

Sr. Rafael Catalá
Ministro de Justicia

Ministerio de Justicia
Calle San Bernardo, 45
28071 Madrid
España

Strasbourg, 14 January 2015

Dear Mr. Minister,

As Members of the European Parliament, we would like to express our deep concern over the case of Mr Muratbek Ketebayev, Kazakh dissident and one of the most active members of the Kazakh opposition, whom we had a chance to meet on numerous occasions, most recently – some of us - at the beginning of December 2014 in the European Parliament, in Brussels.

According to the information we received from human rights organisations, Mr Ketebayev, a person involved in denouncing basic human rights violations in Kazakhstan, was arrested in Madrid on Saturday 27 December, 2014.

Mr Ketebayev's arrest has been based on the request issued to INTERPOL by the regional court in Aktau, Kazakhstan. The allegations against Mr Ketebayev have a politically motivated nature and are basically the same from which he was absolved in Poland in December 2013, where he was granted a refugee status. Mr Ketebayev, as one of the most vocal political opponents of the Kazakh regime, has been facing constant political persecution, which has intensified due to his advocacy campaign in Brussels, Madrid and other European capitals in the last months. The case of Mr Ketebayev, as a part of a general campaign of harassment against political opposition in Kazakhstan, serves as another worrying example of misuse of the INTERPOL and judiciary systems of the European states by non-democratic countries, such as Kazakhstan.

We would therefore request your utmost attention to this case, in the hope that the Spanish judicial authorities will decide for the unconditional release of Mr Ketebayev and thereby respect his refugee status granted by Poland in accordance to the Geneva Convention on Refugees from 1951 and its Protocol from 1967, to which Spain is signatory since 1978, and which stipulates the non-refoulement rule. In no circumstance should Mr. Ketebayev be sent back to Kazakhstan.

Thank you very much for your interest.

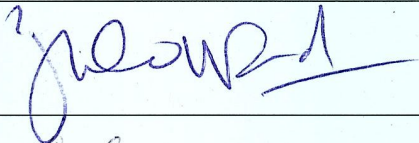
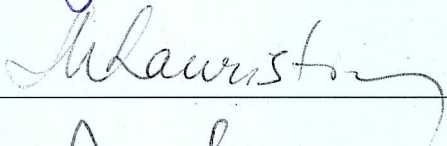
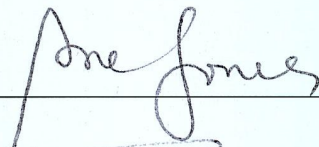

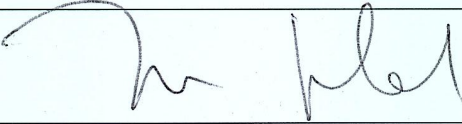

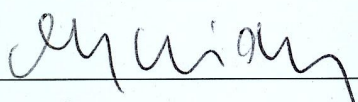
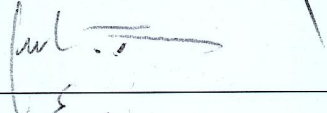
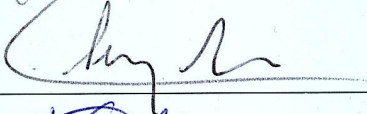



Sincerely yours,

CC:

Audiencia Nacional. Juzgado Central de Instrucción nº 4
C/ Prim, 12,

28004 Madrid

Spain

	JULIE WARD
	MARJA LAURISTIN
	ANA GOMES
	AFZAL KHAN
	JÖRG LEICHTFRIED
	BRANDO BENIFEI
	JOSY WEIDENHOLZER
	JUAN PIZARRO
	ELENO VARELA
	KATI PIRI
	TONINO PICULA
	LEONTYNE TYBACEA