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## **“Magnitsky laws” sanctions must be imposed in response to political prosecution in Kazakhstan**

**Written declaration No. 675**

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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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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 Dzhakishiev, 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*<sup>1</sup>:

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

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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