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

Doc. 11812
27 January 2009

The persecution of Christian communities in the world

Written declaration No. 418

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. In some countries, Christians are the object of serious acts of violence, which are taking the form of outright persecution.

2. In Eastern India, for instance, an anti-Christian *pogrom* has started. Sixty Christians were killed and villages, churches and schools were razed to the ground. In the last four years in Iraq, 14 Christians were killed and 50 000 families were displaced.

3. The Council of the Bishops' Conferences of Europe has recently appealed to the governments and institutions of Europe to stop the violence and incitement to religious hatred. Also Pope Benedict II has called public attention to the tragedy affecting Christians in those countries.

4. The issue was on the agenda of the meeting of the European Union foreign ministers of 6 September 2008 and raised by President Sarkozy during the EU-India summit at Marseilles on 30 September 2008.

5. In view of these very serious events, the undersigned members of the Assembly strongly request that such unprecedented violence be brought to a halt and that the fundamental and inalienable right to religious freedom, as enshrined by the Council of Europe, is complied with.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

BOLDI Rossana, Italy, EDG
BRICOLO Federico, Italy, EDG
BUGNANO Patrizia, Italy, ALDE
CARLONI Anna Maria, Italy, SOC
CHITI Vannino, Italy, SOC
GIARETTA Paolo, Italy, ALDE
MALGIERI Gennaro, Italy, EPP/CD
NESSA Pasquale, Italy, EPP/CD
PAPADOPOULOS Antigoni, Cyprus
RIGONI Andrea, Italy, ALDE
ROCHEBLOINE François, France, EPP/CD
RUSSO Giacinto, Italy, ALDE
SAIA Maurizio, Italy, EDG
SANTINI Giacomo, Italy, EPP/CD
SARO Giuseppe, Italy, EPP/CD
SOLIANI Albertina, Italy, ALDE
VALENTINO Giuseppe, Italy, EDG
VITALI Luigi, Italy, EPP/CD
VOLONTÈ Luca, Italy, EPP/CD
ZACCHERA Marco, Italy, EDG

Total = 20

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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