Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Kazakhstan has to fully comply with its commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Written declaration No. 652

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.

Resolution 2193 (2017) on the relations of the Council of Europe with Kazakhstan stated that the United Nations Human Rights Committee, in its second periodic report, identified a number of matters of concern, especially with regard to torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, independence of the judiciary and the right to a fair trial. The call to stop political prosecution and tortures was raised in Written Declaration No. 638.

We regret to know that, since that time, the number of political prisoners has only grown. Currently, there are at least 35 cases of politically motivated prosecution in Kazakhstan. Talgat Ayan, Max Bokayev, Mukhtar Dzhakishev, Iskander Yerimbetov, Aron Atabek fell victims of lack of proper medical care. They need urgent hospitalisation but are subject to ill treatment and severe tortures instead.

We are particulary concerned by the case of lawyer Botagoz Jardemalie, granted political asylum in Belgium and persecuted by the Kazakhstani authorities which hold Iskander Yerimbetov, her brother, in custody and torture him in order to force her to give false testimony against the opposition politician Mukhtar Ablyazov.

We hereby call Kazakhstan to fully comply with its commitments under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
AEG Raivo, Estonia, EPP/CD
AMON Werner, Austria, EPP/CD
BRUYN Piet, De, Belgium, NR
CEPEDA José, Spain, SOC
CORSINI Paolo, Italy, SOC
CREASY Stella, United Kingdom, SOC
JONES Susan Elan, United Kingdom, SOC
JURATOVIC Josip, Germany, SOC
KARLSSON Niklas, Sweden, SOC
KRONBICHLER Florian, Italy, SOC
MENDES Ana Catarina, Portugal, SOC
O'REILLY Joseph, Ireland, EPP/CD
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
OVERBEEK Henk, Netherlands, UEL
ROJHAN GUSTAFSSON Azadeh, Sweden, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
SHARMA Virendra, United Kingdom, SOC
SHEPPARD Tommy, United Kingdom, NR
THIÉRY Damien, Belgium, ALDE
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
VEN Mart, van de, Netherlands, ALDE

Total = 24

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
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