



ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET  
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Strasbourg, 11.09.2013

**For The Attention of the Minister of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan,  
Ms. Salidat Kairbekova.**

Dear Minister,

I am addressing you within my capacity of a Member of the European Parliament and as member of the Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan with regard to the case of a Kazakh lawyer, Zinaida Mukhortova, who was detained and placed in a psychiatric hospital on 9 August 2013.

On 20 August 2013, the Balkhash City Court decided to accept the Prosecutor's Office request and granted the compulsory hospitalisation of Z. Mukhortova in a local psychiatric clinic.

The case was brought to my attention by human rights groups, which denounce that basic civil rights of Mrs Mukhortova were violated. According to the information I have received, Mrs Mukhortova's activity as civil law counsel may have been the cause of her compulsory hospitalisation.

I was informed that on 2 September 2013, a specially formed Commission of the Pharmaceutical and Medical Control of the Karaganda Regional Health Department headed by Olga Smirnova visited the facility where Zinaida Mukhortova is being held. The Commission carried out a 15-hour long medical examination of the Kazakh lawyer. Following this examination, the

Commission offered to change the treatment of Z. Mukhortova from mandatory to voluntary and, therefore, agree to let her out of the hospital.

Mrs Mukhortova, then appealed the decision of the Balkhash City Court regarding her compulsory psychiatric detention and was about to leave the hospital on 3 September 2013. Nevertheless, regardless of the decision made by the Commission, the Deputy Head of the "Neuropsychiatric Clinic" Ryspek Iskakov refused to discharge her. He supposedly reacted in a very emotional way, stating that he would not release the Kazakh lawyer until all instances of the judiciary revise her case. He also apparently called illegal the examination carried out by the Commission of the Pharmaceutical and Medical Control of the Karaganda Regional Health Department.

The Kazakh civil society is convinced that the motivations of Ryspek Iskakov's behaviour are of personal nature and that Zinaida Mukhortova's forced hospitalisation is closely resultant from her professional activity, within which she also denounced cases of corruption of highly placed politicians in Kazakhstan.

I would like to ask for clarifications on the case of Mrs Zinaida Mukhortova and as to why she was not released from the psychiatric hospital even though the special Commission clearly granted her release. Furthermore, I would like to ask if the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Kazakhstan intends to undertake any actions in order to ensure that Mrs Mukhortova does not suffer from any further repressions and can return home as quickly as possible.

Best regards,



Niccolò Rinaldi  
Member of European Parliament  
Vice-chair of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe