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**QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD**

**Letter dated 8 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of
Kazakhstan to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed
to the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

The delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights would like to comment on the statement made by the Ambassador of Greece, Mr. T. Kriekoukis on behalf of the European Union on 1 April under item 9 of the Commission's agenda, regarding the human rights situation in Kazakhstan.

Regrettably, the politically motivated character and one-sided approach of the statement do not allow the EU to assess objectively the democratic processes taking place in our country. Kazakhstan has significantly increased its cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Institute of Ombudsmen has been established, more than 3,500 non-governmental organizations operate in the country, and the role of civil society in the political and social life of the country has increased.

The process of democratization was further advanced by the creation, on the President's initiative, of the Permanent Council to elaborate proposals for further democratization and the development of civil society, as well as the establishment of the Public Council on the Mass Media.

The activity of law enforcement bodies and the courts has improved; the issue of the introduction of a moratorium on the death penalty is widely discussed.

In the light of the massive violations of human rights in some countries of the world, the EU statement on the supposedly “political” suppression of opposition and journalists, who in fact were taken to court for serious violations of the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan, does not look solid.

The journalist whose fate causes concern to the EU and the OSCE was convicted for a sexual offence and his guilt was proved in the course of the investigation. The OSCE experts were informed about it.

The delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan strongly believes that it is unacceptable to politicize the Commission and to turn it into a debating society on the basis of “friends” and “foes”.

We hope that the Commission will preserve its unique mandate as an international humanitarian forum and Kazakhstan is ready to cooperate actively with it.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights, under agenda item 9.

(*Signed*): Nurlan DANENOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
