

October 2, 2013

HDM OSCE in Warsaw

Working session 14: Rule of law I, including:

- Democratic lawmaking;
- Independence of the judiciary;
- Right to a fair trial.

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Maria Paraskevich, I'm the daughter of Tatiana Paraskevich, who has been incarcerated in the Czech Republic for more than 1.5 years now and is currently facing extradition. There is only one reason behind the arrest of my mother, and for the exertion of constant pressure and threats from the Russian secret services on our family: my mother was a confidante of Kazakhstan's leading businessman and opposition politician, Mukhtar Ablyazov, and worked in one of his companies. Extradition requests were filed by Russia and Ukraine in connection with financial fraud which my mom allegedly committed. If this is the case, why is giving a testimony against Ablyazov the basic demand made by special services towards our family?

Now, constant pressure is being exerted on me, my 80-year-old grandmother, my brother and my father, specifically: we are being blackmailed, threatened with the prospect of being kidnap on my way home from university, my grandmother could be imprisoned, my mom could be poisoned during whilst being extradited from the Czech Republic to Russia, or my brother could be beaten in prison until such time that my mom writes a testimony against Mukhtar Ablyazov. We fear for the life of my mum and our family, as numerous court trials in Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan have proved that we cannot hope for a fair trial.

I hereby appeal to all the OSCE member countries to pay close attention to the case regarding Tatiana Paraskevich's extradition, and support the initiative, presented during the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in Istanbul, regarding the need for the reform of Interpol, as under the current system of operation, Interpol doesn't have the slightest opportunity to verify the political context of charges.

Thank you for attention.