

URGENT ACTION

WOMAN FACES TORTURE IF EXTRADITED

Tatiana Paraskevich is detained in the Czech Republic and in imminent danger of extradition to Ukraine or Russia. If forcibly returned to either country, she will likely be transferred to Kazakhstan and at risk of torture and other ill-treatment, and unfair trial due to her links with Kazakhstani opposition figure, Mukhtar Ablyazov.

Tatiana Paraskevich, a 49-year-old asylum seeker in Czech Republic and dual national of Kazakhstan and Russia, was arrested pursuant to an Interpol warrant in May 2012 while seeking medical treatment for heart disease in Karlovy Vary, Czech Republic. In June 2012, the Ukrainian authorities requested her extradition for alleged financial crimes. An extradition request from Russia is also pending. The Regional Court of Pilsen ruled twice against her extradition to Ukraine: in October 2012 and January 2013. In February 2013, the Supreme Court of Prague decided to allow the extradition and a subsequent appeal to the Constitutional Court was rejected in May 2013. In April 2013, she applied for asylum and is awaiting a decision. Under current Czech law, an extradition cannot go forward until an asylum claim is determined. She has been in detention in Pilsen for over 18 months.

The extradition requests are likely connected to Tatiana Paraskevich's links with the Kazakhstani opposition figure Mukhtar Ablyazov, who fled Kazakhstan in 2009 and was recognized as a refugee in the UK in 2011. He is currently detained in France awaiting a decision on his own extradition to Ukraine or Russia. Tatiana Paraskevich is a former manager of an investment group and has been accused by Ukrainian and Russian prosecutors of having committed financial crimes in collusion with Mukhtar Ablyazov, who was the former chairman of the Board of Directors of BTA Bank (Kazakhstan).

Under international law, Czech Republic has an absolute obligation not to return anyone to a country where he or she would be at real risk of persecution or other serious human rights violations; that obligation extends to forcible returns to countries where a person is at risk of onward transfer to a country where she would be at risk of such violations. The Czech authorities must therefore refrain from extraditing Tatiana Paraskevich to Ukraine or Russia, which would constitute a violation of Czech Republic's international human rights obligations.

Please write immediately in Czech, English or your own language:

- ✓ Urging the authorities to take all necessary measures to adhere to the Czech Republic's human rights obligations not to return Tatiana Paraskevich to Ukraine or Russia where she would be in danger of onward transfer to Kazakhstan and at risk of serious human rights violations.
- ✓ Calling on the authorities not to accept diplomatic assurances from Ukraine or Russia or any other country with a record of torture and other ill-treatment, because such guarantees are inherently unreliable and do not provide an effective safeguard against such human rights violations.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 02 DECEMBER 2013 TO:

Minister of the Interior
Ing. Martin Pecina, MBA
Ministry of Interior, Nad Štolou 3
170 34 Prague 7, Czech Republic
Fax: + 420 974 833 500
Email: protokolkm@mvcz.cz
Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Justice
Mgr. Marie Benešová
Ministry of Justice
Vyšehradská 16
128 10 Prague 2, Czech Republic
Fax: + 420 224 921 657

E-mail: SM@msp.justice.cz
Salutation: Dear Minister

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

There have been a number of cases against Kazakhstani political and civil society activists in which criminal prosecution was linked to their private, political or professional association with Mukhtar Ablyazov. These cases have been marked by violations of the principles of fair trial, and it is widely believed that final judgments resulting in convictions of these persons have been subject to political influence. On 31 May 2013, Mukhtar Ablyazov's wife and daughter were illegally expelled from Italy and forcibly transferred to Kazakhstan in violation of Italian and international law.

Torture and ill-treatment are routine interrogation methods in Kazakhstan. Torture and ill-treatment are also common to discipline convicted prisoners. Please, see Amnesty International's latest report on torture in Kazakhstan *Old habits: The routine use of torture and other ill-treatment in Kazakhstan* (EUR 57/001/2013): <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR57/001/2013/en>. Amnesty International's recent report *Return to torture: Extradition, forcible returns and removals to Central Asia* (Index: EUR 04/001/2013) highlights the risk of torture and other ill-treatment of certain groups, including political dissidents and those associated with them, on return to Kazakhstan. The report is available at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/EUR57/001/2013/en>.

Name: Tatiana Paraskevich
Gender m/f: f

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