

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev

Mr. President,

We are addressing you in a matter of respecting one of fundamental human rights – the freedom of speech. As we know, on 23 of October 2007, Kazakhstan authorities blocked access to few independent Internet sites, including www.inkar.info. Blockade of these sites on Kazakhstan territory is continued, in spite of fact, that both International Law and Kazakhstan constitution guarantees citizens the freedom of speech.

Blockade of independent Internet Sites was acknowledged by International organizations monitoring the Freedom of press. Human Rights Watch written in its report about Kazakhstan: “The government continues to censor the Internet and in 2007 “deregistered” or suspended several websites. The government also blocked several opposition websites (...)“. Even though the Kazakhstan government launched a campaign to improve its image and establish itself as a prominent player in international politics, likely motivated by its bid for chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2009, the human rights situation in the country remains poor and according to Transparency International corruption in Kazakhstan significantly worsened.

As Reporters Without Borders writes: „Kazakhstan’s economic growth depends heavily on exports of oil and natural gas, which benefits only a small part of the population, so media exposure of corruption and embezzlement brings reprisals against journalists.” Kazakhstan ranks 125th out of 169 countries in the Reporters Without Borders worldwide press freedom index.

Although Kazakhstan’s laws guarantee the media the right to report on political events, the independent media continues to be threatened and harassed for criticizing the president or government, and journalists run serious risks.

Lately Kazakhstan received OSCE chairmanship for 2010, in exchange for commitment to respect basic civil and political rights. Despite their claims, The government continues to stifle the political opposition and independent media.

Mr. President, respecting the right to Independent decisions of Kazakhstan government, we urge you to respect the International agreements, which were signed by Kazakhstan and to ensure the freedom of speech according to the International standards.

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We welcome you to send us your declaration of support under this letter to the following address:
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