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Azerbaijan must be held accountable for their blatant disregard of the Council of Europe commitments

Written declaration No. 661

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 a report on “political prisoners in Azerbaijan” is under preparation in the Parliamentary Assembly, the Azerbaijani justice system is as flawed as ever. The country is constantly ranking among the most oppressive in Europe. President Aliyev has consolidated the power in his own hands, once again stealing the popular vote in an atmosphere of intimidation. Democratic and human rights standards, particularly in the justice system, have been severely damaged.

Politically motivated prosecutions and imprisonments, allegations of mistreatment, false charges, and even torture against the regime’s opponents are the authorities’ main tool of fighting against the opposition. Furthermore, the government refuses to implement the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights denying its citizens basic human rights.

Lately there have been more and more instances of political arrests, as for example Mehman Huseynov, anticorruption journalist and human rights defender, who has been imprisoned for 24 months on bogus charges for exposing corruption among government’s officials; another example is Ilgar Mammadov, whose immediate release has been demanded by the European Court of Human Rights and other bodies of the Council of Europe. Azerbaijan must be held accountable for their blatant disregard of the legally-binding commitments before the Council of Europe.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

EIDE Petter, Norway, UEL
APOSTOL Ion, Republic of Moldova, ALDE
ARIEV Volodymyr, Ukraine, EPP/CD
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BRUIJN-WEZEMAN Reina, de, Netherlands, ALDE
CRUCHTEN Yves, Luxembourg, SOC
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
IONOVA Mariia, Ukraine, EPP/CD
JANSSON Eva-Lena, Sweden, SOC
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KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
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MULLEN Rónán, Ireland, EPP/CD
MURRAY Ian, United Kingdom, SOC
ROJHAN GUSTAFSSON Azadeh, Sweden, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
SOTNYK Olena, Ukraine, ALDE

Total = 21

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