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Political prisoners in Armenia

Written question No. 625 to the Committee of Ministers

by Mr Levon ZOURABIAN, Armenia, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

The case of the Armenian political prisoner Tigran Araqelian was brought to the attention of the Parliamentary Assembly during the October 2012 part-session.

Being activist of the opposition Armenian National Congress, he was assaulted by the police, beaten and given a six-year sentence based on politically motivated, fabricated charges and has already spent one year and five months in prison. Three other activists will also have to serve long sentences if the Armenian Court of Cassation upholds its decision relating to the same episode, which effectively aborted a long-awaited dialogue between the Government of Armenia and the Armenian National Congress.

During the last part-session the Assembly adopted Resolution 1900 (2012) on “The definition of political prisoner”, in which it established five criteria for regarding a person deprived of his or her personal liberty as a political prisoner and called on the competent authorities of all the member States of the Council of Europe to reassess the cases of any alleged political prisoners, applying the above-mentioned criteria, and to release or retry any such prisoners as appropriate.

Mr Zourabian,

To ask the Committee of Ministers:

Whether it intends to intervene with the Armenian authorities so that the political prisoners are freed and dialogue with the Armenian National Congress is resumed?

