

**Question for written answer E-007408/2013
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**

Rule 117

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Subject: VP/HR - Deportation of Mrs Shalabayeva from Italy to Kazakhstan

Acting without presenting a search or arrest warrant, on 29 May 2013, heavily armed and non-uniformed Italian special agents raided a residence outside Rome searching for Mukhtar Ablyazov, a well-known Kazakh dissident. They did not find Ablyazov, but instead they arrested his wife, Alma Shalabayeva. Mrs Shalabayeva was suddenly deported on 31 May, on the pretext that she held allegedly forged ID. Proof of the authenticity of her ID, and the fact that she held valid residency permits issued by EU states Latvia and the United Kingdom, were ignored. Her pleas for asylum were brushed aside. Even before her detention hearing was completed on 31 May, a private jet had been ordered to whisk her to Kazakhstan. At least two Kazakh diplomats were at Rome's airport waiting for her to be brought there. Simultaneously, Italian special agents returned to the home and tricked the family into allowing Shalabayeva's six-year-old daughter to be taken away. The deportation of the mother could not proceed without the child, so both were forced onto the private jet and flown straight to Kazakhstan. Upon arrival in Kazakhstan, Shalabayeva was handed copies of three orders: an order initiating a criminal investigation against her, dated 30 May, an order dated the same day naming her as a suspect, and an order dated 31 May prohibiting her from leaving the city of Almaty. On 7 June, prior to any interrogations, she was formally indicted.

This case raises grave questions about the apparent collusion between Italian special agents and the authorities of Kazakhstan, a country with a dismal human rights record.

Does the High Representative think that this operation by Italian special agents is in line with European and international law, in particular with respect to the returns directive, rights in deportation proceedings, EU residency rights, rights of asylum seekers and refugees, rights to family life and rights of the child? What steps do the European External Action Service (EEAS) and its delegation in Astana intend to take to guarantee Mrs Shalabayeva that her fundamental rights are respected as a criminal investigation against her continues?