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27 June 2019

Co-operation with Kazakhstan must be reconsidered in response to its rigged presidential election and mass arrests

Written declaration No. 682

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.

We, the undersigned, declare the following:

Since May 2019, peaceful anti-government protests in Kazakhstan were followed by mass arrests of protesters. Human rights defenders Zhanbota Alzhanova, Dana Zhanay, Alimzhan Izbassarov, Daniyar Khassenov, Maxat Mukarov and other signatories of the open letter to the European Council President, Donald Tusk, have been persecuted.

As admitted by the authorities, at least 4 000 protesters were detained during protests against the undemocratic presidential election in Kazakhstan. Numerous protesters, as documented in video footages, were severely beaten by the police. Some of them face extremism charges, including mothers of minor children: Oksana Shevchuk, Zhazira Demeuova, Gulzipa Dzhauckerova, Akmaral Kerimbayeva and Gulmira Kalykova, who remain under house arrest.

Activist Serik Zhakhin was arrested for dissemination of materials related to the peaceful movement Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan. As noted by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the election was unfair and marred by violations of fundamental freedoms. The United Nations Special Rapporteur, Ní Aoláin, expressed her concern over numerous Internet blockages in Kazakhstan.

Given the aforementioned circumstances, we call for the implementation of the recommendations of the written declaration no. 675. We urge to impose personal sanctions upon those accountable for the aforementioned human rights violations and electoral fraud in the country.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC
BARDELL Hannah, United Kingdom, NR
BENKŐ Erika, Romania, EPP/CD
BROUWERS Karin, Belgium, EPP/CD
BRUIJN-WEZEMAN Reina, de, Netherlands, ALDE
BUCCARELLA Maurizio, Italy, NR
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
COZMANCIUC Corneliu Mugurel, Romania, EPP/CD
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC
GATTI Marco, San Marino, EPP/CD
GATTOLIN André, France, ALDE
GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL
GONÇALVES Carlos Alberto, Portugal, EPP/CD
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
KORODI Attila, Romania, EPP/CD
KROSS Eerik-Niiles, Estonia, ALDE
LEITE RAMOS Luís, Portugal, EPP/CD
MAIRE Jacques, France, ALDE
MASSEY Doreen, United Kingdom, SOC
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
POLIAČIK Martin, Slovak Republic, ALDE
POPSOI Mihail, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
REIZNIECE-OZOLA Dana, Latvia, EPP/CD
SANDBÆK Ulla, Denmark, UEL
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
SHEPPARD Tommy, United Kingdom, NR
TAMM Raivo, Estonia, EPP/CD
THIÉRY Damien, Belgium, ALDE
TOUHIG Don, United Kingdom, SOC
VICKERS Martin, United Kingdom, EC
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 32

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