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

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The situation in Bahrain

Written declaration No. 507

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.

Since Bahrain's independence in 1971, the country has made considerable progress with regard to the construction of democratic institutions. This evolution has been acknowledged by all observers.

The National Charter, for instance, represents a unique achievement in the region.

However, during the months of February and March 2011, protest movements have occurred and provoked violence and repressions.

The Bahraini authorities, on the initiative of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, have launched a dialogue process that was boycotted by the opposition. An independent inquiry committee has been set up, under the direction of Professor Cherif Bassiani (former President of the Commission of Inquiry on war crimes in the former Yugoslavia), which is composed of eminent personalities.

Moreover, the influence of different border or neighborhood states of Bahrain must not be underestimated and the instability in the region can have dangerous consequences.

Therefore, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe should:

– encourage the authorities and all those who strive for democratic dialogue in Bahrain

– call on the Bahraini authorities to make active use of the experience of the Venice commission and to join the Venice Commission

– examine co-operation opportunities with the organs of the Council of Europe and its institutions.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

MORIAU Patrick, Belgium, SOC
AGRAMUNT Pedro, Spain, EPP/CD
BOCKEL Jean-Marie, France, EPP/CD
ÇAVUŞOĞLU Mevlüt, Turkey, EDG
CONDE Agustín, Spain, EPP/CD
FARINA Gianni, Italy, SOC
GROSS Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
HANCOCK Mike, United Kingdom, ALDE
HUOVINEN Susanna, Finland, SOC
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LEGENDRE Jacques, France, EPP/CD
MAHOUX Philippe, Belgium, SOC
MARCENARO Pietro, Italy, SOC
MAYER Edgar, Austria, EPP/CD
MEMECAN Nursuna, Turkey, ALDE
NESSA Pasquale, Italy, EPP/CD
NEUGEBAUER Fritz, Austria, EPP/CD
STOILOV Yanaki, Bulgaria, SOC
SULEYMANOV Elkhan, Azerbaijan, EPP/CD
VERCAMER Stefaan, Belgium, EPP/CD

Total = 20

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