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Implement urgently the interim measure of the European Court of Human Rights and release Gubad Ibadoghlu and other political prisoners in Azerbaijan

Written declaration No. 796

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:

On 23 July 2023, Gubad Ibadoghlu, a prominent opposition figure, was detained in Baku. He has been in detention since then. On 20 September 2023, the European Court of Human Rights indicated interim measures ordering Azerbaijan's government to transfer him to a hospital because of "an imminent risk of irreparable damage" and a "threat to life."

Already on 24 August 2023, the Parliamentary Assembly's General Rapporteur for political prisoners Ms Thórhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir (Iceland, SOC) called for his immediate release: "Despite having recently undergone heart surgery and suffering from numerous medical conditions, there are reports that Mr Ibadoghlu does not have access to adequate food and has experienced rapid weight loss (…) I call on the Azerbaijani Government to take all steps necessary to drop politically motivated charges and secure his immediate release."

So far, the Azerbaijani Government has ignored the European Court of Human Rights and all appeals from the Assembly. The release of political prisoners is also a precondition for the delegation of Azerbaijan to return to the Assembly.

We urge the Committee of Ministers to insist on the immediate implementation of the interim measures indicated by the European Court of Human Rights, and on the release of Mr Ibadoghlu from pretrial detention to allow him to be taken to a hospital in the European Union.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

ULLRICH Volker, Germany, EPP/CD
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD
ÆVARSDÓTTIR Thórhildur Sunna, Iceland, SOC
BARDINA Maryna, Ukraine, ALDE
BINDER-KELLER Marianne, Switzerland, EPP/CD
BLIKRA Jone, Norway, SOC
BULAI Iulian, Romania, ALDE
CARETTA Maria Cristina, Italy, EC/DA
CHAILLOU Christophe, France, SOC
CRUCHTEN Yves, Luxembourg, SOC
EDER-GITSCHTHALER Andrea, Austria, EPP/CD
EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC
EFTHYMIOU Anna, Greece, EPP/CD
ENGELHARDT Heike, Germany, SOC
FRIDEZ Pierre-Alain, Switzerland, SOC
GÖTHBERG Gustaf, Sweden, EPP/CD
GRIFFITHS Leslie, United Kingdom, SOC
HARDT Jürgen, Germany, EPP/CD
LUCKS Max, Germany, SOC
MANTOVANI Lucrezia, Italy, EC/DA
MODERT Octavie, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
SANTOS-WINTZ Catarina dos, Germany, EPP/CD
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
STYLIANIDIS Evripidis, Greece, EPP/CD
TÜRK-NACHBAUR Derya, Germany, SOC
VELDHOEN Gala, Netherlands, SOC

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