Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 11499
21 January 2008

Massacre of Azerbaijanis by Soviet troops

Written declaration

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

The undersigned, members of the Assembly, make the following declaration:

1. Independence movements occupy a very special place in the history of the European countries.

2. Many nations fought for independence, but events which took place in the geographic area known as the socialist bloc are unprecedented in their scope and brutality of response.

3. Azerbaijanis paused this weekend to pay tribute to their fellow citizens who were killed in one of the most brutal acts in the last moments of the Soviet Empire, an event known around the world as "Black January".

4. Black January occurred when Moscow ordered 26 000 Soviet troops to invade Azerbaijan's capital Baku. In the early morning hours and into the day of 20 January 1990, Soviet troops attacked innocent civilians, slaughtering 133 people and wounding approximately 700. The use of force by the Soviet regime was a response to Azerbaijan's popular demand for independence.

5. According to a report published by Human Rights Watch, "among the most heinous violations of human rights … were the numerous attacks on medical personnel, ambulances and even hospitals".

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

PASHAYEVA Ganira, Azerbaijan, EDG
AÇIKGÖZ Ruhi, Turkey, EDG
BERDZENISHVILI Levan, Georgia
BRAUN Márton, Hungary, EPP/CD
ÇAVUŞOĞLU Mevlüt, Turkey, EDG
CIRCENE Ingrida, Latvia, EPP/CD
FREIRE ANTUNES José, Portugal
HAJIBAYLI Gultakin, Azerbaijan, EPP/CD
HAJIYEV Sabir, Azerbaijan, SOC
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
KELEMEN András, Hungary
KUMCUOĞLU Ertuğrul, Turkey, EDG
LILLIEHÖÖK Anna, Sweden
LINDBLAD Göran, Sweden, EPP/CD
MENDES BOTA José, Portugal, EPP/CD
NAKASHIDZÉ Nino, Georgia
OLSSON Kent, Sweden
POURBAIX-LUNDIN Marietta, de, Sweden, EPP/CD
SEYIDOV Samad, Azerbaijan, EDG
STEENBLOCK Rainder, Germany
TEKELİOĞLU Mehmet, Turkey, EPP/CD
TEVDORADZE Elene, Georgia
TÜRKEŞ Tuğrul, Turkey, EDG
TÜRKÖNE Özlem, Turkey, EPP/CD
ÜNAL Mustafa, Turkey, EPP/CD
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 26

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1. EDG: European Democrat Group
   EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
   SOC: Socialist Group