

October 2, 2013
HDM OSCE in Warsaw

Working session 15: Rule of law II, including:

- Exchange of views on the question of abolition of capital punishment;
- Prevention of torture;
- Protection of human rights and fighting terrorism

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen,

I will remind you that my name is Maria Paraskevich, I represent my family and, in particular, my mother, Tatiana Paraskevich, who has been remanded in custody in the Czech Republic for 1.5 years, and has been the subject of extradition requests, prompted by Kazakh authorities, filed by Ukrainian and Russian special services. In continuation of my speech at the previous session, in the presence of diplomatic missions and human rights defenders, I would like to make a public statement: if, in the case of my return to Russia after the speeches here on the OSCE forum as well as in other international institutions, anything happens to me or my family members, Russian and Kazakh authorities should be considered responsible. Let me remind you that during searches, investigator Nikolay Budilo threatened me with kidnapping and imprisonment in the event that my mom refuses to testify against the Kazakh opposition politician Mukhtar Ablyazov. I would like to emphasise that every member of our family was threatened and, thus far, we have given no evidence against Ablyazov or other people from his circles.

If you become aware that, after my return to Russia, I have sign any papers against Mukhtar Ablyazov and my mother, I publicly declare that they will be made against my will and, possibly, as a result of torture.

I have to return to Russia, as my family live there and I am a full-time student of a university there. However, I fear for my life. There are numerous reports on the use of torture and cooperation of Russian and Kazakh intelligence services, and so, I hereby appeal to all the OSCE diplomatic missions to stand in our defence and to monitor closely the developments in the case of my mother's extradition. Dear representatives of the OSCE diplomatic missions, human rights defenders, I do not know how else and who else I should address in order to protect our family, even if only to a limited extent. We would be grateful for any support and assistance on your part.

Thank you for your attention.