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Violations of religious freedom in the Republic of Iran

Written declaration No. 498

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.

The undersigned, members of the Assembly, witnessing with deep concern the violations of religious freedom in the Republic of Iran,

Iranian pastor Youcef Nadarkhani was arrested in 2009 for the crime of apostasy because he allegedly abandoned Islam and converted to Christianity. Pastor Nadarkhani has been charged with "frequent participation in Christian worship, organising home church services, and converting Muslims to Christianity".

The undersigned members express deep concern regarding the attacks against Christian communities in the Republic of Iran and strongly condemn the arrest of pastor Youcef Nadarkhani who faces the death penalty. These acts are in violation of Article 9 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Faith is the most basic fundamental right of every human being.

We call upon the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the United Nations Security Council to condemn the death sentence imposed on Pastor Youcef Nadarkhani and to call for an immediate stay of execution.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

GHILETCHI Valeriu, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
BADEA Viorel Riceard, Romania, EPP/CD
CORMAN Igor, Republic of Moldova, SOC
FRANKEN Hans, Netherlands, EPP/CD
GARDETTO Jean-Charles, Monaco, EPP/CD
IORDACHE Florin, Romania, SOC
KALMÁR Ferenc, Hungary, EPP/CD
MARKOV Sergey, Russian Federation, EDG
MOTA AMARAL João Bosco, Portugal, EPP/CD
MUNTEANU Valeriu, Republic of Moldova, ALDE
NEGELE Gebhard, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
PALIHOVICI Liliana, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
PANȚIRU Tudor, Romania, SOC
POPESCU Ivan, Ukraine, SOC
SCHÄDLER Leander, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD
STAVROSITU Maria, Romania, EPP/CD
TOSHEV Latchezar, Bulgaria, EPP/CD
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
VOLONTÈ Luca, Italy, EPP/CD
WOHLWEND Renate, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD

Total = 21

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