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Azerbaijani hostages Dilgam Asgarov and Shahbaz Guliyev held in the occupied Azerbaijani lands should be immediately and unconditionally released

Written declaration No. 685

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, the undersigned, declare the following:

11 July 2019 will mark five years since the Azerbaijani civilians Mr Dilgam Asgarov and Mr Shahbaz Guliyev were taken hostage while visiting the graves of their relatives in the occupied Kalbajar region of Azerbaijan. They represent a community of hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis forcibly displaced from their native lands as a result of the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

We are deeply concerned that all calls to release them have been rejected so far.

We acknowledge the fact that in 2015 their application was lodged with the European Court of Human Rights.

As we were reminded at the event hosted by the delegation of Azerbaijan to the Parliamentary Assembly on 25 June, the humanitarian case of Mr Asgarov and Mr Guliyev deserves a strong reaction from the international community to put an end to their life-threatening desperate situation.

We therefore urge the Assembly, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Commissioner for Human Rights to seize this matter to ensure their immediate and unconditional release, in order to restore their violated rights.

We also look forward to seeing the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights concerning their case.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

SEYIDOV Samad, Azerbaijan, EC
AGHAYEVA Ulviyye, Azerbaijan, FDG
AYDIN Kamil, Turkey, NR
EMRE Yunus, Turkey, SOC
FATALIYEVA Sevinj, Azerbaijan, EC
HAJIYEV Sabir, Azerbaijan, SOC
HAMZAYEV Nagif, Azerbaijan, FDG
HASANOV Elshad, Azerbaijan, FDG
HUSEYNOV Rafael, Azerbaijan, ALDE
KILIÇ Akif Çağatay, Turkey, NR
MOLLAZADE Asim, Azerbaijan, EC
NICOLINI Marco, San Marino, UEL
PASHAYEVA Ganira, Azerbaijan, FDG
RIZZOTTI Maria, Italy, EPP/CD
ŞAHİN Ali, Turkey, NR
ŠEŠELJ Aleksandar, Serbia, FDG
TÜRKEŞ Yıldırım Tuğrul, Turkey, NR
YAŞAR Serap, Turkey, NR
YENEROĞLU Mustafa, Turkey, FDG
YILDIZ Zeynep, Turkey, FDG
ZAVOLI Roger, San Marino, FDG

Total = 21

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC: European Conservatives Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
FDG: Free Democrats Group
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group