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

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Moldova is urged to immediately release all the political prisoners

Written declaration No. 598

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.

On 6 September 2015, thousands of Moldovans rallied in Chisinau downtown against lawlessness, corruption, oligarch dictatorship, demanding senior officials of the law enforcement agencies to resign, and to bring to justice everyone involved in the case of the stolen billion from the Moldovan banking system. The protesters were calling for the release of the State institutions from the influence of oligarch Plahotniuc.

During one of the peaceful rallies held in front of the Prosecutor General's Office, the leader of the opposition Red Bloc Party, Grigore Petrenco and other activists involved were arrested.

The detainees were charged with organisations of and participation in mass riots. Under Article 285 of the Moldovan Criminal Code they risk to get up to 8 years in prison.

The basic civil rights and freedoms in a democracy include freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and the right to protest. The Republic of Moldova, as a full-fledged member State of the Council of Europe, shall be bound to honour all the commitments it assumed when joining the Council of Europe.

We resolutely condemn the very grave violations of the rights and freedoms in the Republic of Moldova, and the political repression unleashed against the opposition representatives.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
CRAUSBY David, United Kingdom, SOC
ELZINGA Tuur, Netherlands, UEL
FABRITIUS Bernd, Germany, EPP/CD
FAZZONE Claudio, Italy, EPP/CD
FLYNN Paul, United Kingdom, SOC
FRANKEN Hans, Netherlands, EPP/CD
FRONC Martin, Slovak Republic, EPP/CD
GIRO Francesco Maria, Italy, EPP/CD
GOSSELIN-FLEURY Geneviève, France, SOC
HANŽEK Matjaž, Slovenia, UEL
HÜBNER Johannes, Austria, NR
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
JAKAVONIS Gediminas, Lithuania, ALDE
JOHNSSON FORNARVE Lotta, Sweden, UEL
KHADER Qais, Palestine
KÜRKÇÜ Ertuğrul, Turkey, UEL
LARSEN Aaja Chemnitz, Denmark, UEL
LOUKAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
NEGUTA Andrei, Republic of Moldova, SOC
PECKOVÁ Gabriela, Czech Republic, EPP/CD
RECORDON Luc, Switzerland, SOC
RZAYEV Rovshan, Azerbaijan, EPP/CD
SCHIEDER Andreas, Austria, SOC
ŠEPIĆ Senad, Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD
VERCAMER Stefaan, Belgium, EPP/CD
VĖSAITĖ Birutė, Lithuania, SOC
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL
VOVK Viktor, Ukraine, EC
WOLD Morten, Norway, EC
ZELIENKOVÁ Kristýna, Czech Republic, ALDE

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
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group