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12 October 2017

Concern over intimidation on our former colleague in Georgia

Written declaration No. 639

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.

We express our concern about reported cases of pressure on political opponents in Georgia, including a former member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, who did not stand for the October 2016 elections.

Our particular concern is about Ms Chiora Taktakishvili, one of the leaders of the United Movement Party and former Assembly member. Her husband Iliia Nikolaishvili was interrogated by the State Security Service on a controversial conspiracy case, days before elections. The accusations of alleged conspiracy are now apparently used to place surveillance, threaten and intimidate opposition politicians and activists, among them our former colleague.

We fear that Ms Taktakishvili may be punished for her positions taken as a member of the Assembly on the issues of media freedom, politicised justice and independence of the judiciary.

We will closely follow the situation of Ms Taktakishvili and her husband and call on Georgian authorities to refrain from unjustified pressure on opposition politicians and activists.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

RIGONI Andrea, Italy, ALDE
ARIEV Volodymyr, Ukraine, EPP/CD
BARTOS Mónika, Hungary, EPP/CD
BEREZA Boryslav, Ukraine, EPP/CD
BİLGEHAN Gülsün, Turkey, SOC
BRASSEUR Anne, Luxembourg, ALDE
BRUIJN-WEZEMAN Reina, de, Netherlands, ALDE
BÜCHEL Roland Rino, Switzerland, ALDE
BUDNER Margareta, Poland, EC
COMTE Raphaël, Switzerland, ALDE
FABRITIUS Bernd, Germany, EPP/CD
FIALA Doris, Switzerland, ALDE
FUCHS Bruno, France, ALDE
GHILETCHI Valeriu, Republic of Moldova, EPP/CD
GODSKESEN Ingebjørg, Norway, EC
GOLUB Vladyslav, Ukraine, EPP/CD
GRIN Jean-Pierre, Switzerland, ALDE
HERKEL Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD
HOLLIK István, Hungary, EPP/CD
JENSEN Michael Aastrup, Denmark, ALDE
JORDANA Carles, Andorra, ALDE
KIRAL Serhii, Ukraine, EC
KROSS Eerik-Niiles, Estonia, ALDE
MARUKYAN Edmon, Armenia, ALDE
MUNYAMA Killion, Poland, EPP/CD
PASQUIER Bernard, Monaco, ALDE
POCIEJ Aleksander, Poland, EPP/CD
RIBERAYGUA Patrícia, Andorra, ALDE
SOBOLEV Serhiy, Ukraine, EPP/CD
SOTNYK Olena, Ukraine, ALDE
SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
VAREIKIS Egidijus, Lithuania, EPP/CD
VEN Mart, van de, Netherlands, ALDE
WASERMAN Sylvain, France, ALDE
WOJTYŁA Andrzej, Poland, EC
YEMETS Leonid, Ukraine, EPP/CD
ZECH Tobias, Germany, EPP/CD
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 38

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