Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 14595
28 June 2018

Political prosecutions undermine the trust in the Kazakhstani justice system

Written declaration No. 660

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

Although Kazakhstan is about to evaluate the Joint Programme "Support to the Kazakhstani authorities in improving the quality and efficiency of the Kazakhstani justice system", it isn't going to bring Kazakhstan's criminal justice framework, or its institutional practice, any closer to European and international standards.

Recent developments, mentioned in the written declarations 652 and 655, as well as the systemic use of torture in detention facilities, the lack of investigation into allegations of torture also evoke grave concern, as evidenced in cases of political prisoners, such as Maks Bokayev, Aron Atabek, and Mukhtar Dzhakishev who may die at any moment, as he is held in isolation and denied visits by international observers. The case of Iskander Yerimbetov, deprived of the right to a fair trial, or misuse of INTERPOL and politically motivated extradition request in the case of blogger Muratbek Tungishbayev also serve as illustrative examples.

We particularly regret that more than 140 participants in the peaceful protests of 10 May and 23 June 2018 have been persecuted for executing their right to peacefully demand that the political oppression and torture be stopped, and advocating for free education.

We strongly condemn such practices and call Kazakhstan to fulfill its international obligations.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

SCHMIDT Frithjof, Germany, SOC
AMON Werner, Austria, EPP/CD
ARIEV Volodymyr, Ukraine, EPP/CD
BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Rósa Björk, Iceland, UEL
COAKER Vernon, United Kingdom, SOC
CORSINI Paolo, Italy, SOC
FIALA Doris, Switzerland, ALDE
GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
JOHNSSON FORNARVE Lotta, Sweden, UEL
MAIRE Jacques, France, NR
MEHL Emilie Enger, Norway, ALDE
MURRAY Ian, United Kingdom, SOC
POCIEJ Aleksander, Poland, EPP/CD
SANDBÆK Ulla, Denmark, UEL
SCHÄFER Axel, Germany, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
SOTNYK Olena, Ukraine, ALDE
SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
THIÉRY Damien, Belgium, ALDE
WHITFIELD Martin, United Kingdom, SOC

Total = 22

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group