



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
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The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Justice Building, Suite 406  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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Dear Minister Joly,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

I am writing to ask that the Government of Canada enact Magnitsky sanctions against Azamat Iztleuov, the Deputy Head of the Department of the Penitentiary System in Almaty, Kazakhstan under the enacting legislation, the Justice for Victims of Corrupt Foreign Officials Act (Magnitsky Act).

Azamat Iztleuov has committed serious human rights violations as the head of the pre-trial detention facility LA 155/1 in Almaty against political prisoner Iskander Yerimbetov. Azamat Iztleuov organized the torture against Iskander Yerimbetov. He participated in designating certain prisoners for abuse and torture including Yerimbetov. Iztleuov removed the video surveillance equipment from the cell where Yerimbetov was tortured. He denied Yerimbetov the right to counsel and denied him of medical treatment. The deterioration of the human rights conditions in Kazakhstan has been worrying since 2018 and actively aided by individuals like Iztleuov.

Iskander Yerimbetov is a businessman and the brother of a prominent human rights defender and lawyer from Kazakhstan. Mr. Yerimbetov's sister, Bota Jardemalie was granted political asylum in Belgium. She is currently on trial in her homeland due to her work concerning Mukhtar Ablyazov an opposition political and leader of the Democratic Choice in Kazakhstan movement. In 2018, Yerimbetov was convicted to 7 years imprisonment under false charges of fraud and tortured as a means to get his sister to return to Kazakhstan.

Several human rights groups have called out Iztleuov on his role in torturing Yerimbetov. Seventeen U.S. Senators called on the President of Kazakhstan to investigate these torture allegations.

Throughout history, Canada has fought both in wars and diplomatically for global human rights. The passage of the Magnitsky Act gives the Government of Canada a diplomatic tool to sanction human rights abusers. I urge that you enact these sanctions on Azamat Iztleuov for his continued abuses and torture of human rights activists in Kazakhstan.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

In your service,

Tom Kmiec, MP  
Calgary Shepard

Cc: The Honourable Michael Chong, P.C., M.P.  
Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs