



**Doc. 14820**

24 January 2019

## **Assistance funds for the judiciary in Kazakhstan: need for an audit**

### **Written declaration No. 670**

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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.

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The law enforcement and justice system in Kazakhstan remains a tool to suppress dissent, despite the country's authorities vigorous efforts to whitewash its image. Written declaration No. 663 called for the suspension of international assistance funds for Kazakhstan allocated to improve the state of its judiciary.

Since then, many politically persecuted persons have been imprisoned up to eight years: Ablovas Dzhumayev, Aset Abishev, Almat Zhumagulov, Kezhenbek Abishev, Iskander Yerimbetov, Dmitrii Pestov and Vasillina Sokolenko. Activist Aigul Akberdieva, mother of four minor children, faces the risk to be sentenced up to 10 years for a civic protest.

Kazakhstan has submitted its candidature to the United Nations Human Rights Council while completely ignoring 19 recommendations, in particular Mukhtar Dzhakishev, Maks Bokayev and Iskander Yerimbetov who were subjected to torture, ill-treatment, and denied medical care. We demand their full implementation and the release of all political prisoners.

In the light of a significant gap between official declarations and reports confronted with the actual situation, the Council of Europe and the European Union must initiate an audit of the funds granted to Kazakhstan within the framework of their support and development programmes. Ratification of international conventions on mutual legal assistance, extradition and others related with Kazakhstan, must be withheld.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC  
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD  
ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thorhildur Sunna, Iceland, SOC  
BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Rósa Björk, Iceland, UEL  
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC  
GATTOLIN André, France, NR  
KELLY Alan, Ireland, SOC  
NENUTIL Miroslav, Czech Republic, SOC  
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD  
OVERBEEK Henk, Netherlands, UEL  
ÖZSOY Hişyar, Turkey, UEL  
PRINGLE Thomas, Ireland, UEL  
RUSSELL Simon, United Kingdom, EC  
SANDBÆK Ulla, Denmark, UEL  
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC  
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC  
SHARMA Virendra, United Kingdom, SOC  
SHEPPARD Tommy, United Kingdom, NR  
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC  
SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC  
VALENTA Jiří, Czech Republic, UEL  
VEN Mart, van de, Netherlands, ALDE

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Total = 22

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EC: European Conservatives Group  
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