


Written declaration


Mukhtar Ablyazov, Kazakh political oppositionist, is in detention in France and faces possible extradition to Russia or Ukraine. His colleagues and relatives also face similar threat in other European countries. The court in Aix-en-Provence approved Ablyazov's extradition to both Russia and Ukraine in a procedure that was later nullified in the appeal, due to procedural irregularities. The French Supreme Court sent the case to be reviewed by the court in Lyon.

Ukraine's involvement in the case is a clear legacy ^{the new} of the Yanukovich regime, which collaborated closely with Russia and Kazakhstan. Ukrainian authorities should now clearly distance themselves from the activities of the previous authorities, which were in breach of human rights standards of the Council of Europe, and ensure that they do not follow the path of the politically motivated misuse of Interpol, aimed at persecuting the opposition activists.


We also call on the European states, in particular France, Spain, Czech Republic not to extradite Mukhtar Ablyazov and his colleagues and relatives to Russia, Ukraine or Kazakhstan.


Signed by:

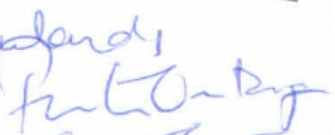
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