

Zhakup Assanov  
Office of the Prosecutor General  
14 Mangilik El avenue  
Astana, 010000  
KASACHSTAN

Fax: (00 7) 7172 506 402  
Website: <http://prokuror.gov.kz/eng>

Dear Prosecutor General,

At the end of April and beginning of May 2016, demonstrations were held throughout Kazakhstan against the planned changes to the land law. In connection with these protests, Maks Bokaev and Talgat Ayan were arrested. For their involvement in organising peaceful demonstrations and their publications in social media, a court sentenced them to five years imprisonment in February 2017. Talgat Ayan was released on 28 April, but Maks Bokaev remains in the Petropavlovsk penal colony in northern Kazakhstan. Maks Bokaev has been suffering from hepatitis C for five years. After receiving treatment the disease went into remission, but since his detention, his health has considerably deteriorated. In August 2017, he was transferred for two weeks to another penal colony, where hepatitis C could be treated. Furthermore, in April 2018, members of the National Prevention Mechanism (NPM) for the Protection against Torture were allowed to visit him in a prison hospital to which he had been transferred. There, Maks Bokaev underwent several examinations, and he himself describes his condition as “okay”, although he still has health problems.

Please ensure that Maks Bokaev is released immediately and unconditionally as he is a political prisoner of conscience. I also urge you to open an investigation to determine whether the conviction of Maks Bokaev was lawful.

Yours sincerely

Copy:

Botschaft der Republik Kasachstan  
S. E. Herrn Bolat Nussupov  
Nordendstraße 14/17  
13156 Berlin

Fax: 030 – 470 07-125  
E-Mail: [info@botschaft-kaz.de](mailto:info@botschaft-kaz.de)  
oder [berlin@mfa.kz](mailto:berlin@mfa.kz)