



Doc. 12402

07 October 2010

Death of an Armenian captive in Azerbaijan

Written declaration No. 461

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.

On 5 October 2010, Mr Manvel Saribekyan, citizen of Armenia, died in captivity in Azerbaijan. A shepherd from a border village in Armenia, Mr Manvel Saribekyan was captured by Azerbaijani forces at the border, while herding his livestock. The Azerbaijani Ministry of Defence and the Military Prosecutor have reported that Manvel “committed suicide”.

Earlier, Azerbaijan disseminated video footage in which signs of violence could be seen on Manvel.

We express our shock over the death of Manvel Saribekyan and strongly condemn the authorities of Azerbaijan for this tragedy. Their actions represent a blatant violation of international humanitarian law, in particular Articles 2 and 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions and the UN Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which Azerbaijan is a Party.

We urge Azerbaijan to conduct a full and transparent investigation, with the involvement of international experts, to bring to justice officials responsible for the death of Manvel Saribekyan.

The official version of Azerbaijan that Manvel Saribekyan committed suicide is a cynical attempt to avoid responsibility for his death, whereas Azerbaijan and its officials bear direct responsibility for the life and safety of the captive.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

POSTANJYAN Zaruhi, Armenia, EPP/CD
AGHAJANYAN Artsruni, Armenia, NR
BADEA Viorel Riceard, Romania, EPP/CD
FRANCESCHINI Dario, Italy, ALDE
FRANKEN Hans, Netherlands, EPP/CD
FRONC Martin, Slovak Republic, EPP/CD
FRUNDA György, Romania, EPP/CD
GUȚU Ana, Republic of Moldova, ALDE
HARUTYUNYAN Davit, Armenia, EDG
HOSTALIER Françoise, France, EPP/CD
HURSKAINEN Sinikka, Finland, SOC
KALMÁR Ferenc, Hungary, EPP/CD
KARAMANLI Marietta, France, SOC
MARLAND-MILITELLO Muriel, France, EPP/CD
MINCHEV Krasimir, Bulgaria, EPP/CD
NAGHDALYAN Hermine, Armenia, ALDE
PUIG i OLIVE Lluís Maria, de, Spain, SOC
ROCHEBLOINE François, France, EPP/CD
ROUQUET René, France, SOC
RUSTAMYAN Armen, Armenia, SOC
SOBOLEV Serhiy, Ukraine, EPP/CD
SUDARENKOV Valeriy, Russian Federation, SOC
VRETTOS Konstantinos, Greece, SOC
WILLIAMS Betty, United Kingdom
ZOHRABYAN Naira, Armenia, ALDE

Total = 25

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
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group