

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I totally support our colleague from Amnesty International in her view on the aforementioned cases of the threat of extradition of representatives of the Kazakh opposition and their associates from the Czech Republic, Spain and France to Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine, where they may be subsequently subjected to torture and inhumane treatment.

I would like to remind you that our foundation is engaged in monitoring the observance of human rights, freedom of speech, fair elections and trials in countries such as Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Russia, with a focus on the situation in Kazakhstan.

Unfortunately, our numerous attempts to establish a dialogue between representatives of civil society and the authorities of Kazakhstan, discussions on the results of joint observation missions with various parliaments and NGOs, in particular, on the practice of torture exerted on those accused in the case of the Zhanaozen tragedy, ended in silence or the presenting accusations against our organisation and our partners by representatives of Kazakhstan.

I would like to remind you that the Zhanaozen strike movement activist, Roza Tuletaeva who was subjected to torture, specifically: suffocation with a plastic bag, hanging by her hair to the ceiling, physical and sexual violence, threats of the gang raping of her minor children in the event that she refused to cooperate with investigators, is currently in a critical condition and in need of urgent surgery. Just several days ago, Roza's father died and we fear that she will not be given the opportunity to say goodbye to her close relative.

For more than a year, Kazakh authorities have not allowed international observers, including MPs of various European parliaments, to meet with Roza and other political prisoners, in particular, Vladimir Kozlov and Vadim Kuramshin in their place of imprisonment, in order to verify their health condition.

We call on the OSCE diplomatic missions demand that Kazakhstan allows meetings with political prisoners in their places of detention, especially with Roza Tuletayeva, Tanatar Kaliyev, other oil workers, and Zinaida Mukhortova who has been remanded in the psychiatric hospital, and urge the authorities of Kazakhstan to release these people.

I would like to remind you that Kazakhstan has employed a policy of eliminating witnesses of torture, as was the case with the unsolved murder of an orphan Aleksander Bozhenko, who died after publicly testifying that he had been forced to defame participants of the strike movement under torture, particularly, he received numerous strikes to his kidneys and had cold water poured on him, when being held outside at a temperature of minus 20 degrees Celsius.

We would like to draw the attention of the OSCE diplomatic missions to the fact that the extradition of opposition representatives and their associates to Kazakhstan with the use of Interpol mechanisms may result in their torture, and, in Pavlov's case, even death, as

their accusations are politically motivated; typically, they are charged with attempts to overthrow the government, financial fraud, or, as in the case of Alexandr Pavlov:terrorism.

Yesterday, Pavlov, who had ensured the safety of independent journalists and the opposition politician, Ablyazov in the past, communicates his public statement through his lawyer to us, in which he declared that in the event of his extradition or deportation to Kazakhstan, any testimonies received or delivered on his behalf against Ablyazov, journalists, or civil society activists will be the result of torture and threats against his family members living in Kazakhstan. Lest we forget that last year, 34 independent mass media outlets in Kazakhstan were recognised as extremist and banned for the coverage of the events in Zhanaozen.

We hereby urge the government of Spain not to render Pavlov to Kazakhstan under any circumstances, and provide him with the opportunity to face a fair trial in Europe.

We are extremely concerned with the fact that Kazakhstan is detaining Ablyazov's family as political hostages, and we therefore call on the OSCE to work out recommendations in order to prevent the possibility of future use of the mechanisms of cooperation of intelligence services and Interpol for the purpose of politically motivated prosecution.

Thank you.

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