



Doc. 15057

30 January 2020

The Turkish authorities must drop all charges against LGBTI activists who participated in Pride

Written declaration No. 701

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:

The systematic crackdown on Freedom of Assembly of LGBTI people in Turkey continues as several court cases confirm Turkish authorities' failure to fulfil their positive obligation to guarantee public security and freedom of assembly.

On 8 January 2020, Istanbul 9th Administrative Court rejected the lawsuit against the ban to organise the Istanbul Pride Parade in Bakırköy – an Istanbul Governorship-designated area for public demonstration. On 14 January, Mersin 1st Administrative Court rejected the lawsuit against the Governorate's 20-day ban on LGBTI+ events surrounding 2019 Mersin Pride, stating that such events are a threat to public health and public morality. On the same day, the first hearing on criminal charges against three minors took place for participating in Izmir Pride. Investigations against others who also attended are ongoing. 19 LGBTI+ rights defenders await their second criminal hearing, scheduled 12 March, for attending the LGBTI+ Pride March at Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara on 10 May 2019.

We call upon Turkish authorities to drop all charges against LGBTI people arrested during Pride events and suspend all bans against LGBTI+ events, including the general LGBTI+ ban in Ankara.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC
ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thorhildur Sunna, Iceland, SOC
AVETISYAN Sos, Armenia, SOC
BARNETT Doris, Germany, SOC
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BEN CHIKHA Fourat, Belgium, SOC
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
BOER Margreet, De, Netherlands, SOC
BUSTINDUY María Luisa, Spain, SOC
CHRISTOFFERSEN Lise, Norway, SOC
DIBRANI Adnan, Sweden, SOC
FASSINO Piero, Italy, SOC
LÓPEZ Pere, Andorra, SOC
MOUTQUIN Simon, Belgium, SOC
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
PETRY Christian, Germany, SOC
RAUCH Isabelle, France, ALDE
ROJHAN GUSTAFSSON Azadeh, Sweden, SOC
SCHÄFER Axel, Germany, SOC
ŚMISZEK Krzysztof, Poland, SOC
STIENEN Petra, Netherlands, ALDE
SZEJNA Andrzej, Poland, SOC

Total = 22

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group