

**Mr François Hollande,
President of the Republic of France**

Palais de l'Elysée
55, rue du faubourg Saint-Honoré
75008 Paris

Rome, 1 December 2014

Dear Mr President,

As a member of the Italian senate, I would like to express my deep concern over the information I received from international human rights NGOs, regarding the case of Mr Mukhtar Ablyazov, member of Kazakh political opposition, who was arrested and is currently detained in France. He is awaiting decision on his extradition to Russia or Ukraine. Kazakhstan, his home country, is pursuing different paths to have him extradited to one of the two countries and, subsequently, possibly transferred to Kazakhstan.

Mr Ablyazov, as a critic of the Kazakh president Mr Nursultan Nazarbayev, has been a victim of the politically motivated misuse of the INTERPOL's red notices. Mr Ablyazov's family members and ex-colleagues face similar persecution. I personally have been following the case of Mr Ablyazov's wife, Alma Shalabayeva, which saw Italy directly involved, as well as the case of his ex-bodyguard, Alexandr Pavlov in Spain and his ex-colleague, Tatiana Paraskevich in the Czech Republic.

The wife of Mr Ablyazov, Mrs Alma Shalabayeva, currently lives in Italy, where she has received political asylum. Last year, she was detained in Italy, following the abuse of Interpol communication system, and illegally deported to Kazakhstan in a shocking three-day procedure. The role of the Kazakh ambassador, who tried to exert pressure on the Italian authorities to obtain the deportation is quite clear.

On the other hand, the illegal collaboration between the Kazakh authorities and the Russian and Ukrainian investigative bodies transpired clearly from the case of Mrs Tatiana Paraskevich, currently under special additional protection in the Czech Republic.

Taking into account all of these facts, as well as our own, Italian experience given to the case of Alma Shalabayeva, I urge you, especially in the view of your upcoming visit to Kazakhstan, to stay faithful to the high standards of respect for basic human rights that France has always defended fiercely.

Sincerely yours,
