

Ambassador Yerzhan Ashikbayev

Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

1401 16th St NW

Washington DC 20036

Dear Mr. President,

I write to urge you to take such measures as may be necessary for **Zhanbolat Mamay** to be released from detention immediately and to drop the charges against him.

I am concerned that the March 14, 2022, decision to hold Mamay in detention and the criminal case against him constitute *politically motivated retribution* for his critical speech and his leadership of the unregistered opposition party, the Democratic Party of Kazakhstan.

Mamay is currently under investigation on charges of insulting a government representative (Criminal Code, Article 378) and spreading false information (Article 274) related to two separate incidents dating back to 2021. Previously he was already wrongfully sentenced to 15 days of “administrative detention” for organizing an “unsanctioned” meeting and was due to be released on March 12, 2022, but was re-arrested.

I urge you to take all necessary steps in your power to ensure that **Zhanbolat Mamay** is released from detention immediately and to put a stop to his unfounded prosecution related to the peaceful exercise of his right to free expression and freedom of assembly.

Sincerely,

5/22/2022