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The Sergei Magnitsky case

Written declaration¹ No. 490

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.

Sergei Magnitsky was the legal representative of the Hermitage Fund in Russia. He discovered the largest tax fraud in Russian history perpetrated by members of the Russian government. After testifying against them, he was arrested, tortured and killed in police custody.

In July 2011, the Council of the President of the Russian Federation for the promotion of civil society and human rights conducted an independent investigation and found that Sergei Magnitsky had been falsely arrested and prosecuted by officers with a conflict of interest, been beaten by eight guards with rubber batons prior to his death, and that state bodies failed and resisted to investigate the corruption he had uncovered. The Council named specific perpetrators in the Government. Requests by Mr Magnitsky's family for an independent medical evaluation have been refused.

The Russian Interior Ministry and the General Prosecutor's Office have since rejected the findings of the Human Rights Council as inadmissible, exonerated the officers involved, reopened the case against Mr Magnitsky nearly two years after his death and the same officers who persecuted Sergei Magnitsky called his mother and his widow for interrogation.

We call on Russia to immediately prosecute the people named in the Human Rights Council's report, cease the intimidation of Magnitsky's family and allow an independent evaluation in his case

Signed (see overleaf)

1. Written Declaration first published on 4 October 2011 with 53 signatures.



Signed²:

OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
AGRAMUNT Pedro, Spain, EPP/CD
ARIB Khadija, Netherlands, SOC
ÁRNASON Mörður, Iceland, SOC
BROEKERS-KNOL Ankie, Netherlands, ALDE
CEDERBRATT Mikael, Sweden, EPP/CD
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COLOMBIER Georges, France, EPP/CD
ÇONKAR Ahmet Berat, Turkey, EDG
DEBONO GRECH Joseph, Malta, SOC
DÍAZ TEJERA Arcadio, Spain, SOC
ÉKES József, Hungary, EPP/CD
FENECH ADAMI Joseph, Malta, EPP/CD
FISCHEROVÁ Jana, Czech Republic, EDG
FRAHM Pernille, Denmark
FRANKEN Hans, Netherlands, EPP/CD
GARDETTO Jean-Charles, Monaco, EPP/CD
GRAHAM Sylvi, Norway, EPP/CD
HERASYM'YUK Olha, Ukraine, EPP/CD
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
HOSTALIER Françoise, France, EPP/CD
JOHANSSON Mats, Sweden, EPP/CD
KALMÁR Ferenc, Hungary, EPP/CD
KANDELAKI Giorgi, Georgia, EPP/CD
KAYATÜRK Burhan, Turkey, EPP/CD
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
MANZONE-SAQUET Nicole, Monaco, EPP/CD
MARIN Christine, France, EPP/CD
MARTY Dick, Switzerland
MENDES BOTA José, Portugal, EPP/CD
MIGNON Jean-Claude, France, EPP/CD
MINASHVILI Akaki, Georgia, ALDE
NIEUWENHUIZEN Cora, van, Netherlands, ALDE
POSTANJYAN Zaruhi, Armenia, EPP/CD
POURBAIX-LUNDIN Marietta, de, Sweden, EPP/CD
POURGOURIDES Christos, Cyprus
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2. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group

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Total = 58