



# RIGHT OF DEFENCE

**№ 6 (APRIL - JUNE)**

**2016**

The quarterly electronic newsletter dedicated to the situation in Kazakhstan in relation to those who defends the rights of other members of society.

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# OVERVIEW



Not only experts, but common Kazakh citizens as well, understand that the country is entering a new period, assessed by many as a "turbulence zone." The continuing worsening of the economic situation is associated, according to official statements, with the falling oil prices and Western sanctions against Kazakhstan's partner in the Eurasian Union. However, if to disregard these circumstances, it still remains obvious that the government has failed to create a more or less efficient economy, which would not depend directly on energy prices. The situation is exacerbated by extensive corruption and possible political instability, frightening off investors.

In the political aspect, many events took place over three months, relating to human rights directly and confirming, unfortunately, negative trends.

Certainly, the main topic of the season was land protests. Although the moratorium on the new land law took effect on 1 July 2016, investigations are underway against civil rights activists in Atyrau (for the alleged preparation of riots), Astana (for the alleged resistance to police officers), and Uralsk (for the alleged incitement to racial or ethnic hatred; the trial has ended already with a suspended sentence).

*The protests against amendments to the Land Code began on 20 April*

*2016 and subsided after President Nazarbayev announced on 5 May his moratorium on the amendments against participating in the rally on 21 May.*

*Over ten protests, bringing together between one and more than two thousand people, took place in Kazakhstan. All protests were peaceful and ended without police interventions (except in Kyzylorda). Moreover, in some towns such as Atyrau, Zhanaozen and Uralsk, local authorities (akims and their deputies) expressed their willingness for dialogue with people.*

*However, the uncertainty and unpredictability in the authorities' reaction (where in some instances the organisers of and participants in the protests were not prosecuted, while in other instances they were; or, in the same town, the participants in a protest were not prosecuted, while the participants in another one were) is a matter of concern.*

*According to our information, from 17 to 20 May, twenty-two civil rights activists, including human rights activists, were sentenced to three to fifteen days of imprisonment in Kazakhstan for having taken part in the land protests. In addition, Ualikhan Kaisar, an activist, had a search at his home and the Abyroi organisation (Uralsk) at their office. Some other activists were warned*

In early June, an extremist attack took place in Aktobe. It shocked the public and raised many questions. The government declared at first the "red" and then the "yellow" level of terror threat. A puzzling issue was that police search bulletins listed three bystanders, including a schoolchild. On 10 June, seventeen followers of non-traditional Islam were arrested in Uralsk. In addition, a group of Salafis, one of which blew himself up, was arrested in Karaganda Region.

After the extremist attack in Aktobe, the issue of lifting the moratorium on the death penalty in Kazakhstan was raised. The first such statement was made by President Nazarbayev and, as a consequence, many other "experts" began to talk about the necessity to apply the death penalty in countering terrorism.

At the same time, Tokhtar Tuleshov, an arrested businessman, and several law enforcement officers were alleged to have been involved in the preparation of a coup d'état. According to investigators, the coup was to begin with the protests and, accordingly, investigators tried to link the land protests and the alleged coup.

A matter of concern was information about a conflict at a mine in the settlement of Bestobe between the miners of Kazakhaltyn, a gold mining company, and security guards who used guns against the workers.

Kazakhstan's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council was presented as the country's serious achievement. In addition, the official media announced that Kazakhstan had successfully reported to the United Nations Human Rights Committee on the performance of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, while the results of the report were not known at the moment.



The situation with the freedom of speech continues to worsen. In July, a material claim against the opposition newspaper Tribuna. Sayasi Kalam was sustained and the newspaper can now be expected to close. In addition, the

Tribuna. Communist of Kazakhstan newspaper closed for financial reasons. Three websites related to the Socialist Movement of Kazakhstan (SMK) (<http://www.npravo.org>, <http://www.socdeistvie.info> and [www.klassprof.org](http://www.klassprof.org)) were blocked since 1 May. The SMK's main website (<http://socialismkz.info>) was blocked in July 2013. Some other opposition websites and some Russian websites that criticise Kazakh authorities also remain blocked. As a rule, no respective judgements, although compulsory, are made in these instances.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Karim Massimov was suspected of taking a EUR 12 million bribe from Airbus. The French prosecutors are being reported to investigate several cases against the Airbus Group. The investigation against Airbus in Kazakhstan was begun by the French financial prosecutors in 2013. According to their allegations, in 2010, Airbus' top managers transferred EUR 12 million to Karim Massimov's bank accounts for his facilitation in Kazakhstan's purchase of 45 French helicopters for a total of EUR 2 billion.

# GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



**584 Kazakhstani citizens and one organization were blacklisted**

The Financial Monitoring Committee at the Ministry of Finance published the list of organisations and individuals related to the financing of terrorism and extremism in Kazakhstan.

The list includes 584 Kazakh citizens, one organisation and supposed investors in riots (<http://kfm.gov.kz/ru/the-list-of-organizations-and-individuals-associat/>). All persons on the list are banned from making bank transactions on their own. In addition, it is not clear what criteria were used to include individuals in the list. The 584 persons on the list include the accused Protestant Ykylas Kabduakasov, the civil rights activists Bolatbek Blyalov, Serikzhan Mambetalin, and Yermek Narymbayev, and the accused bloggers Yermek Tachibekov and Tatyana Shevtsova-Valova. All these people have faced or may face serious restrictions in the financial sphere.

# POSITIVE EXAMPLES



On 4 June, at the International Labour Conference in Geneva (Switzerland), the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Committee on the Application of Standards (CAS) – which represents governments, trade unions and employers – expressed “serious concern” about Kazakhstan’s lack of progress on bringing national labour legislation into compliance with a key convention it ratified in 2000. The CAS stated that key parts of Kazakhstan’s 2014 trade union law violated ILO Convention 87 on freedom of association, one of the ILO’s most important conventions. The CAS also said that Kazakhstan should amend its constitution to allow judges, firefighters, and prison staff to join unions. The CAS said

that Kazakhstan should “ensure the full autonomy and independence of the free and independent employers’ organisations.” Kazakhstan had been reprimanded in the CAS in 2015 over the trade union law.

On 21 and 22 June, Kazakhstan presented its report on the fulfilment of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to the United Nations Human Rights Committee at its 117th session. Kazakhstan's first report on its compliance (or non-compliance) with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights was made in July 2011. In 24, out of 31 paragraphs, the United Nations Human Rights Committee expressed its concern or regret as

to compliance with the Covenant in Kazakhstan and only two paragraphs mentioned certain progress. During the presentation of the report, UN experts asked Kazakh officials many questions concerning numerous violations of human rights and non-compliance with certain provisions of the Covenant. The answers of the Kazakh delegation were either evasive or plainly false. The United Nations Human Rights Committee's observations are available in English at [http://bureau.kz/en/news/other\\_sources/concluding\\_observations\\_on\\_the\\_second\\_periodic\\_report\\_of\\_kazakhstan](http://bureau.kz/en/news/other_sources/concluding_observations_on_the_second_periodic_report_of_kazakhstan).

First meetings of public councils at various ministries and authorities took place in Kazakhstan. Public councils began to work on 1 January 2016. Their objectives are to ensure implementation of the government's policy to form a state accountable to the citizens, as well as the wide participation of public institutions and citizens in decision making by governmental authorities at all levels. Public councils are formed by a working group based on competitions from the general public, including non-governmental organisations, the academia, the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan, the media, business associations, professional and industrial unions, the expert community, and citizens. The public council at the Ministry of the Internal Affairs of the Republic



of Kazakhstan comprises Kuat Rakhimberdin, Director of the East Kazakhstan Regional Branch of KIBHR, and the public council at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs comprises Anastassia Miller, Director of the Kostanai Regional Branch of KIBHR.

On 29 March, in response to an individual appeal from the Kazakh journalist Ramazan Yesergepov, the United Nations Human Rights Committee passed a resolution to acknowledge the state's violation of his rights guaranteed by international conventions. On 8 August 2009, Taraz Municipal Court 2 sentenced Yesergepov to three years in prison and prohibited him



from engaging in publishing and its Jambyl Regional journalism for two years thereafter. Department, featuring two texts In November 2008, Ramazan from correspondence between the Yesergepov, publisher and chief chief of the Jambyl Regional editor of the Alma-Ata Info Department and the central office of newspaper, published an article of the National Security Committee. In entitled "Who Rules the Country: response to this article, the National President or National Security Security Committee suspended the Committee?" in the newspaper (that printing of the newspaper and issue occurred to be the last one as initiated a criminal charge against a result). The piece told about illegal Yesergepov for the alleged actions on the part of head officers collection and publication of the National Security Committee classified information.

## RENEWAL OF THE CASES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND POLLITICALLY OPPRESSED PERSONS



### **Vadim Kuramshin**

From the beginning of April, the jailed human rights activist Vadim Kuramshin has been totally prohibited from making contacts outside the jail and telephone calls. At present, he is under strict regime and does not receive many letters sent to him. In January, the prison staff arranged a provocation against Kuramshin: they searched his cell and allegedly found some razors, and, as a result, Kuramshin was subjected to another disciplinary sanction.

On 4 April, it became known that the United Nations Human Rights Committee refused to register Kuramshin's appeal after it had been rejected by the section in charge of considering formal circumstances of appeals.

*On 7 December 2012, the Zhambyl Region Specialised Interdistrict Criminal Court found the well-known human rights activist Vadim Kuramshin guilty of blackmailing and sentenced him to twelve years in prison under strict regime and seizure of property. The previous jury had declared Kuramshin not guilty but the appellate court had then remitted the case for additional investigation. Lawyers point out to gross violations in court proceedings. Human rights activists believe that Kuramshin is a prisoner of conscience and was imprisoned because of his proactive human rights position.*

# Incidents with human rights activists, public organizations, independent media as of April to June, 2016

**April 2016** On 11 March 2016 (*it also became*



**Mukhtar Umbetov**

**In mid-February** (*although it became known in April only*), in AKTAU, Mukhtar Umbetov, co-chair of the Zhanartu Kazakh trade union of workers, got a call on his entryphone. Unknown persons demanded that he go out. They called him by name and surname and threatened physical violence, in obscene language. Mukhtar called the police but the persons had run away before the police arrived. Police officers interrogated Umbetov and his neighbours. Umbetov testified that the hooligans (who came at 1 a.m.) had threatened him and his family. Earlier, in December, he received phone calls from unknown persons who threatened him and his son. That time he complained to the police and the prosecutor of Aktau and also reported to the region's akimat (executive body).

*known in April*), in ASTANA, the human rights activist Talas Sagimbayev who had lost a lawsuit against the father of Prime Minister Karim Massimov was sentenced to four months and 22 days in prison. Sagimbayev was detained near his house and taken to a detention facility and then to a penal colony. The restraint he was adjudged earlier was substituted with actual imprisonment. In May 2015, Saryarka District Court 2 in Astana sentenced Sagimbayev to a one-year restraint for failure to fulfil a judgement and a compensation of 300,000 tenge for moral damages caused to Kazhimkan Massimov, the father of Prime Minister Karim Massimov. Five years ago, the court obliged Sagimbayev to withdraw his appeal to President Nursultan Nazarbayev, in which he had lodged complaints against Kazhimkan Massimov, and refute his allegations against Massimov in the press. In addition, Sagimbayev was adjudged to pay 300,000 tenge as compensation of moral damages. However, he failed to fulfil the judgement. Sagimbayev himself insisted that the judgement obligating him to pay 300,000 tenge and make refutation in the press was unlawful because he had not been present in the court and had

not receive a respective notice.

**On 12 April 2016, in SHYMKENT,** the Al-Farabi District Court chaired by Madiyar Abdrasilov, began to hear the case against Kyzdyga Azharkulova, chair of the Zashchitim Svoi Dom (Protect Our House) organisation. The leader of Shymkent mortgagers has been kept in a detention facility in Shymkent since December 2015 because of alleged fraud (under Article 190 of the Criminal Code). The claimants stated that Azharkulova, as the leader of their organisation, had "failed to help them" and claimed that she be held criminally liable and return money paid as membership fees. Gulnara Zhuaspayeva, Azharkulova's lawyer, commented to Azattyk that, in accordance with the charter of the public association founded by Azharkulova, its membership was voluntary. According to the lawyer, the charter provided for monthly membership fees and payments of additional expenses for events, which suggests that all money was paid in accordance with the charter. The judge announced that the press wouldn't be allowed to the proceeding. Zhuaspayeva reports that the hearings, which began in April, are being delayed for various reasons. The sentence is expected to be announced in July 2016.

**On 13 April 2016, in PAVLODAR,**

the Pavlodar Regional Court dismissed an appeal from the human rights activist Yelena Semyonova who had requested to reverse the judgement of the trial court prohibiting her from visiting regional prisons with inspections. In January 2016, Semyonova, chair of the Pavlodar Region Public Supervisory Commission, filed a claim to the Pavlodar Municipal Court against the Penal System Department's prohibition to visit the prisons controlled by it. The Penal System Department explained its prohibition by the fact that another public supervisory commission (with another chair) had been formed in Pavlodar Region.

**On 20 April 2016, in PAVLODAR,** Yerzhan Orazalinov, deputy chair of the Mir Ekologii (World of Ecology) public association was detained. Orazalinov is known for his statements about violations of environmental laws and regulations by the region's enterprises. Orazalinov is suspected of major blackmailing. He was detained based on Articles 253.5.3 and



Yerzhan Orazalinov

253.5.4 of the Criminal Code (major commercial bribe and blackmailing). Earlier, Orazalinov was the first person to report on his Facebook page about chlorine leakage at the Kaustik plant in May 2015. As a result, the plant paid a penalty of 100,000 tenge. It was found out that the leakage had been caused by the fact that the gaskets used at container and piping junctions were not intended to be used in an aggressive environment. In early 2015, the Specialised Interdistrict Economic Court sustained Mir Ekologii's claim against Bogatyr Komir, a coal producer, to invalidate an environmental hearing. That time Orazalinov provided evidence that the company had failed to observe the timeframe between the announcement and the hearing.

**On 22 April**, Orazalinov was released on bail. The criminal case was submitted to the Pavlodar Region Department for Internal Affairs for pre-trial procedures. The investigation is still officially underway.

**On 21 April 2016, in ALMATY**, the police detained Assem Almukhanbetkyzy, former founder of the Tribuna. Sayasat Alany newspaper and head of the Alan Zhurt individual business. Almukhanbetkyzy was arrested based on a claim from a law enforcement officer that the

newspaper had failed to pay a penalty imposed on it in 2014. In fact, out of 2,000,000 tenge of the penalty adjudged by the court, 1,000,000 had been paid at the time. Almukhanbetkyzy was taken to the Almaly District Department for Internal Affairs, without any explanations, and spent there about six hours. She had not received any official summons or telephone calls requiring her to come for an interrogation before. The first interrogating officer required that she make explanations with respect to the claim. He was then changed by another officer who required explanations on the criminal case instigated as a result of the alleged failure to perform the court's judgement in April (under Article 430 of the Criminal Code). Finally, Almukhanbetkyzy was allowed to see her lawyer and, after providing explanations, was permitted to leave.

**On 29-30 April 2016, in MANGISTAU REGION**, Saniya Toiken, Azattyk Radio's journalist, was detained by the police near the town of Zhanaozen. According to social media, Toiken went there to cover possible protests against amendments to the Land Code. Toiken stayed at the police office and answered questions from an interrogator until 30 April, 5.00 a.m. In the afternoon she made another attempt to go to Zhanaozen.

However, she was prevented again from entering the town and had to return to Almaty.

## **May 2016**

**On 1 May 2016, in AKTOBE**, the human rights activist Alima Abdirova was detained violently when she approached Abay Boulevard. Abdirova intended to monitor possible protests against amendments to the Land Code. She was brought to a court and adjudged a penalty of 40 monthly calculation indices (around EUR 200) under Article 488 (for her participation in a rally on 27 April, which brought together up to 500 people). She was also charged with "having participated" in a rally against land amendments (which never happened) on 1 May 2016.

**On 5 May 2016**, a criminal case for the alleged preparation of riots was instigated in URALSK. On 17 May, police officers searched the office of the Abyroi public association and took away all office equipment. On 18 May, Zhanat Yessentayev, a singer and one of Abyroi's leaders, was arrested for the alleged incitement of ethnic or racial hatred. Another Abyroi's activist, Issatai Utepov, is a witness, with the right to defence, under Articles 24.1 (Preparations for Crime and Attempted Crime) and 272.1 (Preparing Riots) of the Criminal

Code. Police officers got access to Utepov's email and said thereafter that he had been instructed to prepare riots in Astana and western regions of Kazakhstan by Aidos Sadykov, a member of the opposition and former citizen of Aktobe, living in Kiev since 2014.

**On 13 May 2016, in ALMATY**, the editors of the Tribuna. Sayasi-Kalam newspaper were served a claim from the director of Almaty Zharnama. Almaty Zharnama had filed a suit to the Medeu District Court against the journalist Denis Krivosheyev, the newspaper's chief editor Zhanbolat Mamai and the Kalam individual business, for a total of 15 million tenge, because of an article published at tribunakz.com (A Corruptionist to Head Almaty Zharnama?). Almaty Zharnama also claimed legal fees in the amount of 1 million tenge. The article read that Sultanbek Syzdykov, the new director of the state-run company, a monopolist in the city's outdoor advertisement market, who was appointed by the new akim (mayor), had been previously suspected of misappropriating public funds allocated for the Asian Winter Games. However, the case against the official was closed after he had indemnified damages.

On 15 May 2016



**Makhambet Abzhan**

Makhambet Abzhan, a human rights activist, was detained by the police in ASTANA for no reason. He was caused bodily injury in the course of arrest: "They turned my arm violently, scratched my arms and legs, strangled me, pulled my left cheek, hit me in the ribs, sat on my head, dropped me. They made me feel desperate and unable to resist their unlawful actions. They also broke my watch strap, scratched my Iphone, tore my jacket and shirt, and scratched my trousers." Abzhan also stated that police officers had continued to strangle him in the police car and put a piece of cloth on his head. "When we went to the Almaty District Department for Internal Affairs, in Astana, in their car, the officers hit my legs and arms and tickled me. This caused me serious physical and moral suffering," Abzhan wrote in his statement. The next day he was

sentenced to ten days in prison for "disorderly conduct." Not long before his arrest, Abzhan said that he had been warned by the prosecutor's office to not arrange protests without permissions from authorities. Later, a criminal case was instigated against Abzhan for resisting police officers.

**On 18 May 2016, in EAST KAZAKHSTAN REGION,**

Yedyge Batyrov, head of the Kaisar farm in the village of Kokpekty, was sentenced by the Criminal Panel of the East Kazakhstan Regional Court to three years in a penal colony for having insulted officers of the Kokpekty Police Department on duty, arbitrariness and misrepresentation. The conflict between the farmer and police officers began in 2013, when Batyrov began to make statements about officials' violations against farms. Batyrov had lost his land plot to fraudsters, who had remained unpunished, and began to help his co-villagers who found themselves in a similar situation. He instigated 18 criminal cases, which resulted in procedural action, including punishments for local officials.

**On 18 May 2016, in AKTOBE,**

the Municipal Court made a judgement on a claim filed by Elvira Kadimova, director of the Centre for Minors' Adaptation, against the human rights activists Olga Klimonova and

Alima Abdirova. On 12 April, Kadimova filed a new claim for 300,000 tenge for the alleged distribution of false information on the internet from a letter to the akim (mayor) on 9 February 2016. This letter mentioned the centre Kadimova was in charge of, as well as old and new problems that emerged during her management.

On 18 May, the court sustained Kadimova's claim and adjudged that the human rights activists were to apologise and refute the published information at a meeting at the Centre and pay an aggregate penalty of over 450,000 tenge. The court disregarded that, in accordance with international law, "The participants in a national preventive mechanism (NPM) are immune from prosecution relating to their professional activities at the NPM." In addition, the court disregarded the expert opinion of the Human Rights Implementation Centre of the University of Bristol titled Amicus Brief intervening in the case of Ms Alima Abdirova and Ms Olga Klimonova.

**Earlier, on 22 December 2015**, the same Aktobe Municipal Court dismissed the claim from the director of the Centre for Minors' Adaptation against Alima Abdirova and Olga Klimonova, members of the National Preventive Mechanism

(NPM), with respect to submissions in the NPM report.

**On 18 May 2016, in ATYRAU**, the civil rights activists Max Bokayev and Talgat Ayan were arrested by the Atyrau Region Specialised Administrative Court for the alleged calls for participation in a non-permitted rally. They were charged under Articles 24.1 (Preparations for Crime and Attempted Crime) and 179.3 (Propaganda or Public Calls for Seizure or Retention of Power, or Seizure or Retention of Power, or Dismantlement of Statehood of the Republic of Kazakhstan). Six other civil rights activists (Yerlan Bashakov, Sagyngalai Kapizov, Gatauli Bokhan, Kubaidolla Sholak, Adilbek Musaully, and Zhasulan Mussabekov) are free, or have been released on bail, or are witnesses with the right to defence.

**СВОБОДА | СВОБОДА |**



**On 19 May 2016, in SHYMKENT**, Dilara Isa, Azattyk Radio's journalist, was issued a document from the Yenbekshi District Prosecutor's Office in Shymkent warning her against participation in non-permitted protests and about her liability should she decide to

take part in them. Isa did not have intentions to participate in the protests but planned to be there as a journalist. Nevertheless, she was warned against participation as a private person. Anar Suleyeva, chief editor at the Temirkazyk-oi newspaper, was also called to the prosecutor's office for the same reason. However, she refused to go the prosecutor's office without an official notice.

**On 20 May 2016, in ALMATY**, the human rights activist Rinat Kibrayev was arrested and put into a detention facility for the alleged procurement of women and girls. He had got acquainted with a businessman named Yernar, who offered Kibrayev and his wife (having medical background) a rented apartment and money to open a massage centre. Yernar then proposed that the massage centre should also offer sex services but Kibrayev refused. Yet, they agreed to open the massage centre. In the rented apartment, video- and sound-recording equipment was installed to record that Yernar handed money over to Kibrayev. In addition, the banknotes were marked. This evidence was used to charge Kibrayev and his wife with procurement. An interesting fact is that Yernar is not mentioned in the criminal case. This and the fact that the apartment was

equipped with special audio and video recorders suggest that it was a prearranged provocation.



**On 23 May 2016, in ALMATY**, Guzyal Baidalinova, editor and owner of the Nakanune.kz website, was found guilty of having committed a crime under Article 274.3 of the Criminal Code (Deliberate Distribution of Knowingly False Information by a Group of Persons, in Collusion, with the Use of the Media and Information and Communication Networks). She was sentenced to eighteen months in a panel colony.

**On 25 May 2016, in KOSTANAI**, Nurgeldy Dyusenov, journalist of the Nasha Gazeta weekly, received warnings at his vk.com page against making publications on a certain topic and threats of "unpleasant consequences" if he does. The topic concerned was the matter of Gilbert Vasquez, a U.S.



citizen, who had been alleged to have violated Kazakhstan's migration laws. At the same time, migration officers have committed a number of violations and fabricated documents.

## **June 2016**

**On 1 June 2016**, three criminal cases were instigated against Makhambet Abzhan, human rights activist, in ASTANA. He is alleged to have insulted, resisted and used violence against government officials. In particular, he is alleged of having torn a pocket at a police officer's clothing. Abzhan was detained for two times in May. The second time he was arrested for ten days for "disorderly conduct" (filming tax and police officers). In early May, Abzhan was warned at a meeting of the Alash Zholy initiative group in Astana. Then he was detained for identity check and warned against arranging a rally. The activist later burned the document and posted the respective video at Periscope. Now, Abzhan is at risk of imprisonment.

**On 16 June 2016, in ALMATY REGION**, the lawyer Luiza Tashmetova, who defends the blogger Yermek Taichibekov imprisoned for four years for having instigated ethnic or racial hatred, reported that she had received a

letter from the Supreme Court, with an attached resolution of Kambayev Nuryshev, judge of the Supreme Court's Penal Board, dismissing her appeal for Taichibekov. Nuryshev wrote in his resolution that Tashmetova's appeal to reconsider Taichibekov's sentence was unsubstantiated because, as he believed, "the conclusion of the court that Taichibekov was guilty of having committed a crime in the circumstances described in the sentence was based on evidence, which had been comprehensively and fully reviewed by the court." The first hearing was scheduled to take place in June, but was postponed.



**On 22 June 2016, in ASTANA**, the human rights activist Makhambet Abzhan required that the police officers who had allegedly caused bodily injury to him be held liable. Abzhan filed a claim to the prosecutor's office and attached 19 photographs to his claim. In May, he was arrested for "disorderly

conduct." According to Abzhan, he "disorderly conduct" from 17 to 27  
was arrested because he had May 2016. The activist believes that  
written about the planned protests his arrest was associated with the  
against land amendments on 21 "coverage of the land protests on 21  
May. May."

**On 23 June 2016, the ASTANA**  
Municipal Court dismissed Abzhan's  
complaint against his arrest for

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**This bulletin was prepared by Kazakhstan International bureau for human rights with the support of Netherlands Helsinki Committee in fame of the project «Support human rights defenders in post-Soviet countries»**

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