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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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The need to stop the escalation in the persecution of Christian communities in the Middle East

Motion for a resolution
tabled by Ms Elena CENTEMERO and other members of the Assembly

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This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

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The emergence of the "Islamic State" and of the ideology of Islamist absolutism implies a strategy of eradication of any Christian presence. Extermination and slavery have become a well-established practice.

In Iraq and Syria, religious freedom is denied, forced conversions and crucifixions are widespread, Christians' houses are marked with the N of the Nazarene, foreshadowing murder or exile.

On 21 January 2011, the Committee of Ministers unanimously adopted a declaration on the attacks against Christian communities and the need to protect the religious freedom of all believers; it strongly condemned these acts as well as all forms of incitement to religious violence, and emphasized the inalienable right of freedom of religion.

On 27 January 2011, the Parliamentary Assembly adopted Recommendation 1957 (2011) condemning violence against Christians in the Middle East, in which it is underlined that the disappearance of Christian communities would be catastrophic for Islam itself, since it would mean the victory of fundamentalism.

Today, the situation is more serious and commitments undertaken have been ignored. We therefore need a renewed awareness and the identification of effective tools to prevent the violent end of Christian minorities.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group