

THE UNIVERSAL HOUSE OF JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT

4 September 2014

Transmitted by email: mtoungatarov@gmail.com

Mr. Marat Tungatarov
Kazakhstan

Dear Bahá'í Friend,

The Universal House of Justice has considered your email letter of 17 June 2014, as well as a number of other communications addressed to it that have been received from you at the Bahá'í World Centre. As you know, the House of Justice does not normally correspond directly with believers who have lost their administrative privileges. However, out of a deep concern for your well-being and a desire to help you in the situation in which you find yourself, it has asked us to write to you, bringing to your attention certain principles pertaining to the scope of individual initiative within the Faith, which have a direct bearing on your involvement in the production of a newsletter, and its concerns regarding the misleading information you have been disseminating about your interactions with the institutions of the Faith.

A vital aspect of the development of the Bahá'í community, emphasized by the Guardian since the early days of his ministry, is the relationship between individual initiative and the prerogatives of Bahá'í institutions. While individuals have a degree of latitude in determining how they can best serve the Cause, he stressed that the institutions retain responsibility for certain areas of endeavour in which individuals are not free to act without explicit guidance. The newsletter you have established is clearly of a character that must remain within the purview of Bahá'í institutions and falls outside the scope of individual initiative. Your attention is further drawn to the emphatic statements of the Guardian concerning the importance of the individual believer seeking to ensure that every step is taken in light of the guidance of the institutions; he asserted in this regard that “nothing less than persistent and strenuous warfare against our own instincts and natural inclinations, and heroic self-sacrifice in subordinating our own likings to the imperative requirements of the Cause of God, can insure our undivided loyalty to so sacred a principle”.

The House of Justice is well aware of the many challenges you have experienced since you first embraced the Faith and of the numerous attempts over the last years by your National Spiritual Assembly, as well as the Counsellors and their Auxiliary Board members, to help you face these challenges and move forward in your exertions to live a Bahá'í life and contribute effectively to the activities of the community. Despite these attempts, you did not seem able to effect the necessary changes in your conduct, which regrettably resulted in the loss of your administrative privileges. The House of Justice has been saddened to witness the series of antagonistic actions you have since taken, especially in the last months, which can only have a detrimental effect on the endeavours of the Bahá'í community in Kazakhstan and on the friends in your region. Beyond your repeated expressions of dissatisfaction with the decisions

of the institutions, you have taken measures to voice your grievances on the Internet, most recently through a newsletter that has been used as a vehicle for the wide dissemination of your personal views and opinions on matters related to the Cause. The distorted and accusatory content of your online communications stands in contrast to the reality of your circumstances and gives a false notion of the nature of Bahá'í institutions. The House of Justice deems that, when viewed as a whole, the pattern of behaviour and the attitude you have displayed are not those of a Bahá'í.

The House of Justice lovingly urges you to reflect on the actions which have brought you to this point and to make every effort to bring your words and deeds into alignment with the high standards set forth in the Teachings; surely, following such a path will gradually lead you to finding solace, comfort, and a restored sense of joy, to healing your relationships with your fellow believers and the Bahá'í community, and to regaining the trust of the institutions. In doing so, it will be essential that you consider carefully the influence of your own words, both in your interpersonal interactions and in any online communications. As you know, Bahá'u'lláh refers to human utterance as “an essence which aspireth to exert its influence and needeth moderation”, and He enjoins His followers to “speak with words as mild as milk, that the children of men may be nurtured and edified thereby and may attain the ultimate goal of human existence which is the station of true understanding and nobility.”

The House of Justice hopes that you will meditate deeply and with a detached spirit on the above and earnestly strive to make the requisite changes in your life so as to become a source of unity among the friends. You are assured of its prayers in the Holy Shrines on your behalf.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

Department of the Secretariat

cc: Counsellor Zebiniso Solieva
National Assembly of Kazakhstan