# DONGELEK YSTEL CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION STATEMENT

For 22 years now, Nur Otan party, established only for the purpose of usurpation of power by the family of Nursultan Nazarbayev and his entourage, is ruling Kazakhstan.

For many years, the party, its members and officials, were engaged in falsification of electoral processes, drafted anti-popular laws and actively promoted their adoption in the parliament completely controlled by them, changed the constitution for actually legitimizing the power of N. Nazarbayev and his relatives even when they left official posts.

Under the rule of the Nur Otan, the destruction of statehood, the creation of an absolutely corrupt and punitive system of suppression of all the rights and freedoms of citizens was the consequence, as well as the looting of national property.

This party is responsible for the seizure of property and business of citizens, the murder of opposition politicians, civil activists and journalists. Otherwise, the party and its members would not play its legislative and judicial power to cover those acts contradicting all basic international civil rights and international commitments, Kazakhstan signed.

Dongelek Ystel, the only country-wide civil rights society in Kazakhstan firmly believes that Nur Otan should be recognized as anti-democratic, kleptocratic and servant to the interests of the Nazarbayev family and its entourage not only by the people of Kazakhstan, but also by the democratic international community.

While the elite surrounding the Nazarbayev clan and its supporting Nur Otan rule the country, the international community and its institutional bodies repeatedly condemns the deterioration in the human rights situation in Kazakhstan, the repression against the civil society with severe restrictions imposed on the rights of freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association together with censorship of the media, persecution against journalists.

All past elections, won by Nur Otan, were characterized anti-democratic, not free and fair by the EU and US. Long-standing recommendations by the OSCE and the Council of Europe on a severe number of election-related laws in Kazakhstan remain ignored by the ruling elite, underlining the fact that no Kazakh election met international standards so far. The incredible majority of votes in any election, which has been granted to President Nazarbayev and his Nur Otan party for decades now, is the result of gross violence against political opponents and voters.

Kazakhstan, through the control of Nur Otan and its legislative, executive and judicial monopole, is dominated by wide-spread corruption among the ruling elite and is therefore an obstacle for the positive development to human rights, social justice and our economy. Nur Otan tries to present itself as a liberal and moderate party of the "middle class", while it represents only the interests of clans and families that have been usurping not only power, but also its people's property by the extraction of natural resources of Kazakhstan for more than twenty years.

Therefore, in regard of the permanent violations against international standards, Dongelek Ystel is calling on the responsible bodies within the EU- and US-institutions to actively consider their recently approved global sanctions regulations also for the repressive regime in Kazakhstan, its supporters and violators against civil rights. This could allow the prosecution of individuals and organizations responsible for those actions.

We appeal to the members of the European Parliament and the parliamentarians of the EU member states to raise the issue of persecutions against opposition politicians, civil activists and journalists when talking with representatives and leaders of the Nur Otan party. During inter-parliamentary events with the participation of Nur Otan deputies, we ask you to address the restrictive laws on political parties and elections, which stifle the political activity of citizens in Kazakhstan and give all the power to the irremovable bureaucracy and corrupt officials.

We ask the factions of the European Parliament and the leadership of national political parties to pay closer attention to the anti-democratic, pro-authoritarian character of the Nur Otan party.

We ask the leadership of democratic parliamentary parties in the EU countries to openly criticize the practices implemented by Nur Otan party, primarily the suppression of political competition, support for oligarchy and corruption, the persecution of civil society activists, and the persecution of the independent press.

With such decisions, the Western community would not only put pressure on those violating international human rights standards, it would also support the people of Kazakhstan and their trust in the principles of universal civil rights.