

JUSTICE FOR KAZAKHSTAN'S OIL WORKERS DEMONSTRATE

Monday 16 December, 2013

10.0 am at the Foreign Office, Parliament Street, corner of King Charles Street, London SW1

12.0 midday at the Kazakh Embassy, 125 Pall Mall, London SW1

We will show our support for Kazakh oil workers, and oppose UK backing for the Kazakh government, on the second anniversary of the massacre of oil workers by Kazakh security forces, at Zhanaozen on 16 December 2011.

Officially, 16 people were killed and 60 wounded; the real numbers are probably higher. Unarmed demonstrators were shot at close range.

The massacre came in response to a seven-month strike by several thousand oil workers demanding better pay and conditions and the right to organise independent trade unions. In

2012, strike activists were jailed for up to seven years: defendants and witnesses were tortured before the trials. Political groups and journalists who had supported the strikers also face repression.

We demand:

- Release the jailed oil workers and end the repression of independent unions;
- An independent inquiry into the Zhanaozen massacre, to establish how many were killed and injured, and who was responsible;
- Investigation and prosecution of all those responsible for torture, and the politicians who sanctioned it.

Cameron, Blair, Nazarbayev: in it together

The UK government and British business elite are among the strongest supporters of Kazakh president Nursultan Nazarbayev's dictatorial regime.

- ▶ When the huge Kashagan oil field in Kazakhstan started up this year, David Cameron flew in to join Nazarbayev at a ceremony;
- ▶ Former prime minister Tony Blair has earned millions of pounds from advising Nazarbayev's government;
- ▶ Other British business leaders who work for Nazarbayev include Richard Evans, former head of

- British Aerospace, who is chairman of Samruk-Kazyna, the giant holding company for Kazakh government assets in oil and other industries;
- ▶ Kazmunaigaz E&P, the oil company for which most of the strikers worked, is listed on the London Stock Exchange;
 - ▶ UK-based oil companies including BG Group (former British Gas), Shell, and North-Sea-based contractors work in Kazakhstan with strong UK government support;
 - ▶ Much of the Kazakh oil sold on the world market finds its way to Europe, including the UK.

Organised by British trade union activists, with the support of Kazakh and Russian friends and Platform London, the NGO that monitors the oil industry.

Contact Gabriel Levy gabriel.levy.mail@gmail.com

More information at <http://peopleandnature.wordpress.com/kazakh-oil-workers/>

Open letter to the Foreign Secretary

to be handed in to the Foreign Office on 16 December

Dear Mr Hague,

On the second anniversary of the massacre of oil workers at Zhanaozen, Kazakhstan, in which at least 16 people were killed and 60 injured, we urge you to protest to the government of Kazakhstan about the repression of the oil workers' movement. We call on the government to take action on the multiple abuses of human rights and multiple breaches of international law that this repression has involved. Specifically, we urge you:

1. To call for the release from prison of at least 10 trade union activists, and others who supported them, jailed mostly under the catch-all law on "inciting social discord", after trials at which there were multiple breaches of Kazakhstan's own legal standards;
2. To take appropriate action in international fora and the international courts on the use of torture against defendants and witnesses in those trials;
3. To demand that the Kazakh government ensures free access to Zhanaozen for representatives of international trade union organisations and non-governmental organisations, so that they can set in motion an independent investigation of the massacre of 16 December, to ascertain the real number of victims and inquire into who was responsible for the massacre.
4. To denounce publicly the government of Kazakhstan for its illegal and unjust repression of the oil workers' movement, and for its intensification of attacks on freedom of speech and of political action in the two years that followed.

Yours sincerely,

**Rail Maritime Transport union/Oil Industry Liason
Committee, Offshore Energy Branch**

David Anderson MP (Labour, Blaydon)

Professor Bill Bowring (School of Law, Birkbeck College,
University of London)

Andrew Brady (Union Solidarity International)

Andrew Burgin (Vice-Chair, Coalition of Resistance)

John Davies (author, Beating Berlusconi)

Barry Faulkner (member of Unite, personal capacity)

David Hopper (General Secretary, Durham Miners
Association)

Emma Hughes (Platform London)

Owen Jones (columnist, The Independent)

Dr Maria la Falce (SOAS)

Ian Lavery MP (Labour, Wansbeck)

Liz Leicester (member of Unison, Camden, personal
capacity)

Gabriel Levy (Justice for Kazakhstan Oil Workers)

Anton Moctonian (member of Unite, personal capacity)

Grahame Morris MP (Labour, Easington)

Walton Pantland (Union Solidarity International)

John Peters (Honorary Life Member, University and
College Union)

Madeleine Reeves (lecturer, University of Manchester)

Neil Rothnie (North Sea oil worker, RMT, personal
capacity)

Bert Schouwenburg (International Officer, GMB)

Vaughan Thomas (RMT, Central Line West branch chair)

Sasha Zernova (Solicitors International Human Rights
Group, CIS working group coordinator)

If you would like to add your name to this letter, please fill this in – CLEARLY, BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE! – and return it to Sasha Zernova, SIHRG, or gabriel.levy.mail@gmail.com.

Name.....

Organisation or title if any (e.g. "branch secretary xxx trade union")

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Email (for us to contact you, not to be published)