

**Question for written answer E-007095/2017
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Tunne Kelam (PPE) and Mady Delvaux (S&D)**

Subject: VP/HR - Political prisoners and politically motivated prosecutions in the Republic of Kazakhstan

In modern-day Kazakhstan, activists and journalists are imprisoned for civil and trade union activities, for public criticism of the authorities, for participating in peaceful rallies, for publishing and sharing posts on social networks, and for conducting journalistic investigations.

There have been at least 35 cases of politically motivated prosecution in Kazakhstan. 17 people are being held in prison: Maks Bokayev, Talgat Ayan, Aron Atabek, Sanat Bukenov, Edige Batyrov, Amin Eleusinov, Nurbek Kushakbayev, Seytkazy Matayev, Aset Matayev, Yaroslav Golyshkin, Sanat Dosov, Ruslan Ginatullin, Igor Chuprina, Ermek Taychibekov, Igor Sichev, Mukhtar Dzhakishiev, Muratkhan Tokmadi. Eight people have received suspended sentences with a ban on engagement in civil society or journalistic activities: Olesya Khalabuzar, Alima Abdirova, Bolatbek Blyalov, Larisa Kharkova; Zhanbolat Mamay, Gyuzal Baydalinova, Amangeldy Batyrbekov and Bigeldy Gabdullin. The Kazakh authorities are also prosecuting opposition politician Mukhtar Ablyazov in absentia, along with his former colleagues (Anatoliy Pogorelov and Tatiana Paraskevich) and relatives (the Khrapunov family).

1. Is the VP/HR aware of the cases of political prisoners and politically motivated prosecutions in Kazakhstan and how do the VP/HR and the European External Action Service (EEAS) intend to intervene in this regard?
2. To what extent does further cooperation between Kazakhstan and the EU depend on the human rights situation in Kazakhstan?