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Abuse of pre-trial detention in Georgia

Written declaration No. 586

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.

As noted by Article 2 of Resolution 2015 (2014) on the Functioning of Democratic Institutions in Georgia, “Almost the entire leadership of the former ruling party has been arrested or is under prosecution or investigation.” Amongst them is one of UNM leaders and former Tbilisi Mayor Gigi Ugulava. Mr Ugulava, then campaign manager of UNM in June 2014 local elections was arrested days prior to the runoff and placed in pre-trial detention, sparking widespread criticism.

Upon request of the Georgian Government, Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE/ODIHR) published report on monitoring of 327 trials of 14 former officials and political figures under prosecution in Georgia following the change of Government in 2012. Amongst others, “continued and unreasonable use of pre-trial detention” is one of the main findings. This concern is also highlighted by the above-mentioned Assembly resolution.

We the undersigned, members of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, call on the Georgian authorities to address the concerns enumerated in these documents and in particular pre-trial detention of political figures.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

CHOPE Christopher, United Kingdom, EC
AGRAMUNT Pedro, Spain, EPP/CD
ARIEV Volodymyr, Ukraine, EPP/CD
BARDINA PAU Josep Anton, Andorra, ALDE
BECK Marieluise, Germany, ALDE
BUGNON André, Switzerland, ALDE
DESTEXHE Alain, Belgium, ALDE
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC
FABRITIUS Bernd, Germany, EPP/CD
FISCHER Axel E., Germany, EPP/CD
FRANKEN Hans, Netherlands, EPP/CD
GALE Roger, United Kingdom, EC
GHILETCHI Valeriu, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
GROZDANOVA Dzhema, Bulgaria, EPP/CD
HANSON Margus, Estonia, ALDE
LEYDEN Terry, Ireland, ALDE
LĪBIŅA-EGNERE Inese, Latvia, EPP/CD
MATEU PI Meritxell, Andorra, ALDE
MOTA AMARAL João Bosco, Portugal, EPP/CD
NÉMETH Zsolt, Hungary, EPP/CD
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
PECKOVÁ Gabriela, Czech Republic, EPP/CD
PREDA Cezar Florin, Romania, EPP/CD
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
STROE Ionuț-Marian, Romania, EPP/CD
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
WALTER Robert, United Kingdom, EC
XUCLÀ Jordi, Spain, ALDE
ZELIENKOVÁ Kristýna, Czech Republic, ALDE
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 30

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC: European Conservatives Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group