



Brussels, 01 April, 2015

Mme Christiane Taubira
Minister of Justice of the Republic of France
Ministère de la Justice
13, Place Vendôme
75042 Paris Cedex 01

Appeal
To Christiane Taubira
Minister of Justice of the Republic of France

We are addressing you in our capacity as Members of the European Parliament.

We are writing to you today in order to express our high concern over the case of a Kazakh dissident, Mr Mukhtar Ablyazov, who has been in detention in France for over a year and a half now and risks being extradited to Russia or Ukraine.

To our best knowledge, in early March 2015, the Cassation Court of France confirmed the decision of a lower-instance court in Lyon, which approved the extradition of Mr Ablyazov to both of the above-mentioned countries. The decision of the Cassation Court ended the judiciary procedure and the final call is now a political one.

That is why we are addressing you, Mme Minister of Justice, in order to underline that a positive decision to extradite Mr Ablyazov, one of the most vocal opponents of the current Kazakh president, Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, to Russia – Kazakhstan's long-term political ally, or Ukraine – currently struggling to engage in extremely difficult structural reforms to fight the systemic corruption, including in the justice system, would be equal to sending Mr Ablyazov directly to Kazakhstan. Such risk seems even higher given information that has been published by some media, clearly indicating Kazakhstan's involvement in the preparation of the extradition requests sent to France both by Russia and Ukraine.



As underlined by the European Parliament's resolutions over the last years, the situation of respect of basic human rights and freedoms in Kazakhstan has significantly deteriorated following the tragic events in Zhanaozen, in December 2011. Furthermore, Mr Ablyazov has already been subjected to ill treatment when imprisoned previously in Kazakhstan. Taking all the above into account, Mr Ablyazov clearly cannot count on a fair and independent trial neither in Russia or Ukraine, nor in Kazakhstan.

We, therefore, kindly call on you to consider the political nature of the case, as well as the high risks that the extradition would carry for the life and health of the detained, before making the final decision.

Yours Sincerely,

Tunne Kelam, Estonia, MEP
Michal Boni, Poland, MEP
Pavel Svoboda, Czech Republic, MEP
Tomáš Zdechovský, Czech Republic, MEP

CC:

Manuel Valls, Prime Minister of the Republic of France
Laurent Fabius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of France