MISSION REPORT

following the 19th European Union - Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (PCC) in Nur-Sultan and Almaty (Kazakhstan), 11-13 April 2022

Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan, EU-Kyrgyzstan, EU-Uzbekistan and EU-Tajikistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committees and for relations with Turkmenistan and Mongolia

Members of the mission:
Andris Ameriks (S&D) (Leader of the mission)
Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE)
**Introduction**

The Delegation for relations with Central Asia (DCAS) paid a visit to Nur-Sultan and Almaty from Monday, 11 April 2022 to Wednesday, 13 April 2022, to hold the 19th European Union-Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (PCC) and a number of meetings with a variety of interlocutors from different sectors of the Kazakh institutions and society: Parliament, Government, Judiciary, civil rights organizations and academics. The previous PCC was held in Brussels on 11 October 2021.

For a number of unexpected factors taking place at the eve of the start of the mission, the composition of the Delegation was eventually reduced to two MEPs, in representation of the two largest political groups of the European Parliament.

**Context**

The mission took place very timely at the time of a great political interest in the EU/Kazakhstan relationships for three reasons:

1) It was the first visit after the January 2022 events in Kazakhstan, when the current power seemed to be on the point to be overthrown by an unclear combination of internal and spontaneous massive peaceful protests and violent elements coming likely from abroad and possibly connected with sectors of the circle of power close to the former President and at that time still the Supreme Leader.

2) The current Russian invasion of Ukraine puts Kazakhstan in a challenging position for its strong political and historical ties with Moscow, for being affected by the Western sanctions against Russia, and for its balanced and in some aspects rather pro-Western approach in foreign policy and trade relations.

3) The mission of DCAS followed the adoption at the Plenary of the European Parliament of two Resolutions (voted on 11 February 2021 and on 20 January 2022) which both expressed serious concerns about the violations of human rights and Rule of Law by Kazakh Authorities. In spite of this criticism, parliamentary dialogue with the Kazakh counterparts has always continued and a visit to the country allowed the Members to collect first-hand information and directly engage with different actors of the Kazakh institutions and society.

Due to the combination of those reasons, the mission was strongly supported by both, the EEAS and the Embassy of Kazakhstan to the European Union that extended an excellent cooperation for the preparation and the implementation of the programme. The high-level reception granted to the European Parliament by the Kazakh authorities, the personal commitment deployed by MP Aigul Kuspan, former Kazakh Ambassador to the EU and now the Chair of the Mazhilis Committee for Foreign Affairs, made also clear the European Parliament’s criticism combined to factual engagement, can be beneficial in the overall EP and EU/Kazakhstan and also in the EU inter-institutional relations.

It should be noted also that the European Parliament’s Delegation was one of the first international Delegations visiting Kazakhstan following the gradual lifting of two years of strict restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with severe consequences on the economy and on the space for political debate in the country.
**Summary account of meetings**

The mission was successful in having an intensive and high-level programme, which included:

- The Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (see the agenda in Annex III) and a bilateral meeting with the Chair of the Senate Committee for Foreign Affairs.
- Meetings with several stakeholders of the current EP/Kazakhstan agenda at government level: Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Deputy Minister of Energy, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure, Deputy Minister of Environment.
- Meeting with the main actors in the ongoing investigation following the January protests: General Prosecutor and Deputy General Prosecutor, National Ombudsman; a long dedicated session was devoted to a meeting with victims of torture and human rights defenders.
- In addition to the usual initial briefing delivered by the EU Head of Mission, the Delegation also had a debriefing with the EU Member States Ambassadors.
- In its effort to make visible the European Union at civil society level and to foster people-to-people connections, the EP Delegation was also received by the Al-Farabi University in Almaty in a public meeting attended by about one thousand students.

The full programme of the visit is attached at the end of this report (see Annex II).

**War against Ukraine**

Several Kazakh interlocutors insisted that their country wishes to stay “on the right side of a new iron-wall”, meaning that the country has not recognised, nor it will, the annexation of Crimea and any new Russian-created Republic.

Kazakhstan had abstained in the United Nations General Assembly, like all other Central Asian countries, but voted against Russia’s expulsion from the Human Rights Council. The Minister of Foreign Affairs justified it by stressing that membership in the Eurasian Union implies also neutrality in the conflict and that President Tokayev has offered his good office in bridging between Russia and Ukraine and is ready to provide location for peace-talks (following a similar mediation process on Syria). However, the Minister also stressed that Kazakh efforts will be only subsequent to the ones already deployed by Turkey.

During the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, the local Members of the Parliament underlined that Kazakhstan will never contribute to any military effort of Russia related to Ukraine, not even as “peace-keeping” force and considers itself as a strategic partner of the EU. However, Members also stressed that sanctions on Russia should be applied only through the World Trade Organisation’s (WTO) instruments.

The reported currently tensed relations between President Tokayev and President Putin, as stated by the EU diplomats also echoed this midway approach by Kazaks. Russia was likely to expect a more supportive approach from Nur-Sultan, while Kazakhstan has been flagging its dispatch of humanitarian aid to Ukraine and people rallies in support of Kiev. This aptitude somehow is in favour of Ukraine, although not too explicit, is influenced also by Kazakh fear that its northern territories, where a significant part of its 20% Russian population lives, could
be the next target for Russian “denazification”, as already requested by some Russian Parliament Duma Members. Meanwhile, Kazakhstan’s position is also reflected by having a Custom Union with Russia.

As a matter of coincidence, the EP Delegation was received for one hour by the Minister of Foreign Affairs just before his meeting with the US Under-Secretary of State. The sequence of the two visits incidentally delivered, also in media terms and towards Russia, a message of the presence of the West in the country. It should be noted that during all meetings, the whole Delegation wore the EU & Ukraine pins.

Sanctions

Like all Central Asian countries, sanctions against Russia directly affect Kazakhstan, whose banking system partially depends on Moscow and which channels most of its oil through Russia. Members of the Mazhilis were vocal in asking that Kazakh originated energy should not be affected by sanctions. To make the situation even more complicated, the main oil consortium in the country is an international one and includes the European Union, Russian and Chinese stakeholders. Alternative routes through the Caspian and Azerbaijan are currently under reparation and development, and have still a limited capacity. Both Deputy Minister for Energy and Deputy Minister for Infrastructure insisted on the need for the European Union to support Kazakh efforts for opening alternative corridors. Most of expectations lay on Trans-Caspian cooperation and corridors, but both Deputy Ministers admitted that is still impossible to have a clear assessment of several factors - such as the cost new pipelines, actual needs, precise impact of sanctions, role of public and of private actors, etc. For instance, an initial estimate for the construction of a new pipeline amounts to at least four billion US dollars.

Equally, Russia is the country of transit for exporting most of the Kazakh raw material - for instance, 100% of aluminium goes through Russia - and again the new situation requires responses that cannot yet be identified. So far, the project of opening a new highway connecting Kazakhstan with Western Europe is still on and should be funded by Kazakh budget but no clear roadmap can be planned for the project.

Present situation also offers some opportunities. Kazakh authorities invite Russian and the EU companies to move to Kazakh hubs and to operate from their territory. The Mayor of Almaty reported about the arrival of both Russian and Ukrainian not only people but also businesses, a factor that is boosting the local economy above the national average.

Eventually, the EP Delegation could clearly evaluate that the overall issue of the impact of sanctions and the way to solve several financial and connectivity issues, are still a matter of analysis by both local authorities and the EU Embassies and is a matter of constant work in progress.

January 2022 events

Three months after the events, there is still a lack of clear public understanding on what happened during the spontaneous revolt against the Kazakh Authorities and the possible use of people demonstrations to attack President Tokayev and its Government by elements inside the
power structure of the country, including the former circle close to the former President Nazarbayev. The former Supreme Leader has been partially marginalised from the political life but he, his family and his clan still control vast sectors of the country economy - amounting to 30-40% according to some Diplomat evaluations. Therefore, it appeared that the Authorities are not ready, or cannot, be assertive on who was responsible of the armed component of the protests and have to proceed only through a gradual process.

The implications of Russia’s military intervention in support of President Tokayev are also a matter of speculation. Moscow was clearly not in a position to stay neutral on an internal uprising that was sending a destabilising message to the region and possibly also to Russia. Moscow has probably negotiated some political compensations for its role, such as use of Russian technologies and security for managing Kazakh big data platform and the Russian leading role in developing nuclear plants in the country. Yet, the current war in Ukraine risks jeopardizing most of this cooperation.

Deputy Minister of Justice, the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate and several MPs, stressed the unity of Kazak people in responding to any “external threat” that would have introduced religious extremism in the country. They blamed the adoption by the European Parliament of a Resolution just few days after the events, without, according to their opinion, any well-grounded evidence. Similar concerns were echoed also by the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee and by the Almaty Mayor (Hakim), who reported about the beheading of police officers by extremists and the presence of several foreigner provocateurs, including “Afghan and Syrian elements”.

The Kazakh Authorities constantly referred to the future outcomes of the “independent” ongoing investigation, conducted by the General Prosecutor and the involvement of some local NGOs (considered as “friendly” ones by opposition groups and human rights defenders). However, in spite of the frequent reports to media, such investigation has no clear timeframe nor much is known about its modus operandi. It is also unclear which entities will have access to its results. Human rights defenders insisted that only a genuine international inquiry could assess the actual authors of the violence and of the killings – a claim that, in such ambiguous situation, might look well grounded.

**Torture and human rights abuses**

The EP Delegation constantly raised the issue of systematic use of torture against citizens arrested during the repressions of the January revolt. In the meeting with the Members of the European Parliament, victims and lawyers confirmed the scale of the abuses. From their side, several Kazakh counterparts at no point denied the use of torture and emphasised the willingness to “clean the ranks”, “learn the lesson”, “punish the perpetrators”, “improve the legislation” and avoid that the torture is again a stigma of Kazakhstan security apparatus. As an example, the Minister of Foreign Affairs underlined that the Government is now working with the International Committee of the Red Cross and with the United Nations to carry out human rights training to security forces to comply with democratic standards.

The General Prosecutor and his Deputy assured that several cases of alleged tortures have been filed. He acknowledged that “restoring public confidence” is a propriety and recognised that several abuses took place in “blind zones” of security centres, where no cameras were available.
While more equipment has been installed, about 30 cases were also registered against security officers accused to have sabotaged technical evidences and many officials have been removed “no matter of their position”. The Prosecutor also declared that since his team has direct access to detention centres, there have been no new cases of possible use of torture.

While clearly not in denial and wishing to engage on this crucial issue, the different interlocutors met by the European Parliament Delegation communicated conflicting numbers about people who are still jailed, who find themselves in administrative detention, who have been released, who are suspected for being leaders of the protests or simply taking part to it, or about the security agents already suspended and on a trial.

As pointed out by the EU Ambassador, the international community has expectation about the outcome of the investigation and yet there is no interim report, nor clear status for the final document - for instance whether there will be a written conclusion, a set of recommendation, some kind of publication of its main finding outs. The fact that the report is likely to be fully disclosed only after its transmission to the President and after the courts’ decisions makes the process not entirely transparent.

The General Prosecutor pointed out that technologies are requested to carry out investigation and that implies time, that no information can be divulged if prejudicial to the work of investigators, that even in France the results of the enquiry about the “2016 Nice Terror Act” (which resulted in 87 casualties) was finalised only recently.

However, when confronted with evidences shown by victims, the Authorities seem to lack consistency and international pressure is still needed. The European Parliament Delegation hold a long and closed-door meeting with selected human rights defenders and victims of torture (detail list is annexed) who emphasised the positive role of EP Resolutions and notably the inclusion of specific names in the adopted texts - this being a direct form of protection for the victims.

The European Parliament’s Delegation could learn in detail about individual cases, such a meeting also allowed the EU Ambassador, and the Head of the Political Section to acquire further knowledge of precises violations of rights, possibly also in view of raising them with the Kazakh Authorities. Victims reported notably of unjustified arrests, even in cases where no active participation to peaceful demonstrations took place; of being severely and repeatedly beaten, blinded and burned (with clear evidences of those mistreatments); of being blackmailed, also by defence lawyers assigned by the Authorities, in case they wished to file a case against perpetrators of tortures. They all complained that the office of the General Prosecutor systematically refuse to answer their requests for action and that no actual measures have been taken against the authors of abuses committed to them. Some of them were arrested, tortured, then released and later called again to appear in police stations where they were invited to withdrawn their complaints. Some of the victims claimed to be arrested only for being close to allegedly “extremist” organisations such as Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan or Koshe Party, which are defined by the EP Resolutions as “peaceful” opposition parties. The human rights defenders met by the EP Delegation, were in possession of an overall number of 3.500 cases with names, dates, documents and details of their arbitrary arrests and inflicted mistreatment or torture. They claim that those cases remain without action by the Authorities.
Reforms

One of the legacy of the January 2022 events is also a further push for the already started and much expected season of reforms at various levels – from administrative to constitutional. The effort for updating the complex State machine and its legislation appears substantial and part of the need to gain a new legitimacy in the public opinion. The European Parliament is considered as an important interlocutor in this exercise, given also the two recent Plenary Resolutions, which have condemned in strong terms human rights abuses and lack of rule of law in the country. The European Parliament can continue to play a relevant role towards both, the civil society and the Kazakh Parliament Mazhilis.

The most ambitious plan is a set of the Constitutional Amendments aimed to reinforce the role of the Parliament and the right of appeal about constitutional compatibility of legislation, to providing some independence to the currently not-independent Judiciary, to clarifying the Presidential prerogatives. Kazakhstan will remain a Presidential Republic but with more powers given to the Parliament. The new Electoral Law, for both Chambers, combines a 70% party list and a 30% regional quota, plus special rules for the representatives of national minorities.

Although positive for its overall scope and for the kind of public debate it generates, so far this multi-reforms exercise does not embrace an opening for registration of genuinely independent parties and for creating, as in neighbouring Kyrgyzstan or Mongolia, a real multi-party system.

Judicial cooperation

Both, during the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (PCC) meeting and in the meeting with the General Prosecutor, the Kazakh side has expressed its disappointment for what is considered a lack of political willingness from the European Union to cooperate against corruption and financial crimes committed by the Kazakh nationals living now in Europe. They referred to the fact that some EU Member States - centres such as France, Belgium and Italy were explicitly mentioned - and also Switzerland, have granted political asylum to persons recognised as legitimate opponents to an autocratic regime by Europe, but considered as criminals by Kazakhstan. Nur-Sultan has passed further legislation to fight against corruption and increased its international cooperation in the framework of the Council of Europe.

One Member of Parliament also proposed the creation of a joint European Parliament/Mazhilis working group on bilateral judiciary cooperation and has been vocal in demanding extradition of “oligarchs” and return of illegal financial capital to Kazakhstan. From its side, the European parliament Delegation clarified that the concession of the status of political refugee is not an EU competence but entirely falls under the prerogatives of the Member States and that recognition of individual as “persecuted legitimate opponent” rather as “criminal” may be a matter of different political evaluation.

Green Agenda

Severely afflicted by climate changes, pollution, and rich of natural resources and potential renewable energies such as solar and wind capacity, Kazakhstan remains behind the implementation of a Green transition. Cities are still using huge quantities of coal and polluting
energy, technologies are not well updated and legislation is not fully updated with more ambitious targets. It was reported, for instance, that a city like Almaty needs about 9 daily rail cargo convoys of coal for supporting its heating system.

Yet, a young Deputy Minister for Environment showed an impressive degree of commitment and strong competence and indicated that a new generation of Kazakhs are well aware of future needs for quickly catching up the current gap. The European Union is invited to support new projects for a different system of energy connectivity based on profitability, eco-sustainability, and decarbonisation.

The agenda of “things to do” is long: production and storage capacities for renewable energy will take time, nuclear energy remains an option, rare earths are available but also need adequate deposits, water treatment is still under an outdated Water Code, incentives for Green Energy are not yet available, legislation is also needed to promote hydrogen.

While the Caspian Sea Convention is providing positive international cooperation and water diplomacy with the rest of Central Asia is a delicate exercise but is framed in regular meetings, the Aral Sea remains an ecological disaster further affected by the climate change and droughts. Eventually, although still in its initial phases, the next years and decades of the Kazakh policies and public debates will be dominated by environmental issues in several aspects - urban planning, energy, infrastructures and connectivity, etc. Once more, the European Union, and the European Parliament too, are considered as probably the main international partner due to the external dimension of the Green Deal and EU better legislation and best practices.

**People to people connections**

Leaving Russian legacy behind and under strong Chinese pressure, Kazakhstan is also very keen in seeing real progress in the EU Visa facilitation for its citizens. Not being a country of emigrants and having facilitated access to European Union visitors, Kazakhstan is demanding easier possibilities for travelling in order to ease businesses and tourism, as clearly requested during the PCC, the meeting with the Almaty Hakim (Mayor) and during the short visit to the Shymbulak resort near Almaty.

Similar increase of connectivity is requested for students: Erasmus Mundi is a popular programme amongst students but is a limited opportunity due to the high number of requests. Education is an area of strong interest: a clear demonstration of that was the overwhelming reception that the Al-Farabi University in Almaty hosted in its impressive headquarters to the European Parliament Delegation. In front of about one thousands students, many of them coming from abroad including from the EU, the Members of the European Parliament could engage in speeches and in a “Question and Answer” session about the European Project and the EU/Kazakhstan partnership.

**Parliamentary follow-up**

Kazakhstan is the most important country in the region and plays a crucial role with Russia; moreover, the European Parliament should not underestimate the degree of expectations raised by its own Resolutions.
Therefore, the European Parliament has strong interest in monitoring and engaging on at least three main areas: 1) supporting the Kazakh Authorities in coping with international sanctions to Russia; 2) situation of victims of human rights abuses and state of democratic reforms; 3) upgrading the political dialogue to ensure that Kazakhstan fully cooperates with the West and distance itself from Moscow. The dispatch of the Committee Delegations could provide an element of precious continuity in the dialogue with Kazakhstan, which would be based also on the solid platform established with both the Authorities - at Parliamentary, Government and Ombudsman level - and human rights advocacy and opposition groups.

**List of Annexes**

1. Final list of participants
2. Final programme of the visit
3. Agenda of the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (PCC)
4. List of victims and human rights defenders attending the meeting on 13 April 2022 in Almaty
19th EU- Republic of Kazakhstan
Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (PCC)
Nur-Sultan and Almaty
Kazakhstan
11-13 April 2022

Final list of participants

**DCAS Members**
Mr Andris AMERIKS, 1st Vice Chair  S&D  Latvia
Mr Francisco MILLÁN MON  EPP  Spain

**Secretariat**
1 Desk officer
1 AST

**Political advisors**
2 Political advisors, EPP and S&D

**Interpreters (RU/EN)**
3 Interpreters
European Union - Republic of Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (PCC)

19th meeting
11 - 13 April 2022
Nur-Sultan and Almaty

FINAL PROGRAMME

Monday 11/04/2022

11:00-11:40  Meeting with the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan

12:00-13:00  Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr Mukhtar Tileuberdi

13:00-14:20  Lunch

14:30-15:30  Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan Ms Akerke Akhmetova

15:45-16:45  Meeting with Deputy Prosecutor General Mr E. Kenebayev

17:00-18:00  Meeting with the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsperson) of the Republic of Kazakhstan Ms Elvira Azimova

19:30-21:00  Working dinner on behalf of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan in honour of the EP Delegation
Tuesday 12/04/2022

09:30-12:30 Meeting of the 19th EU-Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee

12:30-14:00 Working Lunch hosted by Ms Aigul Kuspan, the Co-chairperson of the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee “European Union - Republic of Kazakhstan” in honor of the European Parliament Delegation

14:00-15:00 Meeting with the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations, Defence and Security of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr Mukhtar Kul-Mohammed

15:15-16:15 Meeting with the Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr Murat Zhurebekov

16:30-17:30 Meeting with the Minister of Industry and Infrastructure Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr Ruslan Baimishev

17:45-18:45 Meeting with the Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan

19:00-19:30 Briefing with the EU Member States Ambassadors to Kazakhstan

20:00-22:00 Working dinner hosted by the DCAS Vice Chair/Head of EP Delegation

Wednesday 13/04/2022

AM Flight to Almaty

11:30-12:00 Meeting with the Akim (mayor) of Almaty Mr Erbolat Dosaev

12:30-13:00 Visit of Shymbulak resort

13:00-14:00 Working lunch hosted by the Kazakh Ambassador to the EU

14:30-15:30 Visit and meeting with students/professors of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University

16:00-18:30 Meeting with local NGOs/civil society activists
19th European Union - Republic of Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (PCC)
12 April 2022
Nur-Sultan (Kazakhstan)

FINAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the PCC meeting, opening speeches by the co-Chairs;
   - Ms Aigul KUSPAN, Chair of the Delegation of the Kazakh Mazhilis
   - Mr Andris AMERIKS, Chair of the European Parliament’s Delegation

2. Adoption of the agenda of the 19th meeting of the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee "Kazakhstan - EU";

3. Approval of the draft protocol of the 18th meeting of the EU-Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, held in Brussels in October 2021;

4. The role of the international community, including the European Union and the Republic of Kazakhstan, in resolving issues related to the situation in Ukraine;

5. Political and economic situation in the European Union with a focus on the impact of sanctions against Russia and recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic;

6. Political and economic situation in the Republic of Kazakhstan with an emphasis on the events that took place in the Republic of Kazakhstan in January 2022 and the impact of sanctions against the Russian Federation;
7. Democratic reforms, rule of law and human rights;

8. Bilateral cooperation between the EU and Kazakhstan in the current international environment to enhance cooperation in the field of security and cyber security, business and trade, sustainable connectivity and the supply of energy resources;

9. Regional cooperation between Kazakhstan and the European Union in Central Asia;

10. Date and place of the 20th meeting of the PCC.
### Short information on civil society representatives in Kazakhstan
#### Meeting with DCAS Delegation
13 April 2022 Almaty, Kazakhstan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Mr Yevgeniy Zhovtis**  
Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law | Human rights defender and director of the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law. After graduating as a mining engineer, he became vice president of the Independent Trade Union of Kazakhstan and represented the interests of miners, who worked under often inhumane conditions. He also became a member of the executive board of the Civic Organisation Memorial, working for public awareness of human rights and democratic values under the repressive conditions in the USSR. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union and independence for Kazakhstan in 1991, Zhovtis continued working for human rights and qualified as a lawyer to help that work. In 1992, with the support of the Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union, he founded the Kazakhstan American Bureau on Human Rights and Rule of Law. |
| **Ms Roza Akylbekova**  
Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law; Coalition against torture | Roza Akylbekova, one of the founding members of the Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and Rule of Law (a prominent Kazakhstani non-governmental human rights defending organization), lawyer, is engaged in rights defending activity since 1993. Since 2009 she heads the organization as Acting Director and since 2012 as a Director. Since 2002 Roza Akylbekova coordinates activity of the Kazakhstan NGOs Working Group "On Protection of Children Rights", which aims to lobby and implement International law and standards on protection of children rights into Kazakhstani legislation. Also, she is actively involved in development and presentation of KIBHR&RL reports on human rights situation in Kazakhstan, as well as thematic reports on observance of proper political rights and civil freedoms on national and international levels (e.g. annual OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Hearings in European Parliament and etc.). Roza was a member of KZ NGO delegations to different UN Committees (UN Committee for Human Rights, UN Committee against Torture, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child) on submission of the proper Alternative (Shadow)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Bakhytzhan Toregozhina</td>
<td>Human rights activist, President of the Ar.Rukh.Khak Foundation (human rights and youth activism group) Toregozhina vs Kazakhstan: In October 2014, the UN Human Rights Committee, in decision no. 2137/2012 established violations by Kazakhstan of the author's rights under articles 9, 19, and 21 of the ICCPR and recommended Kazakhstan &quot;provide the author with an effective remedy, including review of her conviction and to an adequate compensation, including reimbursement of the legal costs incurred&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Tamara Kaleyeva</td>
<td>President International Foundation for Protection of Freedom of Speech &quot;Adil Soz&quot; <a href="http://www.adilsoz.kz/">http://www.adilsoz.kz/</a> The goal of the foundation &quot;Adil Soz&quot; is the formation of an open civil society through the assertion in the daily life of the country of free, objective and progressive journalism. The main activities of the Foundation: • Monitoring violations of freedom of speech in Kazakhstan; • Legal activity: several law projects drafted, prepared judicial analysis of more than 20 draft laws. • Providing seminars for journalists • Preparation and publication of manuals for journalists. • Legal aid for journalists and mass media. • Expertise of disputable materials in court disputes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Tatiana Zinovich</td>
<td>Acting Executive Director of the Center for Legal Policy Research <a href="http://lprc.kz/about">http://lprc.kz/about</a> The Legal Policy Research Center (LPRC) is an independent think tank established in 2008 and based in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The LPRC conducts policy research, proposes alternative policy solutions, and provides resources and support to policy makers and researchers. Specifically, LPRC evaluates programs and pilot projects to inform policy debates and influence policy, promotes open, informed and inclusive dialogue in decision making, identifies and creates effective instruments of interaction with political and business elites aimed at promotion of the rule of law and liberal values, promotes a holistic approach to the implementation of policy, and supports strengthening the role of the expert community in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Dana Zhanay</td>
<td>Human rights defender, Head of Human right movement 'Qaharman' (youth human rights movement to protect the peaceful protesters and monitoring of the political trials)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Mr Pavel Lobachev        | Public association Echo is a non-political NGO established in 1998. The mission of the organisation is involvement of citizens in the process of decision-making on all levels of government. Directions of activity include:  
  • Defence and promotion of human rights and freedom  
  • Public oversight of Kazakhstan state bodies activity  
  • Development of Kazakhstan civil society  
In the projects, Echo adheres to the principle of coverage "from identification of problems to salvation" and performs activities including researches, training, informing and advocacy. Project activity of Echo covers both urban and rural residents. It also conducts long-term and short-term observation of presidential elections. |
| Ms Tatiana Chernobil     | Human rights defender and lawyer, expert in international human rights law.                                                                 |
| Ms Inga Imanbay          | Human rights defender of "Kazakhstani International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law" and wife of political prisonerZhanbolat Mamay (co-initiator of "Democratic Party") |
| Mr Aset Abishev          | Civil activist, former political prisoner, member of "Qantar bloodshed" research group that collects evidence of shooting and tortures of peaceful people during January 2022 protests. |
| Mr Sayat Adilbekuly      | Victim of torture (tortured after January 2022 protests).                                                                                     |
| Mr Akylzhan Kiisimbayev  | Victim of torture (tortured after January 2022 protests).                                                                                     |