



## OPEN DIALOG FOUNDATION

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### **Urgent announcement: The Kazakh authorities are hiding the truth about Vladimir Kozlov's health and threatening his wife.**

The Kazakh authorities are withholding information about the critical state of health of Vladimir Kozlov, the leader of the unregistered party 'Alga!'. This information was reported by the opposition media in Kazakhstan, as well as by the lawyer and the wife of the politician who was apprehended on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, 2012.

It was also reported that threats were sent to the home of Alia Turusbekova, Vladimir Kozlov's wife, saying that Vladimir Kozlov may be transferred to Zhanaozen to a detention facility with a stricter regime, if she does not cease providing information to the international society, and personally MEP Piotr Borys, on the progress of investigation of his case.

According to the 'Respublika' newspaper, Aleksey Plugov, Vladimir Kozlov's lawyer announced that his client had undergone surgery at the Central Military Hospital in Almaty. Neither Kozlov's lawyer or his wife are allowed to visit or pass any packages to him, which has been repeatedly stated before.

The Open Dialog Foundation hereby urges the international community to not allow the wife of Vladimir Kozlov, the opposition party leader, to be blackmailed and to demand an independent investigation of the state of his health.

The Open Dialog Foundation calls on the authorities of Kazakhstan to monitor the health conditions of Vladimir Kozlov and to inform his trustees about it.

**Reference:** Vladimir Kozlov, born in 1960. He was a journalist and since 2007 – the chairman of the Coordination Committee of the 'Alga' People's Party. He was apprehended on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, 2012 on charges of inciting social hatred (Article 164 of the Criminal Code). On the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, 2012, the Almalinskiy Court in Almaty, in closed session ruled a decision on the arrest of Igor Vinyavskiy, Vladimir Kozlov and Serik Sapargali.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, 2012, MEP Piotr Borys visited the town of Zhanaozen in Kazakhstan. During his visit he met with representatives of city administration and local residents.

On the 16th of December, 2011 riots occurred in Zhanaozen. The oil workers, who had been on strike since May 2011, and the police were involved in the unrest. During the course of the riots, special police units used weapons and according to official figures, 16 people were killed. According to the opposition politicians and independent media, the death toll was much higher.

**For more detailed information, please contact:**

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