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25 June 2008

Appeal on behalf of the Burmese population

Written declaration No. 411

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.

For the last few weeks, hundreds of thousands of Burmese citizens have been enduring the terrible consequences of cyclone Nargis. Their destitution is extreme and their suffering unbearable.

Massive and rapid international aid is clearly needed to come to the relief of the victims and avert an impending health disaster.

Despite the promising results of the negotiations carried out by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the mistrust of the current Burmese authorities concerning the aid supplied by humanitarian organisations continues.

In addition, the disaster did not prevent the junta from holding a sham referendum for the purpose of consolidating its own power. Nor has it stemmed the repression of the opposition, whose main leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, remains under solitary house arrest.

This cynical attitude needs to be condemned in the strongest possible terms. It also demands complete solidarity on the part of the international community.

It is for this reason that we wish to appeal to the Council of Europe resolutely to join in the international pressure to ensure that the Burmese population are helped effectively and that the opponents of the junta are released at last.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

MIGNON Jean-Claude, France, EPP/CD
ABURTO BASELGA Fátima, Spain, SOC
AGRAMUNT Pedro, Spain, EPP/CD
BADRE Denis, France, ALDE
BEMELMANS-VIDEC Marie-Louise, Netherlands, EPP/CD
BLANCO GARCÍA Jaime, Spain
BRANGER Jean-Guy, France
CAPARIN Karmela, Croatia, EPP/CD
COLOMBIER Georges, France, EPP/CD
CORTAJARENA ITURRIOZ Elvira, Spain
COUSIN Alain, France, EPP/CD
DORIĆ Miljenko, Croatia, ALDE
DREYFUS-SCHMIDT Michel, France
DURRIEU Josette, France, SOC
ELZINGA Tuur, Netherlands, UEL
ERR Lydie, Luxembourg, SOC
FERNÁNDEZ-CAPEL BAÑOS Blanca, Spain, EPP/CD
GARDETTO Jean-Charles, Monaco, EPP/CD
GREFF Claude, France, EPP/CD
GROSSKOST Arlette, France, EPP/CD
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
HUNAUT Michel, France
HUSS Jean, Luxembourg, SOC
IWIŃSKI Tadeusz, Poland, SOC
JACQUAT Denis, France, EPP/CD
JONKER Corien W.A., Netherlands, EPP/CD
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
KYPRIANOU Andros, Cyprus
LAMBERT Geert, Belgium
LECOQ Jean-Paul, France
LIPÍŃSKI Dariusz, Poland, EPP/CD
LONCLE François, France, SOC
MATUŠIĆ Frano, Croatia, EPP/CD
MONFILS Philippe, Belgium
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands
PEJČINOVIĆ-BURIĆ Marija, Croatia, EPP/CD
POLLOZHANI Azis, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
POURGOURIDES Christos, Cyprus, EPP/CD
REPS Mailis, Estonia, ALDE
ROCHEBLOINE François, France, EPP/CD
ROUQUET René, France
SAAR Indrek, Estonia, SOC
SARIKAS Fidias, Cyprus, SOC
SCHNEIDER André, France, EPP/CD
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
STULIGROSZ Michał, Poland, EPP/CD
VRIES Klaas, de, Netherlands, SOC
WIKIŃSKI Marek, Poland, SOC
ZAŠOV Blagoj, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"

Total = 49

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left