



MISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE DU KAZAKHSTAN AUPRÈS DE  
L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES  
ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES  
AYANT LEUR  
SIÈGE A GENÈVE

№ 30-21/161

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to transmit the response of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the communication UA KAZ 2/2025, dated April 29, 2025.

The Permanent Mission has the further honour to convey additional information related to the communication UA KAZ 1/2025, dated February 25, 2025.

The Permanent Mission avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

*Enclosure: 5 pages.*

**Geneva, July 22, 2025**



**Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Special Procedures Division**

**Geneva**



*Akan Rakhmetullin*

*First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Republic of Kazakhstan*

Astana  
15/107/2025

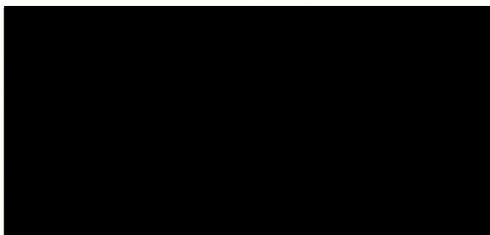
**Your Excellences,**

The Republic of Kazakhstan welcomes your joint communication № UA KAZ 2/2025 of 29 April 2025.

We commend your contribution to the protection of human rights around the world, and we are grateful for the opportunity to provide the response to your communication in the annex I to this letter.

The Republic of Kazakhstan would also like to provide the additional information to the communication № UA KAZ 1/2025 of 25 February 2025 in the annex II to this letter.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



**Acting Minister  
Akan RAKHMETULLIN**

**Mr. Ben SAUL**

**Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism**

**Mr. Matthew GILLETT**

**Vice-Chair on Communications of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions**

**Mr. Balakrishnan RAJAGOPAL**

**Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and right to non-discrimination in this context**

**Mr. Gehad MADI**

**Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants**

**Ms. Ana Brian NOUGRÈRES**

**Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy**

**Annex I to the letter of the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, A. Rakhmetullin**

*Translated from Russian*

**Reply of Kazakhstan to the joint communication of the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council**

Ref.: No. UA KAZ 2/2025 (29 April 2025)

**Resettlement in Kazakhstan**

Sabry Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Qurashi was accepted for resettlement in Kazakhstan in December 2014 under an agreement between the Governments of Kazakhstan and the United States of America.

Kazakhstan, in full compliance with its international obligations and national legislation, ensured that he was treated properly and humanely.

It should be noted that, over the course of more than a decade since Mr. Al-Qurashi's arrival in Kazakhstan, the authorities have at no point attempted to forcibly remove or deport him, and have thereby consistently reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of humane treatment and respect for human rights.

However, Kazakhstan has not assumed any obligations to naturalize or grant permanent residence to this foreign national, nor does it have any obligations to provide him with material support.

**Al-Qurashi's situation in Kazakhstan**

After his arrival in Kazakhstan, Mr. Al-Qurashi lived in Kyzylorda Oblast. He then moved to the Abai Oblast in 2024.

Until December 2024, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provided him with monthly financial support that was sufficient to ensure that he enjoyed an adequate standard of living. In December 2024, ICRC ended its programme of funding for Mr. Al-Qurashi in connection with the reduction and optimization of its budget.

The "source's" claims about regular harassment by special and law enforcement agencies of Kazakhstan are not true. Migration service officers simply conducted explanatory discussions with him in the context of spot checks that were carried out with the aim of identifying illegal aliens.

**Application for refugee status in Kazakhstan**

Mr. Qurashi was able to have his passport renewed in August 2023. Doing so enabled him to apply for refugee status in Kazakhstan.

While his application was pending, Mr. Al-Qurashi was issued with an asylum-seeker's certificate, which, among other things, enabled him to open a bank account, to work and to use social and health services.

Under the Refugees Act, the decision to grant refugee status is made by the local authorities within three months of the registration date of the refugee status application, provided that the person in question has undergone fingerprint registration. In cases where further verification is required for a decision to be made, the final decision is deferred for a period not exceeding one year.

On 30 October 2023, the local authorities of Kyzylorda Oblast issued Mr. Al-Qurashi with an asylum-seeker's certificate, the period of validity of which was subsequently extended until 23 April 2024.

In connection with the change of Mr. Al-Qurashi's place of residence, his documents were sent to the Department for Coordination of Employment and Social Programmes of Abai Oblast, which, while his application for asylum in Kazakhstan was pending, extended the period of validity of his asylum-seeker's certificate several times and ultimately until 20 April 2025.

However, the Refugee Status Commission decided to deny Mr. Al-Qurashi refugee status on the following grounds: (a) Mr. Al-Qurashi did not flee Yemen, but arrived in Kazakhstan as part of humanitarian resettlement from the United States; (b) in his application, he did not provide valid reasons or evidence to support a fear of persecution on the grounds of race, citizenship, religion or ethnicity; (c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person has been involved in the activities of terrorist organizations.

### **Principle of non-refoulement**

Kazakhstan adheres strictly to the absolute principle of non-refoulement under international law and complies with its international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

Allegations that Sabry Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Qurashi has been threatened with forcible expulsion from Kazakhstan are untrue.

### **Current status**

Sabri Mohammed Ibrahim Al-Qurashi, a citizen of Yemen, on his own initiative and of his own will, expressed his desire to leave the territory of Kazakhstan and travel to a third country.

His stay in Kazakhstan was funded by financial assistance from ICRC until the end of last year. He filed the relevant application because ICRC has ceased to provide the relevant support.

Mr. Al-Qurashi's application is currently being considered in accordance with the established procedure, in accordance with the laws of Kazakhstan and with due regard for his rights and freedoms.

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