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

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Humanitarian situation of "boat-people" in Lampedusa (Italy)

Written declaration No. 422

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.

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1. Nearly 2000 "boat-people", including asylum seekers, are currently packed into a reception center on the Italian island of Lampedusa which has a capacity to hold only 850 people. Hundreds of people are having to sleep outdoors and adequate reception conditions can not be guaranteed.

2. The situation in Lampedusa gives rise to serious concerns:

3. The number of arrivals in Lampedusa has risen dramatically in 2008

4. The Italian authorities have changed the status of the reception centre into a centre for identification and expulsion leading to overcrowding.

5. The Italian authorities are insisting that persons remain in the centre until their status is decided, raising fears of accelerated and unfair procedures which might have serious consequences for asylum seekers and refugees.

6. Local inhabitants have demonstrated on the island concerning the situation and plans to build a further centre.

7. The undersigned members of the Assembly invite the Italian authorities to immediately re-examine the situation in Lampedusa, together with UNHCR and IOM in order to safeguard the humanitarian needs and human rights of the arriving "boat-people" and to tackle tension amongst local inhabitants of the island.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

GJUL Gunn Karin, Norway
ABLINGER Sonja, Austria, SOC
ACKETOFT Tina, Sweden
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC
ASPHJELL Jorodd, Norway
BANIAS Ioannis, Greece
ÇAVUŞOĞLU Mevlüt, Turkey, EDG
GREENWAY John, United Kingdom
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
HANCOCK Mike, United Kingdom, ALDE
HENDERSON Doug, United Kingdom
HUSKOWSKI Stanisław, Poland
JONKER Corien W.A., Netherlands, EPP/CD
KANDELAKI Giorgi, Georgia, EPP/CD
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
LINDBLAD Göran, Sweden, EPP/CD
MACHADO Jorge, Portugal
MINASHVILI Akaki, Georgia, ALDE
REPS Mailis, Estonia, ALDE
SYDOW Björn, von, Sweden, SOC
TÜRKEŞ Tuğrul, Turkey, EDG

Total = 21

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