Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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The deliberate destruction by Azerbaijani military forces of Armenian churches and other religious locations, including after the November 2020 cease-fire

Written declaration No. 722

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:

We recall the Council of Europe's vital mission of preserving Europe's outstanding architectural heritage, as manifested in several conventions over decades, such as the 1985 Granada Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe. In this treaty, which has been ratified by nearly all Council of Europe member States including Azerbaijan and Armenia, the parties undertake to "prevent the disfigurement, dilapidation or demolition of protected properties", including places of worship.

We are therefore dismayed that, this notwithstanding, Azerbaijani military forces, possibly aided by special Turkish troops, have deliberately destroyed several churches and other locations of a Christian character in areas surrendered by Armenia to Azerbaijan, even after the November 2020 cease-fire in the conflict between the two sides over the Nagorno-Karabakh territory and certain other nearby areas.

We call on the Azerbaijani authorities and any others concerned to avoid any further violation of the Council of Europe's Granada Convention, in the interest of reduced tensions in the region, and a better context for peaceful religious coexistence and development.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, EC/DA
AVETISYAN Sos, Armenia, SOC
AZZOPARDI Jason, Malta, EPP/CD
CHRISTIANSSON Alexander, Sweden, EC/DA
GASIUK-PIHOWICZ Kamila, Poland, EPP/CD
HAYRAPETYAN Tatevik, Armenia, EPP/CD
IGITYAN Hovhannes, Armenia, ALDE
KARAPET Arin, Sweden, EPP/CD
LATOS Tomasz, Poland, EC/DA
MARUKYAN Edmon, Armenia, ALDE
MELKUMYAN Mikayel, Armenia, EC/DA
MULARCZYK Arkadiusz, Poland, EC/DA
NOVAKOVIĆ BURSAĆ Snježana, Bosnia and Herzegovina, NR
OEHME Ulrich, Germany, EC/DA
PISCO Paulo, Portugal, SOC
PROTASIEWICZ Jacek, Poland, EPP/CD
RUBINYAN Ruben, Armenia, EPP/CD
THÓRARINSSON Birgir, Iceland, EPP/CD
VARDANYAN Vladimir, Armenia, EPP/CD
ZOHRABYAN Naira, Armenia, EC/DA

Total = 20

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
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group