



ORDRE DES  
AVOCATS  
DE PARIS

*Le bâtonnier*

Département des  
Relations Internationales  
Téléphone : 01 44 32 49 43  
Télécopie : 01 44 32 49 27  
[ascoulliac@avocatparis.org](mailto:ascoulliac@avocatparis.org)

President Nursultan Nazarbayev,  
Office of the President,  
Akorda Building,  
Left Bank of the Ishim River,  
010000,  
Astana,  
Kazakhstan

Copy :

Deputy Head, State Institution  
'Neuropsychiatric  
Clinic', Balkhash  
Email: [gpd2008@mail.ru](mailto:gpd2008@mail.ru)

Ministry of Health of the Republic  
of Kazakhstan  
Email: [minzdrav@mz.gov.kz](mailto:minzdrav@mz.gov.kz)

Paris, September 11, 2013,

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing you on behalf of the Paris Bar association representing more than 24 500 members, to express you my deep concerns about the case of Ms Zinaida Mukhortova who has been forcibly admitted to a psychiatric hospital.

On 9 August 2013, four police officers, one doctor, two nurses and two medical staffers broke the door of the apartment of Ms Zinaida Mukhortova and forced her into an ambulance, which brought her to the psychiatric hospital of Balkhash.

Zinaida Mukhortova is a lawyer with more than 10 years' legal practice. She became engaged in advocacy and human rights activism in 1995. She has also provided the local population with free legal consultations and has denounced cases of corruption and interference of political interests in the judiciary.

According to the information that I received, the forced psychiatric treatment of Zinaida Mukhortova might be in retaliation for her human rights activism.

In view of the above, I respectfully urge you to verify the necessity of her forced psychiatric treatment and if she does not present any danger for her or the others to cease her hospitalisation. I kindly ask you to take all the necessary measures to guarantee her physical and psychological integrity while she is in psychiatric hospital and to guarantee in all circumstances that all human rights lawyers in Kazakhstan are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisals.

Yours sincerely,



Christiane Féral-Schuhl