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Dear Prosecutor General,

At the end of April and beginning of May 2016, demonstrations were held throughout Kazakhstan against the planned changes to the land law. In connection with these protests, **Maks Bokaev** and **Talgat Ayan** were arrested. For their involvement in organising peaceful demonstrations and their publications in social media, a court sentenced them to five years imprisonment in February 2017. Talgat Ayan was released on 28 April, but Maks Bokaev remains in the Petropavlovsk penal colony in northern Kazakhstan. Maks Bokaev has been suffering from hepatitis C for five years. After receiving treatment the disease went into remission, but since his detention, his health has considerably deteriorated. In August 2017, he was transferred for two weeks to another penal colony, where hepatitis C could be treated. Furthermore, in April 2018, members of the National Prevention Mechanism (NPM) for the Protection against Torture were allowed to visit him in a prison hospital to which he had been transferred. There, Maks Bokaev underwent several examinations, and he himself describes his condition as "okay", although he still has health problems.

As a member / sympathizing of amnesty international, I ask you to ensure that Maks Bokaev is released immediately and unconditionally as he is a political prisoner of conscience. I also urge you to open an investigation to determine whether the conviction of Maks Bokaev was lawful.

Yours sincerely

Cc:

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