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"Magnitsky laws" sanctions must be imposed in response to political prosecution in Kazakhstan

Written declaration No. 675

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:

In Kazakhstan, the systemic prosecution of peaceful protesters, including those objecting the renaming of the country's capital and nomination of the acting president, has recently escalated. Since March 2018, when Kazakh authorities banned the opposition movement Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan (DCK), more than 700 protesters, including children, were subjected to arbitrary detention.

Almat Zhumagulov, Kenzhebek Abishev, Aset Abishev, Ablovas Dzhumayev have already been sentenced to long prison terms. The members of the human rights monitoring mission of the Italian Federation for Human Rights were illegally expelled from Kazakhstan after trying to meet a former judge dismissed from office after acquitting an opposition activist, Aigul Akberdieva.

Journalists Saniya Toiken and Svetlana Glushkova covering the protests were detained and prosecuted. A human rights defender, Serikzhan Bilash, has been kept in custody and was, presumably, tortured to testify against the DCK leader, Mukhtar Ablyazov (whom he never met). Notwithstanding the efforts of the international community, 19 of 26 United Nations opinions and appeals, including those concerning the cases of political prisoners Mukhtar Dzhakishev, Iskander Yerimbetov and Max Bokayev, remain completely ignored by the authorities.

We support the recent European Parliament resolution on human rights in Kazakhstan and call for an application of "Magnitsky laws" against those accountable for the aforementioned human rights violations in the country.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

GATTOLIN André, France, NR
ARIEV Volodymyr, Ukraine, EPP/CD
BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Rósa Björk, Iceland, UEL
BUCCARELLA Maurizio, Italy, NR
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC
GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL
GENTVILAS Simonas, Lithuania, ALDE
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
IONOVA Mariia, Ukraine, EPP/CD
KLICH Bogdan, Poland, EPP/CD
MAIRE Jacques, France, NR
POMASKA Agnieszka, Poland, EPP/CD
PRINGLE Thomas, Ireland, UEL
PSYCHOGIOS Georgios, Greece, UEL
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC
RIZZOTTI Maria, Italy, EPP/CD
RÖSSNER Tabea, Germany, SOC
SANDBÆK Ulla, Denmark, UEL
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
SOTNYK Olena, Ukraine, ALDE
SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
VOGT Ute, Germany, SOC
WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, EC

Total = 25

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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