



Member of the European Parliament

Strasbourg, 13 January 2015

**Sr. José Manuel García-Margallo**  
**Ministro de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación de España**

**Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación**  
**Sede Palacio de Santa Cruz**  
**Plaza de la Provincia, 1**  
**28012 Madrid**  
**Spain**

*Dear Mr Minister,*

We are addressing you as Members of the European Parliament's Group of the European People's Party to draw your attention to the case of Mr Muratbek Ketebayev, Kazakh dissident and one of the leaders of banned and unregistered opposition party Alga!, who was detained in Madrid, Spain on 27 December, 2014.

We would, therefore, like to express our deep concern over the recent arrest of Mr Ketebayev in Spain. As per our knowledge, Mr Ketebayev's arrest has been based on the request issued to INTERPOL by the Kazakh regional court in Aktau. It seems that the allegations brought forward against the Kazakh dissident and oppositionist are basically identical to those that Kazakhstan used to provoke Mr Ketebayev's detention in Poland in 2013. Back then, the Polish court recognised the clear political background of his persecution and freed him. In December 2013, Poland granted Mr Ketebayev with a refugee status.

Mr Ketebayev as a person involved in denouncing the basic human and civil rights violations in Kazakhstan, has been a frequent guest in the European Parliament, including specifically the hearing of the Subcommittee on Human Rights on 25 April, 2012.

The accusations brought by Kazakhstan against him are of clearly political nature and serve as a continuation of the Kazakhstani regime's widespread campaign of discrediting and destroying the political opposition after the tragic events in Zhanaozen in 2011. The European Parliament raised these issues in its resolutions from March 2012 and April 2013.

We would like also to note that Christian Democrat governments, and particularly Spain as one of the EU member states should keep to the position in defending individuals at risk of oppression and, therefore, should respect its international legal obligations, including the 1951 Refugee Convention, as well as the Convention Against Torture which directly instructs not to enforce extraditions to states where tortures occur.



Member of the European Parliament

We, therefore, call on you to recognize the politically motivated nature of the allegations against Mr Ketebayev and to respect his refugee status in one of the EU member states.

We, as representatives of Christian Democrat parties have the duty to protect those who, whilst being in democratic opposition to an authoritarian regime, face persecution at home and abroad due to their political and civil activities. The INTERPOL and judiciaries systems of the European states cannot serve as a tool of political persecution for non-democratic countries.

*Sincerely yours,*

  
Bogdan Wenta

  
Joachim Zeller

  
Davor Stier

  
Michał Boni

CC:

**Audiencia Nacional. Juzgado Central de Instrucción nº 4  
C/ Prim, 12  
28004 Madrid  
Spain**

**Sr. Rafael Catalá  
Ministro de Justicia de España  
Ministerio de Justicia  
Calle San Bernardo, 45,  
28071 Madrid  
Spain**

**Sr. Jorge Fernández Díaz  
Ministro del Interior  
Ministerio del Interior  
Paseo de la Castellana, 5  
Madrid  
Spain**