



Warsaw, 6 March, 2017

**OPEN DIALOG FOUNDATION:
RESPONSE TO THE DEFAMATORY CAMPAIGN BY ALLEGED “INDIPENDENT” KAZAKH
NGO**

Mrs Balli Marzec recently addressed the ODF and MEPs with whom we met during the Strasbourg week in February, 2017, via an email with the subject “*True opposition have nothing in common with Ablyazov*”. In the email, Mrs Marzec called into question the political context related to Mr Mukhtar Ablyazov and the BTA bank case, claiming that Mr Ablyazov has bribed politicians and journalists via his “*mercenaries*” to support his case. She also stated that Mr Ablyazov should not be considered as a “*dissident*” but rather as an “*impostor*” who has employed the “*\$6 billion stolen from the Kazakh people*” to hire NGOs and media in selling his case as a political controversy initiated by Nazarbayev’s regime. The email referred also to other alleged ambiguities of Mr Ablyazov’s activities and associates, without providing any reliable sources or grounds.

In regards to the defamatory accusations made by Mrs Marzec and addressed *inter alia* towards the Foundation; we would like to clarify our position on the issue.

Firstly, financial and factual reports on the Foundation’s activity and revenues are publicly available on our website [HERE](#). Budgetary reports of the Foundation are periodically submitted to the fiscal authorities and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland with full accordance to the applicable regulations.

Secondly, unjustified allegations of being “*mercenaries*” of Mr Ablyazov are just part of a broader defamatory campaign that has harmed the Foundation’s independence and its image so far. In many occasions, the Foundation was precluded from cooperation and financing opportunities on the basis of these biased convictions. The Foundation has been a victim of numerous defamatory propaganda attacks and open threats for its campaigns in defence of democracy, rule of law and human rights in Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine (please see our statements on the issue [HERE](#) and [HERE](#)).

Mrs Marzec has been a vital part of these efforts for several years. On 6 October, 2016 the ODF has concluded an amicable settlement within a lawsuit with the Polish "Wprost" weekly magazine, filed by the ODF against the magazine, in connection with the publication of a material concerning the Foundation's alleged links with 'the oligarch from Kazakhstan' (Mr Ablyazov) in February 2014. **As established during the pre-trial proceedings, not only Mrs Marzec has openly and extensively defamed the Foundation via Internet, but also was one of the main sources of the article.** Other sources were notes produced by Russian and Ukrainian intelligence services at the time of Yanukovich's governance. The counsel of the case, Mr Wojciech Mądrycki, confirmed that the lawsuit was acquitted by the parties and a Correction Notice was published on the weekly magazine (for further information please see the [LINK](#)). However, Mrs Marzec's groundless allegations continue and even claims that she «was assaulted» by Lyudmyla Kozlovska, President of ODF and her colleague Bartosz Kramek in Warsaw. It comes naturally to state that we have never been involved in such actions. When the case had been discontinued by law enforcement and judicial authorities as groundless, Balli Marzec responded in accusing them of being 'Ablyazov's agents'.

Mrs Marzec remains renowned in Poland as a person who persistently attempts to attract attention to herself and her alleged *only true opposition activities* and takes advantage of producing vocal actions such as hunger strikes, announcing becoming a candidate for the post of the President of Poland, severe beating by Polish police, fake news and other sort of misinformation. It is not uncommon for Mrs Marzec to openly insult and publicly accuse others (including prominent politicians and official state bodies of different countries) of being *mercenaries, thieves, false opposition, paid by Ablyazov* etc. Some of her above-mentioned activities via websites and social media could be read [HERE](#) and below:



Balli Marzec
@BalliMarzec



Kazachski Tiananmen #Nazarbajew Warszawie
Chan unicestwił Opozycje w kraju
Sama przeciw dyktaturze #Kazachstan



11:48 - 23 ago 2016



ENG: “Kazakh Tiananmen #Nazarbayev in Warsaw. The Khan annihilated the opposition. Alone against dictatorship #Kazakhstan” ([LINK](#))



Balli Marzec
@BalliMarzec



Fundacja Otwarty dialog ma kasę od oszusta
oligarcha Ablyazov. Kupuje sprzęt wojskowy
polityków. Szykuje przejęcie władzy i przewrót?
#FOD

09:29 - 6 lug 2014



ENG: “The Open Dialog Foundation’s money comes from the impostor, oligarch Ablyazov. [It] buys military equipment and politicians. Prepares to take power and coup? #FOD” ([LINK](#))



Balli Marzec
@BalliMarzec



Polacy nie interesują się polityką fundacja
otwarty dialog opanowuje #Polska. Mają
polityków dziennikarzy oponują policje wojsko i
Alleluja

03:16 - 6 lug 2014



ENG: “Polish people do not follow politics. Open Dialog Foundation takes over #Poland. They have politicians, journalists, they will take over army and police. Alleluja” ([LINK](#))

As seen above, one of the primary channels of such communication has been Mrs Marzec official websites and social media profiles where plenty of such messages could be found in other websites [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) or in her twitter page [HERE](#).

Lastly, the Foundation is not concerned with the validity of the accusations that Mr Ablyazov faces but rather questions the misuse of justice and the methods through which Kazakhstan prosecute critics of Nazarbayev's regime. It is established in our statutory goals to promote the respect of fundamental rights in the post-Soviet region, as well the right to a fair trial and access to justice in these countries. So far, the Foundation has supported and met with different opposition parties, representatives from the government administration, NGOs and mass-media in Kazakhstan, not necessarily linked to Mr Ablyazov's activities. Our commitment in regards to Mr Ablyazov's case is only to ensuring him an honest and fair trial.