



Doc. 12380

02 October 2010

Situation in Venezuela

Written declaration No. 454

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.

Recalling the written declarations no. 396 ([Doc. 11291](#)) and 417 ([Doc. 11737](#)) and the motion for a recommendation ([Doc. 11849](#)) on Venezuela, tabled by members of the Assembly, we note with regret that the situation in Venezuela has been further aggravated by :

- the continuing arrest of personalities such as Judge Maria Afiuni, for passing unfavourable sentences;
- the arbitrary detention of political leaders like Alejandro Peña Esclusa, President of UnoAmerica, persecuted because he denounced relations between the government and extremist institutions;
- the arrest of Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, former President of the Venezuelan Parliament, former Presidential candidate, because of his condemnation, during a television interview, of relations with drug traffickers;
- the military judgment against former General Antonio Rivero in retaliation for his condemnation of the presence of Cuban nationals in strategic military posts;
- the death on 30 August of farmer Franklin Brito on hunger strike following his confinement to a Military Hospital.

This clearly demonstrates the criminalisation of dissident opinion and the use of the judiciary as a weapon for intolerance.

We call on the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to respect and uphold the rule of law, freedom of expression, freedom of opinion, the conventions on human rights and democracy.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

VOLONTÈ Luca, Italy, EPP/CD
AGRAMUNT Pedro, Spain, EPP/CD
BĒRZINŠ Andris, Latvia, ALDE
CONDE Agustín, Spain, EPP/CD
DENDIAS Nikolaos, Greece, EPP/CD
FARINA Renato, Italy, EPP/CD
GREENWAY John, United Kingdom
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
HOSTALIER Françoise, France, EPP/CD
HURSKAINEN Sinikka, Finland, SOC
MAISSEN Theo, Switzerland, EPP/CD
MENDES BOTA José, Portugal, EPP/CD
MIGNON Jean-Claude, France, EPP/CD
MUÑOZ-ALONSO Alejandro, Spain, EPP/CD
NIKOLOSKI Aleksandar, "The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", EPP/CD
OLSSON Kent, Sweden
POURGOURIDES Christos, Cyprus, EPP/CD
QUINTANILLA Carmen, Spain, EPP/CD
SARO Giuseppe, Italy, EPP/CD
SASI Kimmo, Finland, EPP/CD
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
VITALI Luigi, Italy, EPP/CD

Total = 23

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