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02 October 2024

Hold Kazakhstan accountable for its transnational and domestic repression

Written declaration No. 800

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:

We express grave concerns over the assassination of opposition journalist and political refugee Aidos Sadykov in June 2024 in Kyiv, following his consistent revelations on Kazakhstani authorities' assistance to the Russian Federation in circumventing Western sanctions. This political assassination was carried out by two Kazakhstani nationals, suspected to be special service agents.

Kazakhstan targets individuals who expose its involvement in mass political repression, torture, and its role as a "backdoor" for the Russian Federation to increase imports of dual-use goods from Western countries. We call on Kazakhstan to cease abusing international co-operation mechanisms aimed at combating cybercrime, money laundering, and terrorism financing, as well as its transnational repression against human rights defenders Lyudmyla Kozlovska, Bota Jardemalie, Daniyar Khassenov, and Barlyk Mendygazyev; activists of the opposition movement "Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan" and its leader Mukhtar Ablyazov in Western countries.

Kazakhstan must stop abusing the banking system for political repression purposes and immediately release political prisoners, including opposition leader Marat Zhylanbayev, torture victims Timur Danebayev, Akylzhan Kiysymbayev, and Kazybek Kudaibergenov; political hostage Bekizhan Mendygazyev; activists Kairat Klyshev, Aydar Syzdykov, Asylbek Zhamuratov, Aigerim Tleuzhan, and Shaden Karibayev; and journalist Duman Mukhametkarim.

Kazakhstan must be held fully accountable for its transnational and domestic repressions.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thórhildur Sunna, Iceland, SOC
ARENT Iwona, Poland, EC/DA
BOVENS Theo, Netherlands, EPP/CD
BULAI Iulian, Romania, ALDE
EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC
GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
IKIĆ BANIČEK Kristina, Croatia, SOC
KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA Bisera, North Macedonia, SOC
MARIE Didier, France, SOC
NOWICKA Wanda, Poland, SOC
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD
PAPANDREOU George, Greece, SOC
PETRY Christian, Germany, SOC
PISCO Paulo, Portugal, SOC
QOKU Bekim, North Macedonia, NR
RAČAN Ivan, Croatia, NR
RUBBESTAD Michael, Sweden, EC/DA
SCHÄFER Axel, Germany, SOC
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
STEGRUD Jessica, Sweden, EC/DA
TIBLOM Victoria, Sweden, EC/DA
WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, EC/DA

Total = 25

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