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11 October 2017

Kazakhstan: political oppression, injustice and torture must be stopped

Written declaration No. 638

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.

Kazakhstani authorities have used a regular practice of fabrication of criminal cases, for example the pretence of financial crimes, terrorism or social discord against peaceful protesters, bloggers, journalists, oppositionists and their associates mentioned in the written declaration No. 630. A threat to be prosecuted both in Kazakhstan and abroad is used even against their family members as a form of punishment like in the case of the Khrapunovs or in the case of the Tokmadis, in order to obtain false confessions against the opposition.

No justification can be found for the use of torture and lack of medical aid as means of pressure on political prisoners Mukhtar Dzhakishev and Muratkhan Tokmadi. They are being held as hostages by Nazarbayev's regime as they refused to give testimonies against an opposition politician Mukhtar Ablyazov.

The UN Human Rights Committee demanded that the judgment of the Kazakhstani authorities be revoked and Dzhakishev be released from prison. Still, Kazakhstan refused to comply with the decision of the UN Committee, thus once again showing disrespect for its international obligations.

We hereby demand that Kazakhstani authorities full comply with their obligations to respect human rights, stop torture and oppression.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC
BUSTINDUY Pablo, Spain, UEL
D'AMBROSIO Vanessa, San Marino, SOC
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC
GALATI Giuseppe, Italy, EPP/CD
GATTI Marco, San Marino, EPP/CD
GRIN Jean-Pierre, Switzerland, ALDE
GROTH Annette, Germany, UEL
HANŽEK Matjaž, Slovenia, UEL
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
HIGGINS Alice-Mary, Ireland, SOC
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
JOHNSON FORNARVE Lotta, Sweden, UEL
KROSS Eerik-Niiles, Estonia, ALDE
KÜRKÇÜ Ertuğrul, Turkey, UEL
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
MASSEY Doreen, United Kingdom, SOC
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
ORELLANA Luis Alberto, Italy, SOC
PREDA Cezar Florin, Romania, EPP/CD
SANDBÆK Ulla, Denmark, UEL
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
VEN Mart, van de, Netherlands, ALDE
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC
ZAVOLI Roger, San Marino, FDG

Total = 26

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
FDG: Free Democrats Group
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left