

International Society for Krishna Consciousness

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Madame Moderator

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Kazakhstan government has destroyed 26 homes belonging to families of the Krishna Society. Their properties were confiscated, they were given no compensation, and their land plots have been resold.

The government also confiscated the one hundred and sixteen acre registered farm property of the Krishna society. This is where the only Krishna Temple in Kazakhstan exists.

The pretense for the confiscation was forgery. Till today there has never been a court hearing or a written decision that forgery took place.

The government has offered small plots as compensation for the 116 acres. This has included a garbage dump and other unusable land.

The most recent offer is a barren plot, which is situated one kilometer from the land that the Krishna Society has occupied, and invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in development, for the past ten years.

This September the Krishna Society again appealed to the Kazakhstan government to resolve the issue by allowing the society to remain on 30 acres of the original 116 acres.

There has been no response from the government.

The media attacks and demolitions have stopped. But there is no resolve to the land issue.

We would request OSCE to remind Kazakhstan of this issue with the hopes of a fair and positive resolve.

In closing I would like to say that it has always been an honor visiting the warm people of the Republic of Kazakhstan. However, this last January I was barred entry to the nation and deported.

The National Religious Committee worked very diligently to resolve this issue and after one month I was again invited to Kazakhstan. We are very thankful to the Committee for their efforts in this regard.

Thank you