Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Status of prisoners of war under international humanitarian law must be respected

Written declaration No. 751

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:

All prisoners of war are protected by the Third Geneva Convention of 1949 and Additional Protocol I. Norms regarding the status of prisoners of war are fundamental provisions of international humanitarian law.

Having carried out the horrible execution of Ukrainian prisoners of war in Olenivka, the Russian Federation is looking for new justifications for its war crimes.

The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation has labelled the Azov – special purpose unit of the National Guard of Ukraine as a "terrorist organisation". We strongly condemn any fake show trial of Ukrainian prisoners of war from the Azov Special Unit in the occupied Mariupol, and are outraged by the actions of some media, which show footage of the cages in which the accused will be kept during the "show of shame". The Russian Federation has no right to prosecute prisoners of war for the fact of their participation in the defence of Ukraine against the armed aggression of the Russian Federation.

We call on the Council of Europe to condemn these blatant violations of international humanitarian law and to step up its contribution to holding the perpetrators, including from the Russian Federation's political and military leadership, responsible under international law.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

MEZENTSEVA Mariia, Ukraine, EPP/CD
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD
ANDRIKIENĖ Laima Liucija, Lithuania, EPP/CD
BILOZIR Larysa, Ukraine, ALDE
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
DUBNOV Artem, Ukraine, ALDE
DURANTON Nicole, France, ALDE
GADIRLI Erkin, Azerbaijan, EC/DA
GONCHARENKO Oleksii, Ukraine, EC/DA
JUFEREVA-SKURATOVSKI Maria, Estonia, ALDE
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KERN Claude, France, ALDE
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MEREZHKO Oleksandr, Ukraine, EC/DA
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MULARCZYK Arkadiusz, Poland, EC/DA
NATALUKHA Dmytro, Ukraine, EC/DA
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SUSHKO Pavlo, Ukraine, EC/DA
TAMM Raivo, Estonia, EPP/CD
UMEROV Rustem, Ukraine, ALDE
VASYLENKO Lesia, Ukraine, ALDE
YASKO Yelyzaveta, Ukraine, EPP/CD

Total = 26

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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