

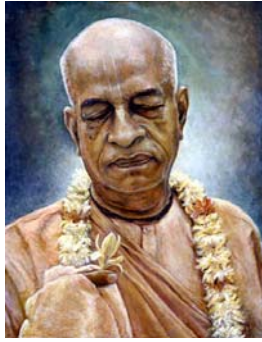
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# KAZAKHSTAN CAMPAIGN

## RESOURCE PACK

MAY 2006

1. *Information*
2. *Petition*
3. *Letter Campaign*
4. *CD Rom*



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# I. How to use this pack

This pack includes the essential components for initiating the Kazakhstan campaign at a local level, assisting in the overall international strategy of creating awareness and lobbying.

This pack can be used by both individuals and organisations to inform others about the campaign and the issues affecting the Kazakh Hindus. It is a resource pack offering templates and information about how to organise a campaign.

This information pack can also be amended and used to formulate reports/précis of the issues providing a report style document to appraise officials and lobby governments.

# II. Background

## Brief facts about the Republic of Kazakhstan

Most countries recognised Kazakhstan in or around 1991 immediately after the dissolution of the USSR.

Kazakhstan is opening itself up and UK and US have been the major investors in this country.

More recently, Kazakhstan offered the use of its airspace and bases for humanitarian aid supplies to Afghanistan and even sent Kazakh troops to Iraq to support the reconstruction of that country.

Kazakhstan has bid to become Chairman of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OSCE) in 2009. But the events in Kazakhstan involving the Hindus may impact on this aspiration.

# II. The Chronology of intolerance

There are two matters which are at issue:

1. Society of Krishna Consciousness (SKC) Land (117.9 acres)
2. 66 private summer cottages.

## **SKC Land**

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| <b>1999</b> | Established the Hindu Hare Krishna Community in the Republic of Kazakhstan (RK). This Land was purchased by 3 SKC members from a private farmer. During this transaction the notary changed the usage of land from "peasant farming" to "Part-time farming" (without the knowledge of the SKC community) |
| <b>2000</b> | RK passed legislation allowing privatisation of land away from public land   |

ownership. SKC land was privatised.

- 2004** To enable the registration of the land for religious purposes, the Land was sold by the three SKC members to an agent of SKC. The agent then tried to transfer the property to SKC. This was refused by the Hakim (Governor).
- May 2005** A case was registered. Eventually the Supreme Court gave a right of use and transfer to SKC subject to the registration of the right at a local level
- 2005** The Hakim refused the application to register the transfer of the land on the basis that original change of use from "peasant farming" to "part-time farming" was made without due procedure. Therefore, that Transaction and all subsequent ones were null and void.
- 2005** Confiscation orders were illegally given by lower courts even though they did not have the power to reverse the Supreme Courts decision

#### **Summer Cottages**

- 1999** SKC members purchased 66 summer cottages in a cooperative society around the SKC Land that had a total of 256 cottages.
- 2004** After the privatisation law was passed, some cottages applied for privatisation. Those who submitted the application were asked to sign a document declaring that they were not SKC members
- 2004** SKC members made a collective application for privatisation. The Hakim did not respond for six month even though RK law obliged him to respond in one month.
- 2004** After the six months, the Hakim extended the deadline for one more month. Before the expiry of this period, he filed various suits against the cottage owners for not having privatised their cottages. There is no time limitation for privatisation for properties. In some cases the Hakim raised the issue that some of the cottages exceeded the ceiling of 100 sqm.
- April 2006** Demolition and confiscation orders were issued against owners of summer cottages with less than 24 hours notice. No compensation was offered to SKC members and the land was ordered to be taken back by the state and auctioned. The SKC members have no other place of residence and would be rendered homeless The SKC members protested by locking hands in prayer as the bulldozers arrived.

### **III. Legal Position**

Hindu residents of the summer cottages have lawfully acquired the right of ownership for their plots of land, and have paid their taxes and membership charges.

1. The Hakim (Governor) of the district accuses the owners that they never had their property privatized. However the members of the community repeatedly applied to the Hakim for his permission to make the acts of ownership for their cottages and plots but he repeatedly refused. Without his sanction for privatization one cannot make needed documentation for the cottages.

2. The Hindu' houses are located on the territory of a Consumers Cooperative. There are 120 members of this Cooperative. However the claims are brought only against the members of the religious society. In each and every claim the connection of the defendants to the Religious Organization Society for Krishna Consciousness has been illustrated. This is a direct and flagrant violation of human rights and freedoms which are guaranteed by the Constitution of Kazakhstan.
3. Confiscation of property without compensation is possible only in a criminal case. The case against the Hindus is a civil case.
4. The legal position is that a minimum of 5 days notice must be given confiscation of properties, but the Karasai Hindus were given less than 24 hours notice.
5. Confiscation of the land of the Religious Organization Society for Krishna Consciousness was ordered without any compensation being offered, in violation of Kazakh law.
6. Confiscation of land will result in the Religious Organization Society for Krishna Consciousness to be deprived of its legal address and it will cease to exist in Karasai Rayon.
7. Another violation of the legal code is that the Regional Hakim wishes to bring all the conclusions of cases to the original position, which would mean that the land will return to the person from whom it was first purchased. However, the Hakim wants the ownership of the land to revert to the state and is pushing the court to give it to the land reserve of the area he is in charge of.

## IV. The Human Rights Issues

1. Kazakh Hindus have experienced consistent non cooperation from the local administration ( Karasai Rayon, Almaty Oblast )since we purchased the farm in 1999.
2. Local officials deported foreign devotees despite the fact that they had proper registration.
3. Local officials confiscated the identity documents of devotees and the Hindu temple had to negotiate for months to get the return of the documents.

4. Local officials never allowed Hindu 'Krishnaites' to privatise their land plots. They would request that a paper be signed that "I am not a Hare Krishna" before they would hear a request.
5. Smear campaigns in the Kazakh media have always been focused on subjects like "Krishnaites steal Kazakh earth" despite the fact that the local Hindus are all Kazakhs.
6. The Hakim of Karasai issued orders for destruction of homes belonging to local Hindus without due process and notification. Homes belonging to non-Hindus were not targeted
7. Igor Rotar, a journalist of the international religious watch organisation Forum 18, was told on Friday April 28, 2006 by the court executive of the Karasai district, R.G. Baimukhanbetova, that if the local Hindus offered resistance to the demolition and confiscation they would "resort to violent measures."
8. Ryskul Zhunispaeva from the department of internal politics of Karasai district said in interview to Galina Ryzhkina (Channel 31) on April 25, 2006: "Actually, I think, the Krishnaites should be leave for India". His reference was to Hindus who were citizens of Kazakhstan.
9. Andrey Grishin, the journalist of International Bureau of Human Rights observed:"Those words characterize the position of the officials of the Karasai District officials in full."

## V. The International Campaign

### **Defend Kazakh Hindus Campaign**

National Hindu organisations from UK, USA, Australia, Canada and other countries have come together to call upon the Kazakhstan Government to stop harassment and human rights abuse against Hindus living in the country. Hindus living at Karasai in Kazakhstan are currently awaiting a riot squad from the local government which has promised to invade, demolish and confiscate their homes simply because they are Hindus.

A previous attempt to demolish homes on 25<sup>th</sup> April failed because local Hindus gathered together to lock their hands in prayer, sat in the pathway and blocked the way leading to the building. At that time the local executives told the members of the Society for Krishna Consciousness that they had not been prepared but would come with riot police on a surprise visit next time to ensure that the houses were demolished.

When the members of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness attempted to register their properties they were asked to sign a document stating that they were not followers of the Krishna branch of Hinduism. On the other hand, 265 other homes owned by non-Hindus in the same area had no problems in registering their

properties. Eviction and demolition notices have been issued only against hand-picked houses of Hindus.

In spite of such targeted human rights abuse that violates the United Nations Charter on Human Rights, the chairman of the Department of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan's Ministry of Justice, Mr. Yeraly Tugzhanov tried to mislead the public by saying that the events were purely economic and not religious. Local Hindus from Karsai have pointed out that the land owned by Hindus had appreciated from fifty thousand dollars to nearly two million. They have pointed out that the targeting of homes belonging just to the Hindu community could be linked to demand by real estate developers who wish to occupy the land and develop urban properties.

Kazakhstan is seeking to become a member of the OCSE in the near future, and its human rights violation against minority religious communities does not bode well for such membership. We are deeply concerned by the human rights violations against Hindus in Kazakhstan, and request the President of Kazakhstan to intervene in this matter and take the following actions:

1. Immediately stop any action or order to demolish the houses belonging to the followers of the Hare Krishna section of Hinduism
2. Facilitate registration of properties legally occupied and owned by local Hindus in Karasai
3. Stop harassment and misinformation campaigns directed against Hindus in Kazakhstan

The matter has become quite urgent because Hindus have now begun a vigil outside their homes in preparation of the expected visit of the riot police and the demolition squads.

Campaigns all around the world including United States, Hungary and India are being monitored BB Govinda Maharaj

### **The Kazakhstan Campaign and Awareness Programme.**

We have produced this pack to provide a useful resource for individuals and organisations. It includes

1. Petition
2. Draft Letters to the President and Member of Parliament
3. Fact Sheet

(This can be obtained by writing to Radha Mohan – Secretary: +441923 856269, Email: [Radha.mohan.BCS@pamho.net](mailto:Radha.mohan.BCS@pamho.net))

### **The Letter Campaign**

We invite the public to write directly to the President of Kazakhstan and other government officials including the OCSE. We have created various template letters and listed key contacts.

### **Petition**

The Petition will be part of an on going campaign both for awareness purposes but also keeping up the pressure on the Kazakh Government.

## VII. Supporting Organisations:



Hindu American Foundation, Hindu Council of Australia  
Hindu Conference of Canada, Swaminarayan Hindu Mission

## VII. Useful Links

Official Site of the President of Kazakhstan

[http://www.akorda.kz/page.php?page\\_id=429&lang=2](http://www.akorda.kz/page.php?page_id=429&lang=2)

UK Embassy of Kazakhstan

<http://www.Kazakhstanembassy.org.uk>

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

<http://www.osce.org/>

Amnesty International

<http://www.amnesty.org/>

BB Govinda Swami

[http://www.gopala.org/index.php/2006/04/23/join\\_the\\_campaign\\_try\\_to\\_appeal\\_for\\_the\\_](http://www.gopala.org/index.php/2006/04/23/join_the_campaign_try_to_appeal_for_the_)

Hare Krsna Cultural Journal

[http://www.siddhanta.com/2006/05/a\\_proposed\\_stra.html](http://www.siddhanta.com/2006/05/a_proposed_stra.html)

#### Vaisnava Blog Feeds

<http://www.prabhupada.org/rama/?cat=11>

#### Other Web Blogs

<http://www.gopala.org/index.php>

<http://www.srivindavandham.com/news/index.php>

## IX. Media

FORUM 18

[http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article\\_id=769](http://www.forum18.org/Archive.php?article_id=769)

Press Association

<http://calibre.mworld.com/m/m.w?lp=GetStory&id=193232181>

## X. Contact for more information

If you would like to receive the pack in hard copy or sent the CD Rom (which includes the pack in PDF and word form) please contact:

Radha Mohan – Secretary: +44 1923 856269, Email: [Radha.mohan.BCS@pamho.net](mailto:Radha.mohan.BCS@pamho.net)

# XI. Pictures

SEE THE ACTUAL FILM FOOTAGE OF THE INTOLERANCE OF THE KAZAKH HINDUS, [CLICK HERE](#)





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KAZAKHSTAN CAMPAIGN

PETITION

MAY 2006

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# PETITION

*STOP THE  
INTOLERANCE OF  
HINDUS IN  
KAZAKHSTAN*

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*To the Honourable President and Members of the Government of Kazakhstan: We THE UNDERSIGNED wish to express our grave concern at the intolerance of Hindus in Kazakhstan and call upon the Government of Kazakhstan to:*

- *To immediately stop the confiscation and destruction of property and land of the members of the Kazakhstan Society for Krishna Consciousness (a mainstream branch of Hinduism)*
- *To return the land and property back to the Kazakh Hindus, if already confiscated*
- *To stop the abuse and harassment of the Kazakh Hindus*
- *To please allow the Kazakh Hindus to live peacefully on their property*
- *To please allow the Kazakh Hindus to practice their religion freely and without fear*

NAME	ADDRESS AND EMAIL	SIGNATURE
NAME:  ORGANISATION:	Address:  Email:	
NAME:  ORGANISATION:	Address:  Email:	
NAME:  ORGANISATION:	Address:  Email:	
NAME:  ORGANISATION:	Address:  Email:	
NAME:  ORGANISATION:	Address:  Email:	
NAME:  ORGANISATION:	Address:  Email:	
NAME:  ORGANISATION:	Address:  Email:	

# *Campaign to stop intolerance of Hindus in Kazakhstan*

*WE THE UNDERSIGNED wish to express our grave concern at the intolerance of Hindus in Kazakhstan and call upon the Government of Kazakhstan:*

- *To immediately stop the confiscation and destruction of property and land of the members of the Kazakhstan Society for Krishna Consciousness (a mainstream branch of Hinduism)*
- *To return the land and property back to the Kazakh Hindus, if already confiscated*
- *To stop the abuse and harassment of the Kazakh Hindus*
- *To allow the Kazakh Hindus to live peacefully*
- *To allow the Kazakh Hindus to practice their religion freely and without the fear*

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## NOTES

Please print off copies of the petition.

The signed petition should be sent to your local temple/centre. Otherwise to

### **Kazakhstan Campaign**

Radha Mohan Das – Secretary

Bhaktivedanta Manor  
Dharam Marg  
Hilfield lane Aldenham  
Near Watford, Herts  
WD25 8EZ

Phone: +44 1923 857 244

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# KAZAKHSTAN CAMPAIGN

Letter writing campaign

MAY 2006

1. Notes
2. Template Letters

# Letter Writing Campaign

## NOTES

### Why write letters?

With any campaign the purpose is to influence the people who are making the decisions about the issues. Receiving of Letters/emails can show to these people even before any formal approach is made, that the 'world is watching'. This is a powerful tool and organisations, like Amnesty, have made a real difference to campaigns.

### Which is better email or letter?

As we all know Emails can be less effective than a letter or even fax; as many officials may never read or respond formally to email correspondence, compared to receiving a letter, though sometimes emails are more practical for people. This is a matter for individuals. However, whatever method you use to lodge your protest- send something quickly.

### What to write

We have provided you:

1. Three sample letters to the President (choose one). They can also be sent to the various officials of the Kazakh Government .
2. Letter to the OSCE. This is important as Kazakhstan is aspiring to join this organisation in 2009
3. Your own political representative

### Who to write to

APPEAL SHOULD BE SENT TO:

**Your own Kazakhstan Ambassador**

Check out <http://www.embassyworld.com/embassy/Kazakhstan/Kazakhstan1.html>

For you nearest embassy.

For UK

**Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan His Excellency. Mr. Erlan Idrissov**  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
33 Thurloe Square  
GB-London SW7 2SD  
Fax: +44 207 584 8481

Salutation: His Excellency

Email: [london@kazakhstan-embassy.org.uk](mailto:london@kazakhstan-embassy.org.uk)

**President of the Republic of Kazakstan, Nursultan NAZARBAEV**

Respublika Kazakhstan, 473000 Astana, ul. Beybitshilik 11, Prezidentu NAZARBAEVU N.  
Fax: +7 3172 32 40 89

**Salutation: Dear President**

President's e-mail: [sitePRK@global.kz](mailto:sitePRK@global.kz)

**Procurator General of the Republic of Kazakstan Rashid TUSUPBEKOV**

Respublika Kazakhstan, 473000 Astana, ul. Seyfullina 73 "a", Generalnomu prokuroru  
TUSUPBEKOVU

**Fax: +7 3172 21 67 20**

Email: [kanc@pravstat.kz](mailto:kanc@pravstat.kz)

Salutation: Dear Procurator General

**Human Rights Commissioner of the Republic of Kazakstan, Bolot Baykadamov**

Respublika Kazakhstan, 473000 Astana, ul. Beybitshilik 2, Upolnomochennomu po  
pravam cheloveka BAYKADAMOVU B.

**Fax: + 7 3172 321767**

Email: [ombudsman@mail.kz](mailto:ombudsman@mail.kz)

**Salutation: Dear High Commissioner**

**Committee on Religious Affairs**

**Mr. Yeraly Lukpanovich Tugzhanov**

Telephone Number: +7 (3172) 152497, 152217, 152690

Fax +7 (3172) 328356

**Human Rights Commissioner of the Republic of Kazakstan, Bolot Baykadamov**

Respublika Kazakhstan, 473000 Astana, ul. Beybitshilik 2, Upolnomochennomu po  
pravam cheloveka BAYKADAMOVU B.

Fax: + 7 3172 321767

Email: [ombudsman@mail.kz](mailto:ombudsman@mail.kz)

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

**OSCE.org**

[info@osce.org](mailto:info@osce.org)

## More information

See Amnesty International's guidance on writing campaign letters. This is a useful resource.

<http://www.amnesty.org/campaign/letter-guide.html>

## Final points

- Please crop and paste the letters into word, if you have any difficulties, we can send you the letters in word email us
- Please feel free to change the letters. You may want to personalise the letters. This is always more effective.
- Never be personal or rude, always be polite.
- You might like to copy emails to us or tell about any response at [kazakhstancampaign@googlemail.com](mailto:kazakhstancampaign@googlemail.com)  
(please note this is only a depository of emails, we cannot respond to queries)

*Thank you for your efforts. Hare Krishna*

See below for Template letters

May 2006

Dear Mr President

**Re: Intolerance of Hindus in Kazakhstan**

It is with deep regret that we have learnt that your government has allowed the confiscation of land which is owned by the Kazakhstan Society for Krishna Consciousness, a mainstream branch of Hinduism, preventing Kazakh Hindus from worshipping peacefully. Kazakh Hindus have been subjected to a lengthy campaign of misinformation leading to the threats of demolition of their temple and homes. The following events have lead up to this most unjust action:

On March 29, 2006, a hearing was conducted in the Almaty Oblast Court. The judge in charge of the case explained that he had carefully studied the case and that there was no substance in the arguments of the Government Land Committee. Yet, when the decision was read it was ruled that the land of the Krishna Society be returned to the land reserve of Kazakhstan.

On April 25, 2006, the court executives of the Karasai district along with the representatives of the local Hakim, police and KNB attempted to demolish the homes owned by the members of the Kazakhstan Society for Krishna Consciousness. Their attempt failed because local Hindus gathered together to lock their hands in prayer, sat in the pathway and blocked the way leading to the building. At that time the local executives told the Hindus they would come again without notice but this time with riot police to ensure that the houses were demolished.

On Friday April 28, 2006, the court executive of the Karasai district, R.G. Baimukhanbetova, informed journalists that the local government would use violent measures to evict the Hindus from their homes if there was any resistance.

When members of the Kazakh Hindu community attempted to register their properties they were asked to sign a document stating that they were not followers of the Krishna branch of Hinduism. Whilst 265 other homes owned by non-Hindus in the same area had no problems in being registered. Eviction and demolition notices have been issued only against those houses belonging to Kazakh Hindus.

In spite of such targeted human rights abuse that violates the United Nations Charter on Human Rights, the chairman of the Department of Religious Affairs of the

Republic of Kazakhstan's Ministry of Justice, Mr. Yeraly Tugzhanov tried to mislead the public by saying that the events were purely economic and not religious.

Local Hindus from Karsai have pointed out that the land owned by Hindus had appreciated from fifty thousand dollars to nearly two million. They have pointed out that the targeting of homes belonging just to the Hindu community could be linked to demand by real estate developers who wish to occupy the land and develop urban properties.

Ryskul Zhunispaeva from the department of internal politics of Karasai district said in an interview to Galina Ryzhkina (Channel 31) on April 25, that he thought that all Hindus in Kazakhstan should leave for India.

On Friday April 28, 2006, in an interview given to INDIA TV, the assistant Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan gave assurances to millions of TV viewers in India that representatives of the major world and traditional religions have freely operated on the territory of Kazakhstan and that the rights of any conventional or ethnic groups living in harmony at peace in the country would be protected.

Kazakhstan is seeking to become a member of the OCSE in the near future, and its human rights violation against minority religious communities does not bode well for such membership.

We request the Government of Kazakhstan to immediately give an undertaking that the properties of Kazakh Hindus will be protected, registration of their land holdings will be completed to make them lawful proprietors, and that discrimination and harassment against them will stop.

We reflect the views of all Hindus around the world and we request that the Government of Kazakhstan to take swift and positive action to protect the rights of Hindus in Kazakhstan

Yours faithfully,

May 2006

Dear Mr President

## **Re: Intolerance of Hindus in Kazakhstan**

It is with deep regret that we have been informed of your government's attempted confiscation of the land which is owned by the Kazakhstan Society for Krishna Consciousness, a mainstream branch of Hinduism.

The land has been legally purchased and privatised according to the land codes of Kazakhstan. But since 2004 there has been ongoing litigation in an attempt by government officials to steal the land where the Kazakhstan Society for Krishna Consciousness has been officially registered, and situated, for the past seven years.

On March 29, 2006 a hearing was conducted in the Almaty Provincial Court. The judge in charge of the case explained that he had carefully studied the case and that there was no substance in the arguments of the Government Land Committee and District Hakim.

Yet, when the decision was read it was ruled that the land at issue be returned to the land reserve of Kazakhstan. The decision of the court was enacted due to executive pressure violating legislative and procedural rules of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Mr. President, you want that your fine country come into the rank of the leading nations of the world. You have shown your open mindedness by conducting your International Religious Forum in 2003. Yet in this case we have a glaring example of a religious society being destroyed by the greed of self motivated officers.

Sir, we are respectfully appealing to you to intervene in this case. Please stop the abuse and destruction of the one element of Indian religion which is active in your nation.

Please allow these people to live peacefully on their property in accordance to the vision of religious equality that you have presented for the nation of Kazakhstan.

Yours faithfully,

May 2006

Dear Mr President

**Re: Intolerance of Hindus in Kazakhstan**

I wish to express my grave concern at the intolerance of Hindus in Kazakhstan at the unjust confiscation of properties and land.

I call upon the Government of Kazakhstan:

- To immediately stop the confiscation of land and threats of destruction of property of the members of the Kazakhstan Society for Krishna Consciousness (a mainstream branch of Hinduism)
- To stop the abuse and harassment of the Kazakh Hindus
- To please allow the Kazakh Hindus to live peacefully on their property
- To please allow the Kazakh Hindus to practice their religion freely and without the fear.

Hindus around the world are outraged by the actions of the Government of Kazakhstan allowing such abuse. We request urgently for you to take swift and positive action to protect the rights of Hindus in Kazakhstan.

Yours faithfully,

Letter to OCSE

Dear Mr Sir

**Re: Intolerance of Hindus in Kazakhstan**

I wish to express my grave concern at the intolerance of Hindus in Kazakhstan at the unjust confiscation of properties and land to deprive them their right to worship peacefully.

I understand that Kazakhstan wishes to join your organisation in 2009; we ask that you consider this application carefully in light of plight of Hindus in this country.

We ask that you enquire with the government about this issue and specifically:

- Confiscation and threats of destruction of property and land of the members of the Kazakhstan Society for Krishna Consciousness (a mainstream branch of Hinduism)
- harassment and intolerance of Kazakh Hindus

We request you to enquire about this matter with the Kazakh Government.

Yours faithfully,

May 2006

To your political representative

Dear [insert name]

As my representative I write to seek your help regarding the intolerance and harassment of Hindus in Kazakhstan. The following are the unjust events happening in Kazakhstan:

On March 29, 2006, a hearing was conducted in the Almaty Oblast Court. The judge in charge of the case explained that he had carefully studied the case and that there was no substance in the arguments of the Government Land Committee. Yet, when the decision was read it was ruled that the land of the Krishna Society be returned to the land reserve of Kazakhstan.

On April 25, 2006, the court executives of the Karasai district along with the representatives of the local Hakim, police and KNB attempted to demolish the homes owned by the members of the Kazakhstan Society for Krishna Consciousness. Their attempt failed because local Hindus gathered together to lock their hands in prayer, sat in the pathway and blocked the way leading to the building. At that time the local executives told the Hindus would come again without notice but this time with riot police to ensure that the houses were demolished.

On Friday April 28, 2006, the court executive of the Karasai district, R.G. Baimukhanbetova, informed journalists that the local government would use violent measures to evict the Hindus from their homes if there was any resistance.

When members of the Kazakh Hindu community attempted to register their properties they were asked to sign a document stating that they were not followers of the Krishna branch of Hinduism. Whilst 265 other homes owned by non-Hindus in the same area had no problems in being registered. Eviction and demolition notices have been issued only against those houses belonging to Kazakh Hindus.

In spite of such targeted human rights abuse that violates the United Nations Charter on Human Rights, the chairman of the Department of Religious Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan's Ministry of Justice, Mr. Yeraly Tugzhanov tried to mislead the public by saying that the events were purely economic and not religious.

Local Hindus from Karsai have pointed out that the land owned by Hindus had appreciated from fifty thousand dollars to nearly two million. They have pointed out that the targeting of homes belonging just to the Hindu community could be linked to demand by real estate developers who wish to occupy the land and develop urban properties.

Ryskul Zhunispaeva from the department of internal politics of Karasai district said in an interview to Galina Ryzhkina (Channel 31) on April 25, that he thought that all Hindus in Kazakhstan should leave for India.

On Friday April 28, 2006, in an interview given to INDIA TV, the assistant Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan gave assurances to millions of TV viewers in India that representatives of the major world and traditional religions have freely operated on the territory of Kazakhstan and that the rights of any conventional or ethnic groups living in harmony at peace in the country would be protected.

I am deeply concerned by the human rights violations against Hindus in Kazakhstan, and request you to kindly:

1. Write about this matter to the President and Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan to immediately give an undertaking that the properties of Kazakh Hindus will be protected, registration of their land holdings will be completed to make them lawful proprietors, and that discrimination and harassment against them will stop.
2. Write to the OCSE urging them to look at human rights violations in Kazakhstan before admitting the country as a member.

The matter has become quite urgent because Hindus have now begun a vigil outside their homes in preparation of the expected visit of the riot police and the demolition squads.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

