like to call it, it is the object of desire for Putin forces, who strive to conquer it and gain access to Azov and Black sea from the east. More than 350 thousand residents of Mariupol continue to hide in shelters and basements from incessant shelling by Russian occupation forces. On average, fifty to one hundred air bombs are dropped on the city per day.

The American think tank, Institute for the Study of War, emphasizes that the situation of the civilian population in Mariupol is catastrophic. The city - besieged since March 2, 2022 - is plunged into a humanitarian defeat. Due to the constant missile attacks of the Russian army, it is practically impossible to move freely in its open space. Residents are deprived of access to electricity, heating, running water and food. The evacuation of civilians is also difficult, because the Russians regularly shell humanitarian corridors.

Against all odds, we must save Mariupol and its courageous residents and leaders. The Ukrainian government has already declared it a hero-city. Now the whole world needs to do the same. We believe that through wide recognition of the city's suffering, the democratic world will be able to rebuild it from the war ruins, when the atrocities finally cease. We will make Mariupol what it once was – a vibrant, open and transparent city, striving to join the family of European metropolises.



Tadeusz Truskolaski
Mayor of Białystok



Rafał Bruski
Mayor of Bydgoszcz



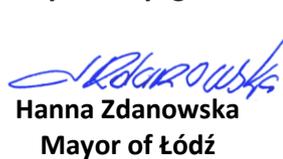
Marcin Krupa
Mayor of Katowice



Jacek Majchrowski
Mayor of Kraków



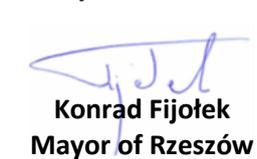
Krzysztof Żuk
Mayor of Lublin



Hanna Zdanowska
Mayor of Łódź



Jacek Jaśkowiak
Mayor of Poznań



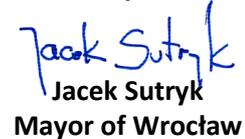
Konrad Fijołek
Mayor of Rzeszów



Piotr Krzystek
Mayor of Szczecin



Rafał Trzaskowski
Mayor of the Capital City of Warsaw



Jacek Sutryk
Mayor of Wrocław