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

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Kesab: Condemning terrorist attack against civilians in Syria

Written declaration No. 570

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 Parliamentary Assembly express their grave concern over the recent escalation of the situation in North-Western Syria, around the ancient town of Kesab predominantly populated by Armenians. The late attacks were carried out by Al-Qaeda affiliated terrorist groups across the border from the territory of Turkey. The brutal actions, which targeted largely the civilian population, resulted in forced displacement of local population. The extremist groups have desecrated Kesab's Armenian churches and caused significant damage to property of inhabitants. This is a continuing humanitarian crisis. Bearing in mind and urgent need for the protection of ethnic and religious minorities, including Armenians in conditions of armed conflict in Syria, we strongly condemn and considers unacceptable such use of force against civilian population, regardless of their ethnic and religious identity.

We strongly urge the Turkish authorities to take immediate measures to prevent further use of its territory by extremist groups and to investigate reports on Turkish assistance to terrorist groups.

The international community should undertake resolute efforts to ensure the safety and security of refugees, including the Armenians, facilitate conditions for their early, safe and dignified return to their places of residence and provide indispensable humanitarian assistance to address their urgent needs.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

HOVHANNISYAN Arpine, Armenia, EPP/CD
BENEYTO José María, Spain, EPP/CD
CHOPE Christopher, United Kingdom, EDG
FRANKEN Hans, Netherlands, EPP/CD
GHILETCHI Valeriu, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC
HARUTYUNYAN Davit, Armenia, EDG
KARAPETYAN Naira, Armenia, EPP/CD
MARIANI Thierry, France, EPP/CD
McNAMARA Michael, Ireland, SOC
MENDES BOTA José, Portugal, EPP/CD
MOTA AMARAL João Bosco, Portugal, EPP/CD
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
POLČÁK Stanislav, Czech Republic, EPP/CD
POURBAIX-LUNDIN Marietta, de, Sweden, EPP/CD
PUSHKOV Alexey, Russian Federation, EDG
ROUQUET René, France, SOC
SASI Kimmo, Finland, EPP/CD
SHAHGELDYAN Mher, Armenia, EPP/CD
TRIANTAFYLLOS Konstantinos, Greece, SOC
ZECH Tobias, Germany, EPP/CD
ZOHRABYAN Naira, Armenia, ALDE

Total = 22

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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