



Parliamentary questions

22 February 2012

E-002048/2012

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

Rule 117

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► **Subject: VP/HR — Continuing repression of political opposition and media in Kazakhstan**

Answer(s)

We have received reports that, on 23 January, Vladimir Kozlov, leader of the Kazakh opposition political party 'Alga!', currently being registered in Kazakhstan, was arrested by the Kazakh Committee of National Security on his return from meetings with MEPs at the European Parliament, and officials at the European Commission to discuss the tragedy in Janaozen and the Kazakh parliamentary elections. In addition, Mr Kozlov's house was searched. The same day, five other political opponents, Mikhail Sizlov, Zhanbolat Mamay, Gulzhan Lepasova, Askar Tokmurzin, Serik Sapargali and Vadim Kuramshin were also arrested and had their houses searched. Fifteen other people have been isolated in the offices of the 'Alga!' party. Finally, the editor-in-chief of 'Vzglyad' newspaper, Igor Vinyavsky, was charged under the Kazakhstan Criminal Code with the offence of calling 'for violent overthrow or change of the constitutional order or forcible violation of the unity of the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan'. On 26 January, Vladimir Kozlov, Igor Vinyavsky and Serik Sapargali were sentenced to two months imprisonment.

1. Can the Vice-President/High Representative indicate whether or not she has taken steps to discuss this issue with her Kazakh counterparts?
2. International election monitors and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) have declared that Kazakhstan's parliamentary elections failed to meet basic democratic principles. In light of this, what steps is the Vice-President/High Representative taking to monitor the situation regarding political opposition in Kazakhstan?

3. Does the Vice-President/High Representative intend to intervene in response to the events in Kazakhstan and express the EU's resolute opposition to the violation of citizens' fundamental rights such as freedom of speech and expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association?
4. Can the Vice-President/High Representative accurately describe the state of play regarding the new agreement on enhanced partnership and cooperation between Kazakhstan and the European Commission launched seven months ago during the twelfth session of the European Union — Kazakhstan Cooperation Committee?
5. Given the current situation, does the European Union still support Kazakhstan's early accession to the WTO?

Last updated: 8 March 2012

Legal notice