

**Mr. Atambayev**  
**President of Kyrgyz Republic**  
**Administration of the President of Kyrgyz Republic**  
**Prospekt Chuy 205**  
**720003 Bishkek**  
**Kyrgyzstan**

**Brussels, 22 September 2014**

**Re: Concerns regarding an attack against Dinara Mukanbaeva, a human rights lawyer**

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), which, through the national Bars and Law Societies of the Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area, represents more than 1 million European lawyers. In addition to membership from EU bars, it also has observer representatives from a further thirteen European countries' bars.

The CCBE, through its Human Rights Committee, places great emphasis on respect for human rights and the rule of law. The CCBE is particularly concerned by the situation of human rights defenders in the world.

The CCBE writes to express its serious concern over physical and psychological attacks against Ms Mukanbaeva, a lawyer and the Head of the Committee of Defence of Prisoners' Rights in Kyrgyzstan. The CCBE has been informed that on 9 September 2014, at approximately 13:30, an unknown man assaulted Ms Mukanbaeva and threatened her by saying, "if you don't stop working, we will bury you". The attacker then hit her on her head, at which point Ms Mukanbaeva lost consciousness. She was brought to a hospital and diagnosed with a concussion and bruising. Ms Mukanbaeva lodged a complaint about the attack to the Pervomaysky Police Department, but according to our information, Ms Mukanbaeva has not been questioned by a police investigator nor has she received any information regarding the investigation. On 16 September 2014, she lodged a second complaint to the General Prosecutor's Office and to the Ministry of the Interior regarding the lack of an investigation into her case.

Based on the information that we have received, this is not an isolated attack. On 24 August 2014, Ms Mukanbaeva's driver was attacked with a brick to his head by an unknown man who said that it was a warning for Ms Mukanbaeva. Furthermore, Ms Mukanbaeva has received anonymous threats on her mobile phone and, on 18 August 2014, two men entered her office and asked her questions about prisoners, the penitentiary system and prison administration. When Ms Mukanbaeva refused to answer, they showed her identification indicating that they were representatives of the State National Security Committee (SNSC). When they were asked to leave, they threatened Ms Mukanbaeva's and her family's safety. The SNSC has stated that these individuals were not part of its staff. Following this incident, Ms Mukanbaeva lodged a complaint and asked for state protection. To date, the CCBE notes that no security measures have been granted to Ms Mukanbaeva. Moreover, since the last attack, her relatives have observed unknown people monitoring the access to her house.

In this context, the CCBE wishes to draw to your attention the following Principles of the United Nations Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers (1990):

Principle 16 states that:

*Governments shall ensure that lawyers (a) are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference; (b) are able to travel and to consult with their clients freely both within their own country and abroad; and (c) shall not suffer, or be threatened with, prosecution or administrative, economic or other sanctions for any action taken in accordance with recognized professional duties, standards and ethics.*

Furthermore, principle 17 says that:

*Where the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions, they shall be adequately safeguarded by the authorities.*

In view of the above, the CCBE respectfully urges you to investigate these alleged attacks in order to guarantee the security and physical and psychological integrity of Ms Mukanbaeva, her family and staff. In addition, the CCBE asks you to take all necessary measures to guarantee that all lawyers in Kyrgyzstan are able to perform their professional duties without fear of reprisal, hindrance, intimidation or harassment.

I look forward to hearing from your Excellency urgently.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aldo Bulgarelli', with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Aldo BULGARELLI  
President