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H. E. Mr. Selim Yenel
Ambassador of Turkey to the EU

H. E. Mr. Almaz Khanazayer
Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the EU

Brussels, 09th of February 2017

Subject: Case of kidnapping of a Kazakh refugee.

Dear Ambassadors,

I write to you concerning allegations of kidnapping of Mr. Zhaksylyk Zharimbetov, a Kazakh political refugee by Kazakh and Turkish special services on 21st of January 2017.

Mr. Zharimbetov's wife, Ms Akmaral Zharimbetova, was informed that Mr. Zharimbetov was detained on the 17th of January in Istanbul Sabiha Gokcen airport. There was no substantiated accusation supporting this detention.

Mr. Zharimbetov's lawyers have been denied access to him, and when the same lawyers inquired as to the motive for Mr Zharimbetov's detention, the authorities claimed he was charged with passport forgery.

I would appreciate if you let me know which are the precise circumstances relating to Mr. Zharimbetov's situation at the current moment, his whereabouts and any charges eventually impending upon him.

Best regards,

Ana Gomes
MEP

CC: Commissioner Johannes Hahn
HR/VP Federica Mogherini
SR Stavros Lambrinidis
UNHCR in Brussels