



**Doc. 15062**

31 January 2020

## **Persecution of civil society in Kazakhstan: personal sanctions must be imposed and trade co-operation reviewed**

**Written declaration No. 706**

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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:

Since November 2019, around 200 people were arbitrarily detained for participating in peaceful protests to release political prisoners, stop political prosecution and commemorate the victims of the Zhanaozen tragedy. On 16 December 2019, excessive use of force by police caused injuries to many activists (including Nuriyash Abdreimova, Anna Shukeyeva and Azamat Baikenov).

Following the written declarations Nos. 695 and 682, we learned that the number of political prisoners has been increased with several activists: Yerzhan Yelshibayev, Kairly Omar and Zhambul Kobeisnov, a trade union leader Yerlan Baltabay, and journalist Amangeldy Batyrbekov, while criminal proceedings against Dulat Agadil, Aliya Abulkhairova and Aigul Akberdy are still ongoing.

We share the concern of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe over the harassment and persecution of Botagoz Jardemalie, a human rights lawyer and political refugee residing in Belgium. We find the practice of abusing INTERPOL, extradition and mutual legal assistance instruments to silence Jardemalie and Zhanara Akhmetova, one of the exiled leaders of the Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan opposition movement, unacceptable.

We call for the immediate release of all political prisoners, we urge to review trade co-operation with Kazakhstan and impose personal sanctions against officials responsible for human rights violations and abuse of international co-operation instruments.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



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

RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC  
ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thorhildur Sunna, Iceland, SOC  
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC  
BEN CHIKHA Fourat, Belgium, SOC  
BRUIJN-WEZEMAN Reina, de, Netherlands, ALDE  
BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Rósa Björk, Iceland, UEL  
BUCCARELLA Maurizio, Italy, NR  
EIDE Petter, Norway, UEL  
FASSINO Piero, Italy, SOC  
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC  
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC  
KAMELCHUK Yuriy, Ukraine, EPP/CD  
KAMOWSKI Catherine, France, ALDE  
KRAVCHUK Yevheniia, Ukraine, ALDE  
MANIERO Alvis, Italy, NR  
MARILOTTI Gianni, Italy, NR  
MASSEY Doreen, United Kingdom, SOC  
MEHL Emilie Enger, Norway, ALDE  
MORGANTI Giuseppe Maria, San Marino, SOC  
NOWACKA Barbara, Poland, NR  
PIPILI Foteini, Greece, EPP/CD  
POPSOI Mihail, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD  
RUSSELL Simon, United Kingdom, EC/DA  
SCHÄFER Axel, Germany, SOC  
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC  
SHEPPARD Tommy, United Kingdom, NR  
VOVC Liviu, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD  
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

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Total = 28

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