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International community reaction on the increasing pressure of the Russian occupants on Crimean Tatars

Written declaration No. 629

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 of the beginning of 2017, persecutions and intimidations of Crimean Tatars in Crimea sharply increased. The Russian occupation authorities used their military forces for ethnic profiling checks and raids in the Bahchisaray region, detaining Crimean Tatars at the Simferopol market, stepping up pressure on Mejlis members, totally ignoring all calls by international organisations, including the Council of Europe.

In light of this, the Order of the International Court of Justice – the principal judicial organ of the United Nations – on the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by Ukraine in the case of Ukraine vs Russia, is of great importance. The Court ruled that Russia must refrain from maintaining or imposing limitations on the ability of the Crimean Tatar community to maintain its representative institutions, including the Mejlis; and must ensure the availability of education in the Ukrainian language in Crimea.

We, the undersigned, welcome the above-mentioned Order, that reaffirmed numerous calls on the Russian authorities to respect international law and human rights.

We also look forward to the assessment of the human rights violations in the occupied Crimea by the European Court of Human Rights in a number of cases pending before this highest European judicial body. Given the urgency of the matter and utmost importance of the Convention rights involved, we believe that these cases deserve priority treatment by the Court.

Keeping that in mind, we point out that restoring full scale co-operation between the Parliamentary Assembly and the Russian Federation could only be achieved following the de-occupation of Crimea and full implementation of the Minsk Agreements.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

ARIEV Volodymyr, Ukraine, EPP/CD
ÅBERG Borianana, Sweden, EPP/CD
ARENT Iwona, Poland, EC
ÁRNASON Vilhjálmur, Iceland, EC
BENKŐ Erika, Romania, EPP/CD
BEREZA Boryslav, Ukraine, EPP/CD
BILLSTRÖM Tobias, Sweden, EPP/CD
BUTKEVIČIUS Algirdas, Lithuania, SOC
DİŞLİ Şaban, Turkey, EPP/CD
DUNDEE Alexander, United Kingdom, EC
EVANS Nigel, United Kingdom, EC
FEIST Thomas, Germany, EPP/CD
FIRAT Salih, Turkey, EC
GALE Roger, United Kingdom, EC
GARCÍA ALBIOL Xavier, Spain, EPP/CD
GERASHCHENKO Iryna, Ukraine, EPP/CD
GHILETCHI Valeriu, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
GOGUADZE Nino, Georgia, EC
GONCHARENKO Oleksii, Ukraine, EC
GÜLPINAR Mehmet Kasım, Turkey, EC
GÜNAY Emine Nur, Turkey, EC
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
HOWELL John, United Kingdom, EC
JENSEN Michael Aastrup, Denmark, ALDE
JENSSEN Frank J., Norway, EPP/CD
KANDELAKI Giorgi, Georgia, EPP/CD
KÜÇÜKCAN Talip, Turkey, EC
LEITE RAMOS Luís, Portugal, EPP/CD
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
MADISON Jaak, Estonia, EC
MAROSZ Ján, Slovak Republic, EC
MARQUES Duarte, Portugal, EPP/CD
MULLEN Rónán, Ireland, EPP/CD
MUNYAMA Killion, Poland, EPP/CD
OBREMSKI Jarosław, Poland, EC
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
ÖNAL Suat, Turkey, EC
PALIHOVICI Liliana, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
POLIAČIK Martin, Slovak Republic, ALDE
SILVA Adão, Portugal, EPP/CD
SOBOLEV Serhiy, Ukraine, EPP/CD
TOPCU Zühal, Turkey, EC
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
VOVK Viktor, Ukraine, EC
YAŞAR Serap, Turkey, EC
YEMETS Leonid, Ukraine, EPP/CD
ZELIENKOVÁ Kristýna, Czech Republic, ALDE
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 48

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