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

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Restrictions on the right of peaceful assembly and their impact on democratic standards

Written declaration No. 832

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 right of peaceful assembly constitutes a central pillar of democratic societies and is indispensable to political participation, public accountability, and pluralism. Recent developments worldwide show a troubling trend toward the weakening of this right, which no longer concerns only authoritarian regimes but also affects established democracies.

In Iran, the situation is particularly alarming. In recent weeks, peaceful demonstrations have been repressed through the excessive use of force, mass arrests, arbitrary detention, internet shutdowns, and severe criminal sanctions, resulting in casualties. Women, students, and civil society actors are portrayed as threats to national security, reflecting a criminalisation of dissent that runs counter to international human rights obligations.

Concerns also exist in the United States. Recently, particularly in Minnesota, protests have led to disproportionate policing, excessive restrictions, and the use of militarised tactics. Official rhetoric has reinforced these practices, causing civilian casualties and significantly reducing civic space.

The Parliamentary Assembly must reaffirm that peaceful assembly is a fundamental right and that no citizen should have their life threatened for exercising it.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

LAMUÀ Marc, Spain, SOC
BAKER Richard, United Kingdom, SOC
CRUCHTEN Yves, Luxembourg, SOC
ECCLES Cat, United Kingdom, SOC
FARO Patrícia, Portugal, SOC
FERNÁNDEZ María, Spain, SOC
GEDVILAS Martynas, Lithuania, SOC
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC
GUTIÉRREZ LIMONES Antonio, Spain, SOC
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA Bisera, North Macedonia, SOC
LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC
LAMBRECHT Annick, Belgium, SOC
MARTINEZ SEIJO Luz, Spain, SOC
MOLINA Fabian, Switzerland, SOC
RAČAN Ivan, Croatia, SOC
ROOVERS Daan, Netherlands, SOC
SPERANZA Roberto, Italy, SOC
VELA Susanna, Andorra, SOC
VELDHOEN Gala, Netherlands, SOC

Total = 20

1. SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group