



Doc. 14541

25 April 2018

The case of two Greek soldiers detained in Turkey: human rights and the rule of law must be upheld

Written declaration No. 654

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 1 March 2018, two Greek military personnel, Lt. Angelos Mitretodis and Sgt. Dimitris Kouklatzis, were arrested by the Turkish authorities, allegedly having strayed across the border. The two soldiers have stated that they lost their way in bad weather, while on routine patrol along the Greek-Turkish land border. Despite calls from European Union and NATO officials for the soldiers' release and the Greek Government's efforts to secure their return, the two have now been held for almost two months, without charges being brought against them.

Whereas, Article 5.2 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) states that "Everyone who is arrested shall be informed promptly, in a language which he understands, of the reasons for his arrest and of any charge against him".

Therefore, the undersigned members of the Parliamentary Assembly call upon the Turkish authorities to swiftly conclude the judicial process and immediately release the two Greek soldiers. We further call upon the Turkish authorities to scrupulously follow legal proceedings and fully respect the human rights and legal guarantees enshrined in international law, including the ECHR. Furthermore, we call upon the institutions and member States of the Council of Europe to show solidarity to Greece in this matter.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

KAVVADIA Ioanneta, Greece, UEL
AMON Werner, Austria, EPP/CD
ANAGNOSTOPOULOU Athanasia, Greece, UEL
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC
BAKOYANNIS Theodora, Greece, EPP/CD
BENNING Sybille, Germany, EPP/CD
BEYER Peter, Germany, EPP/CD
BRYNJÓLFSDÓTTIR Rósa Björk, Iceland, UEL
BUSHKA Klotilda, Albania, SOC
CHRISTODOULOPOULOU Anastasia, Greece, UEL
DAMYANOVA Milena, Bulgaria, EPP/CD
EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC
FOURNIER Bernard, France, EPP/CD
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC
GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL
GORROTXATEGUI Miren Edurne, Spain, UEL
HARDT Jürgen, Germany, EPP/CD
HEINRICH Frank, Germany, EPP/CD
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
JABLIANOV Valeri, Bulgaria, SOC
JOHNSSON FORNARVE Lotta, Sweden, UEL
KANELLI Liana, Greece, UEL
KASIMATI Nina, Greece, UEL
KELLEHER Colette, Ireland, SOC
KORODI Attila, Romania, EPP/CD
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
KÜRKÇÜ Ertuğrul, Turkey, UEL
KYRIAKIDES Stella, Cyprus, EPP/CD
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
MAVROTAS Georgios, Greece, SOC
MEIMARAKIS Evangelos, Greece, EPP/CD
NICK Andreas, Germany, EPP/CD
OOMEN-RUIJTEN Ria, Netherlands, EPP/CD
OVERBEEK Henk, Netherlands, UEL
ÖZSOY Hışyar, Turkey, UEL
POCIEJ Aleksander, Poland, EPP/CD
POLETTI Bérengère, France, EPP/CD
PSYCHOGIOS Georgios, Greece, UEL
SANDBÆK Ulla, Denmark, UEL
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHOU Ingjerd, Norway, EPP/CD
SOLEIM Vetle Wang, Norway, EPP/CD
ŞUPAC Inna, Republic of Moldova, UEL
TORNARE Manuel, Switzerland, SOC
TOUHIG Don, United Kingdom, SOC
TZAVARAS Konstantinos, Greece, EPP/CD
VARVITSIOTIS Miltiadis, Greece, EPP/CD
VENIZELOS Evangelos, Greece, SOC
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL
WHITFIELD Martin, United Kingdom, SOC

Total = 50

1. EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left