**5 August 2015**

**Submission to the UN Human Rights Committee**

**Prior to the Adoption of the *List of Issues***

**(*115th Session – 12 October – 30 October 2015*)**

**Second periodic report pursuant to article 40 of the Covenant**

**Kazakhstan**

**(116th Session of the Human Rights Committee, 7 – 24 March 2016)**

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| SUMMARY OF THE SUBMISSION  This submission to the Human Rights Committee (CCPR) on the Republic of Kazakhstan highlights violations of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (“ICCPR”) prior to the adoption of the *List of Issues* to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the second periodic report of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CCPR/C/KAZ/2).  As described below, serious issues of concern persist. Jehovah’s Witnesses in Kazakhstan, and as a worldwide organization, respectfully request the government of Kazakhstan to:   1. Discontinue the censorship exercised through the requirement that their religious literature must first be approved by a religious expert before it can be used or imported in Kazakhstan; 2. Allow the free distribution of religious literature in locations other than places of worship and places authorized by the local authorities; 3. Stop the arrest, prosecution, deportation, and harassment of Jehovah’s Witnesses for so-called unregistered “missionary activity”; 4. Annul the measure of deportation that has been applied to foreign-citizen Jehovah’s Witnesses for unregistered “missionary activity”; 5. Stop the intimidation and the police raids conducted against peaceful gatherings of Jehovah’s Witnesses; 6. Encourage officials to avoid making disparaging and discriminatory comments presenting Jehovah’s Witnesses in a negative light; 7. Abide by the recommendations contained in the 31 January 2014 joint letter issued by five Special Rapporteurs and the Independent Expert on Minority Issues of the United Nations Human Rights Council calling on it to stop the arrests of Jehovah’s Witnesses for “missionary activity”; 8. Abide by their commitment to uphold the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of Kazakhstan and the ICCPR, for all citizens, including Jehovah’s Witnesses. |

1. **Introduction**
   1. The European Association of Jehovah’s Christian Witnesses (EAJCW) is a charity registered in the United Kingdom. It assists the adherents of the faith of Jehovah’s Witnesses in various areas of the world.
   2. The Christian community of Jehovah’s Witnesses has been present in Kazakhstan since the early 1940s. After the fall of the Soviet regime, Jehovah’s Witnesses were first registered in 1992. They renewed their registration in January 2013 pursuant to the new Religion law of 2011. For more than 20 years after their first registration, they were able to carry out their worship without serious interference from State officials. They were thankful for being allowed to peacefully attend religious meetings and conventions, and engage in their religious community service without major obstacles.
   3. However, on 11 October 2011 Kazakhstan adopted the law “On Religious Activity and Religious Associations” (2011 Religion law) which has introduced severe restrictions on religious freedom. The law imposes inter alia:

* The requirement that all religious literature must first be approved by a religious expert before it can be used or imported into Kazakhstan.—Articles 6(1) and 9(3).
* A ban on the public distribution of religious literature outside places of worship and other places authorized by the local authorities, even if the literature has passed religious expert study.—Article 9(2).
* The prohibition on so-called unregistered “missionary activity” both for foreigners as well as for Kazakh citizens.—Articles 1(5) and 8(1).
  1. The 2011 Religion Law, as applied, has served as a means for government officials to significantly restrict and violate human rights provisions guaranteed by both the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
  2. Article 375 § 3 of the Code of Administrative Offences of Kazakhstan (CAO) or Article 490 (3) of the new CAO since 2015 punishes unregistered “missionary activity” by a fine of up to “one hundred times the monthly calculation index” (fine of 185,200 tenge (EUR 760) or 198,200 tenge (EUR 994; since 2015). For foreign citizens, unregistered “missionary activity” is punishable by a fine and deportation.
  3. This submission focuses on the blatant violations of the rights protected under articles 12, 13, 18, 19, 21, 26, and 27 of the ICCPR.

1. **Alleged Violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR – Articles 12, 13, 18, 19, 21, 26, and 27)**
   1. **Censorship and banning of religious literature (Articles 18, 19, 21, and 26)**
   2. Article 20 (1) of the Kazakhstan Constitution states that “censorship is prohibited.” However, according to Kazakhstan’s 2011 Religion Law, in Articles 6(1) and 9(3), it is illegal to import any literature into Kazakhstan without first obtaining approval of that religious literature by the Committee for Religious affairs (CRA), previously known as Agency for Religious Affairs (ARA) and subjecting it to an “expert study.” The requirement that a religious organization must obtain approval from the CRA on the content of a religious publication before it can be imported for use by the organization members is a violation of the right to freedom of religion and freedom of expression guaranteed by Articles 18 and 19 of the ICCPR as Kazakhstan cannot assess the “legitimacy” of one’s religious beliefs.
   3. For instance, in three decisions dated 31 January 2013 the CRA refused permission to import ten religious publications. The CRA claimed that the publications contained beliefs of Jehovah’s Witnesses that could offend members of other churches and that the publications discouraged secular education and work. In fact, the publications contained no such statements and it is widely known that Jehovah’s Witnesses encourage a balanced view towards education and secular work. On 3 July 2013 the Astana Economic Court rejected an appeal, upholding the CRA’s ban. On 4 September 2014 the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan, by a panel of three judges, denied granting a revision hearing by a full Supreme Court Supervisory panel of judges. On 27 March 2015 an appeal was filed with the UN Human rights Committee.
   4. On 31 December 2013 the CRA refused permission to import the booklet *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2014*, which Jehovah’s Witnesses use each day to consider the practical application of a Bible scripture during their personal and family worship. On 3 June 2014 the Astana Economic Court rejected the appeal and upheld the CRA’s ban of four publications. On 1 April 2015 the Cassation Collegium of the Astana City Court left the banning decisions unchanged. An appeal is being prepared to be filed with the Supreme Court.
   5. Of the 13 publications of Jehovah’s Witnesses that the CRA has banned during September through November 2014, virtually all of the passages to which the CRA has objected are either direct quotations from the Bible or are the Witnesses’ sincere explanation of what they understand these passages from the Bible to mean.
   6. The appeal court hearing regarding those 13 banned publications took place on 24 and 27 April 2015 at the Appeal Collegium of Astana City Court. The appeal judge of the Astana City Court rejected the appeal against the Court of First Instance Ruling of 20 February 2015, which terminated the case without considering the merits. The main argument of the trial court for terminating the case without considering the merits was the wording of the CRA’s decisions. The CRA did not state that the import is prohibited. Instead, it stated that the import of such publications “is not recommended.” Based on that, the trial court concluded that the CRA’s decisions are simply letters of recommendation, which are not binding. However, the official letters from the CRA with their consent or their refusal are final documents (decisions). The latter can be appealed to a court. A Cassation appeal is pending.
   7. No criterion whatsoever has been listed in the law that would make a publication objectionable. Therefore, there is no foreseeability on the value of the decision “the experts” will make.
   8. In violation of the prohibition on religious discrimination in Article 26 of the ICCPR, the CRA has adopted two contradictory and discriminatory approaches. It has taken an extreme approach on Jehovah’s Witnesses and banned their import of publications because it takes exception to their religious beliefs in those publications. However, the CRA freely permits the import of State-approved Islam and the Russian Orthodox Church publications.
   9. **Police raids on religious meetings (Articles 18, 19, 21, and 27)**
   10. Since January 2013, police have raided at least nine religious meetings of Jehovah’s Witnesses in the cities of Esil, Karazhal, Karabalyk, Kentau, Makinsk, Sarykol, Aktau, Bobrovka, and Kurchatov even though Jehovah’s Witnesses have legal registration in each of these regions of Kazakhstan. For example:

* Karabalyk, Kostanay Region. On 6 April 2013 approximately 40 of Jehovah’s Witnesses gathered for religious worship at the house of Eduard and Irina Malykhin, a married couple. Without warrant or permission, 20 law enforcement officials entered and interrupted the religious service. The police questioned and filmed everyone in attendance. They searched the house and seized the Bibles and religious literature of some in attendance as well as the Malykhins’ entire personal religious library. In total, more than 900 religious publications were seized. The raid lasted three hours. The Malykhins and two of their guests were later charged and convicted of “missionary activity” simply for participating in that religious meeting. The Malykhins filed a complaint with the CCPR on 29 August 2013, which was communicated to Kazakhstan on 12 December 2013. On 30 January 2015, Kazakhstan responded back to the CCPR, insisting on its initial illegal “missionary” accusations.
  1. Additionally, in 2014, police have interrupted a number of religious services of Jehovah’s Witnesses. The following are examples of what occurred in 2014:
* Arkalyk, Kostanay Region (2 February 2014): the police brought a bus to the site of the religious service and required all of the persons in attendance to get on the bus. They were then taken to the police station for questioning. Their goal was to create the impression among relatives, friends, neighbours, and others who observed the police actions, that the religious activity of Jehovah’s Witnesses is illegal and should be avoided.
* Ushtobe, Almaty Region (7 and 13 April 2014): at the end of the religious service, police demanded identification documents of everyone present and copied their personal data. The police then searched the home where the Witnesses were meeting.
* Merke, Zhambyl Region (25 April 2014): police detained and questioned Jehovah’s Witnesses immediately after the conclusion of their religious service.
* Atbasar, Akmolinsky Region (6 May 2014): police interrupted the religious service to conduct a passport check on all persons in attendance.
* Esil, North Kazakhstan region (17 November 2014): police interrupted the religious service to conduct a passport check on all persons in attendance.
  1. **Arrests and conviction of Kazakhstan citizens for “missionary activity” (Articles 18, 19, 21, and 27)**
  2. The CRA, in their letters dated 28 March 2013 and 16 May 2013 (Appendix 1), directed the Christian Center of Jehovah’s Witnesses to instruct the more than 17,000 Jehovah’s Witnesses to “comply” with the total ban on unregistered “missionary activity.”
  3. The CRA claims that without first obtaining registration as “missionaries” it is illegal for Jehovah’s Witnesses to share their Bible-based beliefs with friends, neighbours, and other interested persons and to participate in religious services at their registered places of worship.
  4. This restriction applies to both foreigners and citizens of Kazakhstan.
  5. Even if the Witnesses register as “missionaries,” the registration lasts only one year and the Witnesses’ activity is restricted to a specific region.
  6. To date, about 70 of Jehovah’s Witnesses have been arrested and convicted of “missionary activity” under Article 375(3) of the RK Code of Administrative Offences (CAO) or Article 490 (3) of the new CAO since 2015. All have been ordered to pay the maximum fine of KZT185,200.00 tenge (EUR 760) (or 198,200.00 tenge (EUR 994) since 2015). The total amount of fines that have been charged is currently of KZT3,889,200.00, nearly EUR19,000.00.
  7. Several Witnesses have been arrested and convicted twice, and on their second conviction the fine was doubled (EUR 1,520). Complaints have been filed with the United Nations Human Rights Committee (CCPR) on behalf of the first 47 Jehovah’s Witnesses convicted of “missionary activity.”
  8. The following are just a few examples of Jehovah’s Witnesses convicted under CAO section 375 § 3 for exercising their rights to freedom of association and assembly:
* 4 December 2012: Dmitriy Bukin, a citizen of Kazakhstan, was convicted for “missionary activity” for participating in a two-day religious assembly of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Astana. The assembly was organized by the registered religious organization of Jehovah’s Witnesses in the capital city of Astana. The court ordered Mr. Bukin to pay the maximum fine.
* 4 and 5 July 2013: Eduard Malykhin and Irina Malykhina, a married couple who are citizens of Kazakhstan, were convicted for “missionary activity” for participating in a regular weekly service of Jehovah’s Witnesses at their home in the Kostanay region. Among the 40 persons in attendance, three persons were not Jehovah’s Witnesses. The court concluded the Malykhins were guilty of “propagandizing” their faith because three “nonbelievers were present at the meeting.” The court ordered the Malykhins to each pay the maximum fine.
* 18 November 2013: Robert Panczukowski, a citizen of Poland with a permanent residence permit to Kazakhstan, was convicted of “missionary activity” for participating in a religious convention of Jehovah’s Witnesses at their registered place of worship in Aktau. More than 500 persons were in attendance. According to the trial court, Mr Panczukowski was guilty because he delivered a religious sermon in which he “promoted the religious beliefs of Jehovah’s Witnesses.” The court ordered Mr Panczukowski to pay the maximum fine and ordered his deportation from Kazakhstan.
* 7 March 2014: Akhmet Alseitov and Ruslan Balashanov, citizens of Kazakhstan, were convicted for “missionary activity” for participating in a weekly religious service of Jehovah’s Witnesses in the Kostanay region. The court concluded that both men were guilty because a few persons who are not Jehovah’s Witnesses attended that religious service. The court ordered Messrs. Alseitov and Balanshov to each pay the maximum fine.
  1. According to Article 8 of the Constitution of Republic of Kazakhstan, the State respects principles and standards of the international law. Special Rapporteur on the Freedom of Religion or Belief Heiner Bielefeldt wrote in his report on mission to Kazakhstan in March 2014 regarding the implementation of the Article 18 of the ICCPR: “According to international standards, freedom of religion or belief unequivocally includes the right to bear witness to one’s conviction, to communicate within and across religious and denominational boundaries and to try to persuade others non-coercively” (UN document A/HRC/28/66/Add.1, par. 36).
  2. On 15 January 2015 the UN HRC made a decision on the complaint of Victor Leven, who was made liable under the administrative code by the Yesil district court of the Akmolinsk region, for conducting so-called “unregistered missionary activities” (case CCPR/C/112/D/2131/2012). The HRC has established that Kazakhstan violated Mr. Levin’s rights guaranteed by the Article 18 of the ICCPR. In its decision, the HRC not only required Kazakhstan to review the case in supervisory order but also obligated Kazakhstan “to not allow such violations in the future.” Kazakhstan must provide the HRC with a report on the measures taken within 6 months.
  3. **Arrests, conviction, and deportation of foreign citizens for “missionary activity” (Articles 12, 13, 18, 19, 21, and 27)**
  4. A conviction for “missionary activity” is particularly harsh for foreign citizens. Article 375(3) of the RK CAO prescribes that a foreign citizen is liable for the maximum fine of 185,200 tenge (EUR 760) (which is 198, 200 tenge (EUR 994) since 2015) and in all cases is subject to automatic deportation. Since November 2013, three foreign citizens who are Jehovah’s Witnesses have been deported. For example:
* Yuriy Toporov (citizen of Russia and human rights defender): Mr. Toporov has lived in Kazakhstan for 11 years and has been married to a Kazakhstan citizen for the past seven years. He is a legal representative of the “Christian Centre of Jehovah’s Witnesses” located in Almaty and is well known to senior Kazakhstan officials.
* On 23 November 2013 Mr. Toporov was arrested in the city of Almaty while giving a religious discourse to a gathering of Jehovah’s Witnesses at their regular place of worship. A large group of police, equipped with video cameras, arrived at the place of worship just minutes after Mr. Toporov began his discourse. Obviously, the police raid was organized in advance with the sole intention of arresting Mr. Toporov.
* On 3 March 2014 the Specialized Administrative Inter-district Court of the City of Almaty convicted Mr. Toporov of “missionary activity” The court ordered Mr Toporov to pay the maximum fine and ordered his deportation from Kazakhstan.
* On 15 April 2014 the Almaty City Court denied his appeal. To avoid imprisonment pending his deportation, Mr. Toporov and his wife, a native Kazakh, had no choice but to leave Kazakhstan in May 2014. They currently reside in Russia and live secluded from the family members that are still living in Kazakhstan.
* Enclosed in annex are the observations of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Mr. Toporov’s complaint concerning his being groundlessly brought to administrative accountability for engaging in unregistered “missionary activity” (Appendix 2) as well as the answer that has been provided to the UN Human Rights Committee (Appendix 3).
* On 31 January 2014 five Special Rapporteurs and the Independent Expert on Minority Issues of the United Nations Human Rights Council sent a joint letter to Kazakhstan calling on it to stop the arrests of Jehovah’s Witnesses for “missionary activity,” the banning of their religious publications (see above section II.1), and the raids of their religious meetings (see above section II.2.). Unfortunately, that communication has largely been ignored by Kazakhstan.
  1. **Reaction of the authorities to slander expressed by officials**
  2. On several occasions, Jehovah’s Witnesses had to file complaints to the relevant authorities when they were victims of slander in mass media. Although the authorities’ intervention has helped, some officials’ discriminatory attitude continues to be observed in some regions.
  3. For instance, a slanderous article was published in a newspaper (“Ayrtauskiye zori”) by the Department of Domestic Policy (DDP) of the Ayrtau District Akimat (local municipality), North-Kazakhstan Region. The Ombudsman’s office was contacted and intervened with the Agency for State Officials. As a result, the official who initiated the slander was reprimanded by the Agency.
  4. In another instance, a complaint was lodged regarding a defamatory article published by the Department of Domestic Policy (DDP). The Regional Department of the Agency for Civil Service Affairs (RDACSA) of the Akmolinskaya Region provided a written reply stating that the DDP violated the law, and the DDP published an apology in the “Zhana Esil” newspaper. In addition, the RDACSA informed the Administrative Center of Jehovah’s Witnesses that they sent a letter to the Governor’s office directing them to conduct a special staff meeting to prevent such violations in the future and hold the responsible persons liable.
  5. On 15 September 2014 a meeting with teachers was organized by the Department of Education of Karaganda (DOE) region. This meeting covered counter-acting religious extremism and there were defamatory statements made about Jehovah’s Witnesses by the religious figure invited from the Russian Orthodox Church. Jehovah’s Witnesses were described as a sect that has a destructive impact on society. On 3 February 2015 we sent a letter to the DOE regarding discriminative statements made at the meeting organized by them. Since we did not receive any reply in the month of May, we sent a short reminder on 6 May 2015. According to Kazakhstan law, all letters to governmental institutions authorized to receive complaints from individuals and legal entities must be answered within 30 calendar days. The Ministry of Education eventually provided an answer dated 26 May 2015. They informed Jehovah’s Witnesses that they organized a joint meeting with the clergy of the Russian Orthodox Church of Karaganda and Shakhtinsk Eparchy with the Department of Religious Affairs of Karaganda region. Then, they informed the Witnesses that “at this meeting the clergy considered the complaint and will take it into account when conducting meetings on the prevention of extremism in the future.” However, since such discriminative statements were made at the State-organized event, another letter was sent to remind them of the responsibility of the Ministry of Education to control what is said at such meetings.
  6. During the month of July 2015, the “Institute of Analysis and Forecasting” distributed a questionnaire in the Eastern Kazakhstan region (Appendix 4). The subject of the questionnaire was “Extent of Proliferation and Influence of the Destructive Religious Organizations in the East-Kazakhstan region.” This “Institute” is listed on the official site of the Governor’s office as “cooperating institution for sociological reviews” and apparently acts on the order of the Department of Religious Affairs (DRA). Jehovah’s Witnesses are mentioned in this questionnaire in an offensive and discriminatory way. A complaint has been filed with the DRA copied to the CRA.
  7. The “Center of Survey and Analysis” (CSA), a subdivision of the Department of Religious Affairs of the Almaty City Akimat (local municipality), initiated and were further encouraged to participate in its “expert survey”. The purpose of this survey is outlined as “to collect information about methods of proselytism in activities of the religious organizations and methods of missionary activities in Almaty, examining their peculiarities, and elaborating recommendations in this regard”. However, the questionnaire seems to be generalized and does not take into account the differences between the respondent groups. For instance, some questions are of a pure discriminatory nature. It is also seen that some other questions are included at the possible insistence of anti-cult groups. In these questions they are asking for an opinion on the presence of so-called “destructive religious organization”. Including such questions into the wide-spread questionnaire does not seem to be correct and may only lead to receiving data affected by prejudices, intolerance, and possible religious hate.

1. **Adopted Views and Pending Communications against Kazakhstan**
   1. There are currently 35 pending communications with the CCPR denouncing human rights violations against Jehovah’s Witnesses in Kazakhstan. These communications are related to various issues such as the convictions and punishment of Jehovah’s Witnesses for so-called unregistered “missionary activity” resulting in restrictions on the peaceful religious community service performed by Jehovah’s Witnesses (sharing Bible information with neighbours).
   2. Jehovah’s Witnesses in Kazakhstan publicly have shared their religious beliefs from door-to-door and on the streets, as is their religious practice worldwide. Concerning this well-known practice of Jehovah’s Witnesses the European Court of Human Rights held in the seminal case of *Kokkinakis v. Greece* (25 May 1993, § 31, Series A no. 260-A) that the right to freedom of religion “includes in principle the right to try to convince one’s neighbour, for example through ‘teaching’, failing which, moreover, ‘freedom to change [one’s] religion or belief’, enshrined in Article 9 (art. 9), would be likely to remain a dead letter.”
   3. The Court underlined that “bearing Christian witness... [is] an essential mission and a responsibility of every Christian and every Church” which has to be distinguished from improper proselytism that takes the form of offering material or social advantages with a view to gaining new members for a church, exerting improper pressure on people in distress or in need or even using violence or brainwashing (§ 48).
   4. Action has also been taken against the Kazakhstan authorities for refusing to permit the import of religious publications, which are vital to the personal, family, and congregation worship of the more than 17,500 Jehovah’s Witnesses in Kazakhstan and worldwide (*Polat Bekzhan et al. v. Kazakhstan*).

|  | **Communication Name** | **Date filed** | **Communication No.** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | *Natalia Lashova et al v. Kazakhstan*  *Note: Originally referred to as Bukin et al v. Kazakhstan* | 29 April 2013 | 2298/2013 |
|  | *Valeriy Alexeyev and Nikolay Kokotov v. Kazakhstan* |
|  | *Dmitriy Bukin v. Kazakhstan* |
|  | *Nurzhan Aglakov v. Kazakhstan* |
|  | *Eduard Malykhin et al v. Kazakhstan* | 29 Aug 2013 | 2319/2013 |
|  | *Arman Abdullinov and Marat Seleubayev v. Kazakhstan* |
|  | *Lyubov Artamonova and Anissa Tsimfer v. Kazakhstan* |
|  | *Zhangazy Biimbetov v. Kazakhstan* | 29 Aug 2013 | 2319/2013 |
|  | *Zarina Burova v. Kazakhstan* |
|  | *Sergey Chuvashkin v. Kazakhstan* |
|  | *Alexandr Folomeyev and Galina Klynina v. Kazakhstan* |
|  | *Andrey Korolev and Andrey Rakin v. Kazakhstan* |
|  | *Andrey Moiseyenko and Ivan Vengelevskiy v. Kazakhstan* |
|  | *Robert Panczukowski v. Kazakhstan* | 16 May 2014 | Not Assigned yet |
|  | *Altynay Ayatova v. Kazakhstan* | 16 May 2014 | Not Assigned yet |
|  | *Zhansaya Begimbetova v. Kazakhstan* | 16 May 2014 | Not Assigned yet |
|  | *Talgat Belbayev v. Kazakhstan* | 16 May 2014 | Not Assigned yet |
|  | *Anna Merkusheva and Zhanna Nurzhanova. v. Kazakhstan* | 16 May 2014 | Not Assigned yet |
|  | *Galina Mikhailova v. Kazakhstan* | 16 May 2014 | Not Assigned yet |
|  | *Inna Semenova v. Kazakhstan* | 16 May 2014 | Not Assigned yet |
|  | *Orynkul Tleuzhanova v. Kazakhstan* | 16 May 2014 | Not Assigned yet |
|  | *Pavel Tokarev v. Kazakhstan* | 16 May 2014 | Not Assigned yet |
|  | *Shamurat Toktoraliev v. Kazakhstan* | 16 May 2014 | Not Assigned yet |
|  | *Zhazira Tunguskova v. Kazakhstan* | 16 May 2014 | Not Assigned yet |
|  | *Zakhar Ustimenkov. Kazakhstan* | 16 May 2014 | Not Assigned yet |
|  | *Olga Zholnerova v. Kazakhstan* | 16 May 2014 | Not Assigned yet |
|  | *Yury Toporov v. Kazakhstan* | 28 Oct 2014 | 2504/2014 |
|  | *O Alexeyeva and T Vongay v. Kazakhstan* | 5 Feb 2015  (28 Oct 2014) | Not Assigned yet |
|  | *Akhmet Alseitov and Ruslan Balashanov v. Kazakhstan,* | 5 Feb 2015  (28 Oct 2014) | 2599/2015 |
|  | *Gulsuna Kadenova v. Kazakhstan* | 5 Feb 2015  (28 Oct 2014) | 2606/2015 |
|  | *Natalya Kisseleva v. Kazakhstan* | 5 Feb 2015  (28 Oct 2014) | 2604/2015 |
|  | *Ainur Kumarbayeva v. Kazakhstan* | 5 Feb 2015  (28 Oct 2014) | 2598/2015 |
|  | *Madina Nissambekova v. Kazakhstan* | 5 Feb 2015  (28 Oct 2014) | Not Assigned yet |
|  | *Akmaral Serikova v. Kazakhstan* | 5 Feb 2015  (28 Oct 2014) | 2588/2015 |
|  | *Polat Bekzhan et al. v. Kazakhstan* | 27 March 2015 | Not Assigned yet |

1. **Conclusions and Recommendations**
   1. Jehovah’s Witnesses in Kazakhstan, and as a worldwide organization, express concern for human rights violations as outlined above. They respectfully request the government of Kazakhstan to take the necessary steps to:
2. Discontinue the censorship exercised through the requirement that their religious literature must be approved by a religious expert before it can be used or imported in Kazakhstan;
3. Allow the free distribution of religious literature in locations other than places of worship and places authorized by the local authorities;
4. Stop the arrest, prosecution, deportation, and harassment of Jehovah’s Witnesses for so-called unregistered “missionary activity”;
5. Annul the measure of deportation that has been applied to foreign-citizens Jehovah’s Witnesses for unregistered “missionary activity”;
6. Stop the intimidation and the police raids conducted against peaceful gatherings of Jehovah’s Witnesses;
7. Encourage officials to avoid making disparaging and discriminatory comments presenting Jehovah’s Witnesses in a negative light;
8. Abide by the recommendations contained in the 31 January 2014 joint letter issued by five Special Rapporteurs and the Independent Expert on Minority Issues of the United Nations Human Rights Council calling on it to stop the arrests of Jehovah’s Witnesses for “missionary activity”;
9. Abide by their commitment to uphold the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution of Kazakhstan and the ICCPR, for all citizens, including Jehovah’s Witnesses.
   1. The EAJCW will consider submitting an additional complementary report with the CCPR following the adoption of the *List of issues* to be taken up in connection with the consideration of the second report of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CCPR/C/KAZ/2).