

Mr. Serhiy SOBOLEV  
Vice chairman of the Ukrainian delegation to PACE

The Hague, 15 December 2014

Dear Mr Sobolev,

As a member of the Dutch Parliament, as we all as a member of the Dutch delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), I have been working extensively on the promotion of human rights and safeguarding of the basic freedoms of citizens both in my country and abroad.

Within my activity at the PACE, I have been the promoter of the discussion on the politically motivated misuse of the INTERPOL system and the need for stronger legal safeguards. The Assembly has accepted up my proposal to dedicate a report to it, namely on "Abusive use of the Interpol system: the need for more stringent legal safeguards"

While working on the issue, the case of Mr Mukhtar Ablyazov, member of the political opposition to the Kazakh authorities, was brought to my attention. I have since, followed the developments in his case closely.

Regardless of the serious accusations that are being brought against him, it seems evident that Mr Ablyazov cannot count on a fair trial back in Kazakhstan. Many independent NGO's have reported on his case and abuses in the legal systems in both Kazakhstan and Russia are well documented.

The Ukrainian investigative portal trust.ua has published articles on the contacts between the Kazakh, Russian and Ukrainian investigative bodies. There appear to be quite a few corruptive mechanisms and they seem to represent a clear legacy of the Yanukovich regime in Ukraine.


Given the shift in the Ukrainian political and social life after the developments of Maidan, which aim to eliminate elements of corruption and put Ukraine back on the track of respect for legality and basic rights, I appeal to you to urgently review the Ukrainian extradition request presented against Mr Ablyazov or any of his ex-colleagues and consider withdrawing it if a fair trial of Mr. Ablyazov and his family cannot be guaranteed.

I hope that Ukraine will review its involvement in the case and choose not to cooperate with regimes of countries such as Kazakhstan or Russia which have proven on numerous occasions over the last months not to respect their international obligations.

Could you please make sure that this letter reaches the appropriate government officials in Ukraine?

Looking forward to your reply,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Pieter Omtzigt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Pieter Omtzigt PhD**

**Member of Parliament for the Christian Democratic Party**