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Defend the freedom of expression – the case of imprisoned authors in Turkey

Written declaration No. 468

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.

Taking into account that:

- the freedom of expression is guaranteed in article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights;
- the freedom of expression has to be defended in many member states of the Council of Europe;
- at least 44 authors and journalists are currently imprisoned in Turkey, six are charged or convicted solely for their works and the others are held under the pretext of a criminal offence;
- the author Doğan Akhanlı was finally released from the pretrial detention of almost four months based on obviously baseless and fabricated allegations;
- the author Nevin Berhtaş was sentenced to ten months imprisonment because of her meanwhile forbidden book "Prison Cells" in which she describes her 21 years in prison;
- the author Pinar Selek faces a new trial in Turkey after the Court of Cassation has reversed two acquittals.

We, the undersigned, hereby declare our support for the imprisoned authors and journalists in Turkey. We ask the Human Rights Commissioner, the Committee of Ministers and the member states to investigate the imprisonment of authors and journalists in Turkey, to monitor the development of the freedom of expression and to support the independence of its judiciary.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
ANDERSEN Karin, Norway, UEL
BECK Marieluise, Germany, ALDE
BRASSEUR Anne, Luxembourg, ALDE
CRAMON-TAUBADEL Viola, von, Germany, SOC
ELZINGA Tuur, Netherlands, UEL
FRAHM Pernille, Denmark, UEL
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
GROTH Annette, Germany, UEL
HURSKAINEN Sinikka, Finland, SOC
HUSS Jean, Luxembourg, SOC
JOHANSSON Mats, Sweden, EPP/CD
KANELLI Liana, Greece, UEL
KONEČNÁ Kateřina, Czech Republic, UEL
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
LOTMAN Aleksei, Estonia, UEL
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC
MÓSESDÓTTIR Lilja, Iceland, UEL
NORD Thomas, Germany, UEL
PAPADIMOULIS Dimitrios, Greece, UEL
PETRENCO Grigore, Republic of Moldova, UEL
POURBAIX-LUNDIN Marietta, de, Sweden, EPP/CD
POURGOURIDES Christos, Cyprus, EPP/CD
RUPPRECHT Marlene, Germany, SOC
SOBKO Sergey, Russian Federation, UEL
WERNER Katrin, Germany, UEL

Total = 26

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