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**Tomáš ZDECHOVSKÝ**

Poslanec Evropského parlamentu / Member of the European Parliament

Brussels, 1 September, 2015

Dear Mr Prime Minister,

As a Member of the European Parliament, I would like to draw your attention and ask about the commonly known case of Mr Vladimir Kozlov, former journalist, human rights defender and the leader of the biggest Kazakh opposition party Alga!, which recognized by an international opinion is not accepted by national authorities. Mr Kozlov is currently also recognized as a prisoner of conscience, serving his seven and a half year sentence in the penal colony LA 155/14 in the Zarechnyy village (Illiytsky district, Almaty Province).

Mr Kozlov as a figure well known to Members of the European Parliament, whom the last time he visited after the killing of striking oil workers in Zhanaozen (Mangystau Region), in 2011, remains the subject of our deep concern. This is why, I would like to raise with you his current situation, which according to human rights organisations and few independent media, is a victim of continuous persecution from the penal colony authorities.

Since the mid July 2015, Mr Kozlov was placed in a solitary confinement; he started his hunger strike; he was transferred to strict regime conditions with limited space and external access, and recently he was sent to a punishment cell. All of these actions were preceded or were accompanied by repeated provocations and punishments from the authorities of penal colony or other inmates encouraged by them.

In connection with the upcoming possibility of Mr Kozlov's transfer to a penal colony with less strict conditions of detention, after which he could be transferred again to an open penal colony or released on parole, at the end of this year, I call on you and Kazakh authorities to stop persecution against Mr Kozlov, ensure his safety and proper medical care, as well as respect his right to be earlier released on parole, after serving half of his sentence.

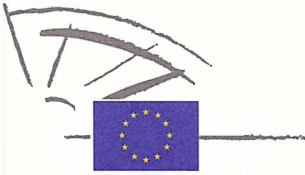
I believe only such actions towards Mr Kozlov and other political prisoners in the country, poet Mr Aron Atabek, human rights defender Mr Vadim Kuramshin and entrepreneur Mr Mukhtar Dzhakishiev, will result in a successful cooperation between the European Union, and particularly the European Parliament, and Kazakh authorities.

Kind regards,

Tomáš Zdechovský

Member of the European Parliament

Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Karim Massimov  
the Government House 'Ukimet Uyi'  
Orynbor Street, 6  
Astana 010000  
Kazakhstan



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Brussels, 1 September, 2015

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Tomáš Zdechovský

Member of the European Parliament

Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Czech Republic

Pod hradbami 662/9

160 00 Praha 6-Střešovice

Czech Republic

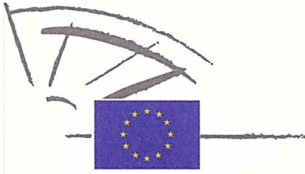
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Tomáš Zdechovský

Member of the European Parliament

President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev  
the Presidential Administration building 'Akorda', Left Bank  
Astana 010000  
Kazakhstan