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Executions in Iran

Written declaration No. 466

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 24 January 2011 the Iranian regime executed political prisoners Jafar Kazemi and Mohammad-Ali Haj-Aqai for taking part in anti-government protests in 2009, supporting the main opposition group People's Mojahedin Organisation of Iran (PMOI), and visiting their relatives in Camp Ashraf, Iraq. The executions were an act of vengeance against families of PMOI members residing in Ashraf following worldwide support for the Iranian Resistance.

Amnesty International quoted reports as saying Jafar Kazemi was tortured for months at Evin prison to force him to make a televised "confession" but he refused to do so.

"For months, the residents of Camp Ashraf have been subject to constant harassment, pressure and siege-like conditions by the Iraqi authorities who wish them to leave Iraq. They would be at very serious risk if forced to return to Iran", Amnesty International said.

In December, Iran's most prominent political prisoner, Ali Saremi, was hanged after 24 years behind bars. His only crime was to have visited his son in Ashraf and peacefully campaigned in support of the PMOI.

The United Nations Security Council and the European Union should condemn these barbaric executions and suspend economic and diplomatic ties with the regime until there is a halt to torture and execution in Iran.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

BINLEY Brian, United Kingdom, EDG
AGIUS Francis, Malta, EPP/CD
BENTON Joe, United Kingdom, SOC
CHARALAMBOPOULOS Georges, Greece, SOC
CONNARTY Michael, United Kingdom, SOC
DOBBIN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC
FRANKEN Hans, Netherlands, EPP/CD
HANCOCK Mike, United Kingdom, ALDE
HOOD Jim, United Kingdom, SOC
HUSS Jean, Luxembourg, SOC
INGLEWOOD Richard, United Kingdom, EDG
KENNEDY Charles, United Kingdom, ALDE
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
MORIAU Patrick, Belgium, SOC
OSBORNE Sandra, United Kingdom, SOC
OSCARSSON Mikael, Sweden, EPP/CD
SAAR Indrek, Estonia, SOC
SASI Kimmo, Finland, EPP/CD
SHERIDAN Jim, United Kingdom, SOC
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, 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