

Brussels, 25 May 2015

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

Dear Minister of Justice,

I am addressing you as a Member of the European Parliament and as a Member of the European Parliament's Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan, EU-Kyrgyzstan, EU-Tajikistan and EU-Uzbekistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committees in order to draw your attention to and express my concern over the case of Mr Mukhtar Ablyazov, Kazakh opposition politician who fled the country, following a large-scale repression campaign against him and direct threats to him and his family. He was detained in France in 2013, due to the politically motivated requests sent to INTERPOL by Russia and Ukraine, in cooperation with Kazakhstan. Mr Ablyazov's extradition was approved by the Court of Appeal in Lyon in October 2014. The French Supreme Court maintained this decision in its ruling earlier this year. It is now up to the French Cabinet of Ministers to take the final decision on Mr Ablyazov's extradition.

I would, therefore, like to express my deep concern over the high risks for health and even life of Mr Ablyazov, should the extradition take place. As per my knowledge and according to the information received from non-governmental organizations engaged in human rights defense and protection, Mr Ablyazov's case is a clear example of political persecution by the cooperating Kazakh, Russian and Ukrainian law enforcement authorities. The extradition of Mr Ablyazov to Russia or Ukraine will clearly mean his further return to Kazakhstan, country heavily criticized by the UN Committee Against Torture for the use of torture and other ill treatment against political opposition, civil society and independent journalists.

The accusations brought against Mr Ablyazov are also of clearly political nature and serve as a continuation of the Kazakhstani regime's widespread campaign of discrediting and destroying the political opposition and independent media after the tragic events in Zhanaozen in 2011. At the same time, regardless of the accusations brought against Mr Ablyazov, I believe he should be protected from the serious risk of torture and other types of ill treatment he would face if sent to Russia or Ukraine, from where he would most probably be subsequently sent to Kazakhstan.

Mr Prime Minister, I call on you to recognize the politically motivated nature of the allegations against Mr Ablyazov, and ask you to not allow extraditing him to states where a fair trial cannot be assured and tortures occur daily.

Sincerely yours,



Mady Delvaux-Stehres | Member of the European Parliament, S&D  
Committee on Legal Affairs, Vice-Chair  
Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs  
Brussels - ASP 15G115 | 0032 2 28 45136  
Strasbourg - LW T07085 | 0033 3 88 1 75136