



**Doc. 15049**

28 January 2020

## Political prisoners in the Russian Federation

### Motion for a resolution

tabled by Mr Eerik-Niiles KROSS and other members of the Assembly

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This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

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Among the rights guaranteed to citizens of Council of Europe member States is “the right to liberty and security” as provided by Article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In [Resolution 1900 \(2012\)](#) on *The definition of political prisoner*, the Parliamentary Assembly defined anyone whose “detention has been imposed in violation of one of the fundamental guarantees set out in the European Convention on Human Rights and its Protocols” or “is the result of proceedings which were clearly unfair and this appears to be connected with political motives of the authorities” as a “political prisoner”.

Based on these criteria, the Memorial Human Rights Centre, one of the Russian Federation’s most respected non-governmental organisations, estimates that there are currently more than 300 political prisoners in the Russian Federation. They include journalists, civil society activists, human rights advocates, participants in peaceful demonstrations, adherents of prohibited religious groups and members of “undesirable” organisations. Their incarceration violates not only the Russian Federation’s general obligations under its Council of Europe membership, but also specific rulings by the European Court of Human Rights. According to Memorial, since 2015 the number of political prisoners in the Russian Federation has increased six-fold.

The time has come for the Assembly to examine the growing crisis with politically motivated imprisonments in the Russian Federation and to institute a meaningful oversight by appointing a rapporteur with the mandate to prepare a report on this issue.

*Signed (see overleaf)*



*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

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ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD  
ANDERSON Donald, United Kingdom, SOC  
BAKRADZE David, Georgia, EPP/CD  
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1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EC/DA: European Conservatives Group and Democratic Alliance  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group