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The urgent repatriation of Armenian prisoners of war and other captives of Azerbaijani authorities reportedly treated in violation of international law

Written declaration No. 721

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 welcome that the tragic military conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh territory is now over, following a cease-fire agreement concluded on 10 November 2020.

We are greatly concerned, however, that almost half a year after the end of the hostilities, up to a hundred Armenian prisoners of war and other Armenian captives are still reported to be held in custody in Azerbaijan, and according to reliable reports subjected to violence and even torture, which would be in breach of international treaties such as the European Convention on Human Rights and the Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War.

We call on both sides, in their capacity as long-standing members of the Council of the Europe, jointly to ensure the speedy return of all prisoners of war and other captives, in good and reconciliatory spirit and in due deference to the OSCE Minsk Group in its search for lasting peace between the parties.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

WIECHEL Markus, Sweden, EC/DA
AVETISYAN Sos, Armenia, SOC
AZZOPARDI Jason, Malta, EPP/CD
BAKOYANNIS Theodora, Greece, EPP/CD
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
CHATZIVASILEIOU Anastasios, Greece, EPP/CD
CHRISTIANSSON Alexander, Sweden, EC/DA
GASIUUK-PIHOWICZ Kamila, Poland, EPP/CD
GWÓŹDŹ Marcin, Poland, EC/DA
HAYRAPETYAN Tatevik, Armenia, EPP/CD
IGITYAN Hovhannes, Armenia, ALDE
KAIRIDIS Dimitrios, Greece, EPP/CD
KARAPET Arin, Sweden, EPP/CD
KÖCK Eduard, Austria, EPP/CD
LATOS Tomasz, Poland, EC/DA
MARUKYAN Edmon, Armenia, ALDE
MELKUMYAN Mikayel, Armenia, EC/DA
MULARCZYK Arkadiusz, Poland, EC/DA
OEHME Ulrich, Germany, EC/DA
PROTASIEWICZ Jacek, Poland, EPP/CD
RASMUSSEN Lars Aslan, Denmark, SOC
RUBINYAN Ruben, Armenia, EPP/CD
VALENTIN Kim, Denmark, ALDE
VARDANYAN Vladimir, Armenia, EPP/CD
ZOHRABYAN Naira, Armenia, EC/DA

Total = 25

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