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21 June 2011

Lack of freedom in Ukraine

Written declaration No. 482

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.

We express our deep concern regarding the harassment of civil society and political activists by the secret services of the Republic of Ukraine.

We stress the need for reform of the security services, especially the abolition of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU)'s right to conduct normal criminal investigations, referred to in Assembly [Resolution 1755 \(2010\)](#).

The detention of a large number of opposition politicians, former members of government, on essentially political charges is unacceptable: past legal policy decisions, irrespective of their quality, are de facto criminalised. The investigation of policy decisions is strictly the prerogative of parliament.

In a democratic society, both government and opposition should be free to express themselves nationally and internationally. Travel restrictions imposed on a large number of major opposition figures based on questionably charges is unacceptable in a genuinely democratic society.

The current Ukrainian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers makes it incumbent upon Ukraine to lead by example in meeting the highest standards. If this were the case, leading opposition politicians like Mrs Yulia Tymochenko should be free to travel to Strasbourg for the Assembly Session.

We call upon the Monitoring Committee rapporteurs to prioritise these issues during their upcoming visit and to report back to the Assembly.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
BADRÉ Denis, France, ALDE
DURRIEU Josette, France, SOC
GATTI Marco, San Marino, EPP/CD
GHILETCHI Valeriu, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
GRAHAM Sylvi, Norway, EPP/CD
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
HAKL Karin, Austria, EPP/CD
HANSON Margus, Estonia, ALDE
HAUPERT Norbert, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
KOVÁCS Elvira, Serbia, EPP/CD
LIPÍŃSKI Dariusz, Poland, EPP/CD
MUÑOZ-ALONSO Alejandro, Spain, EPP/CD
NEGELE Gebhard, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD
NEUGEBAUER Fritz, Austria, EPP/CD
PALIHOVICI Liliana, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
PERNASKA Lajla, Albania, EPP/CD
POSTANJYAN Zaruhi, Armenia, EPP/CD
SANTINI Giacomo, Italy, EPP/CD
SASI Kimmo, Finland, EPP/CD
SCHÄDLER Leander, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD
SCHOU Ingjerd, Norway, EPP/CD
TOSHEV Latchezar, Bulgaria, EPP/CD
TRASHANI Arenca, Albania, EPP/CD
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
VARVITSIOTIS Miltiadis, Greece, EPP/CD
VOLONTÈ Luca, Italy, EPP/CD
WURM Gisela, Austria, SOC

Total = 29

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