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Dear Mr. Ambassador,

as you know there will be public protests on the 24th of March in the city of Shanaozen, other places in Mangistau region, and the whole of Kazakhstan, because the state repression against striking oil workers and other participants of the peaceful demonstration on 16 December 2011 is continuing.

We therefore strongly demand of you to take a stand for the end of all measures of repression with your government, and to obtain a full inquiry and clarification of the reasons of the massacre on striking oil workers on 16 December, 2011 in Shanaozen and west Kazakhstan. This must include the liberation from prison of all trade union and political activists imprisoned in the aftermath of 12/16/2011.

For as long as full democratic and trade union rights are not implemented in Kazakhstan, we will continue to oppose the "raw material partnership" between Germany and Kazakhstan.

On Saturday, 9th of March 2012, Natalya Sokolova, lawyer of the striking workers of the oil company KazMunaiGaz in west Kazakhstan, who was visited by Andrej Hunko in jail in January 2012, was set free on probation. We welcome this as an important step in the right direction. But we urgently demand that her occupational ban from working as a lawyer be lifted and that all charges be dropped, giving her a complete acquittal. Miss Sokolova she has done nothing illegal but has exercised and defended basic trade union rights.

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Furthermore Vadim Kuramshin, one of the best known independent human rights activists of Kazakhstan Andrej Hunko has done a joint press conference in January, is in prison since the end of January on made-up "evidence". We demand the immediate release of Vadim Kuramshin and all activists!

Our protest today is in support of the activities of strikers and other oppositionists in Kazakhstan planned during this week. On Saturday, March 24, it will have been 100 days since the massacre of Dec 16, 2011. For this reason there will be demonstration, protest rallies etc. During this week, several oil workers are facing their trials, some being threatened with draconian jail verdicts of up to 15 years.

Our protest rally in Berlin will also serve to give the union and social resistance against the authoritarian system in Kazakhstan more publicity in Germany and internationally. By it, we also express our discontent about the fact that the german government is doing economic and raw material exploitation deals with Kazakhstan.

Yours sincerely

- CampaignKazakhstan
- Andrej Hunko, MP for Die LINKE and member of the European Council's parliamentarian assembly
- Alexandra Arnsburg, member of ver.di committee Berlin-Brandenburg region
- workgroup on international issues of Berlin metal worker union, Arbeitskreis Internationalismus der IG Metall Berlin
- young education workers' union, junge GEW Berlin