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30 September 2026

State glorification of convicted war criminals: the funeral of Ratko Mladić

Written declaration No. 843

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:

Upon the burial of Ratko Mladić, we:

- reject all attempts to deny or glorify his crimes: the genocide at Srebrenica, the siege of Sarajevo, ethnic cleansing at Foča, Vlasenica and Prijedor, concentration camps for Bosniak and Croat detainees, mass sexual violence, and the taking of UN personnel as hostages;
- commemorate the men, women and children killed, harmed or displaced by forces under his command;
- note with regret that the Serbian State provided an aircraft to repatriate his remains, draped his coffin in State flags, detailed serving soldiers to bear it, hosted a commemoration at the House of the Serbian Army, and buried him with military honours in the presence of government ministers.

Private mourning is the right of every family. Honours conferred by a State are not. They tell survivors that the crimes perpetrated against them are a source of national pride. Such denial is a deliberate and calculated attack on survivors, a continuation of the crimes themselves. What begins with violence is continued through the falsification of history.

No State can honour a man convicted of genocide and remain faithful to Article 3 of the Statute of the Council of Europe, which binds every member to the rule of law and to human rights.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

KEARNS Alicia, United Kingdom, ECPA
ABRAHAM Knut, Germany, EPP/CD
AKALIN Mehmet, Türkiye, ALDE
BABACAN Abdurrahman, Türkiye, NR
BANKOĞLU Aysu, Türkiye, SOC
BRADLEY Karen, United Kingdom, ECPA
BROWN Lyn, United Kingdom, SOC
BULAI Iulian, Romania, ALDE
CAMAJ Nikolla, Montenegro, ALDE
ÇELENK Sevilay, Türkiye, UEL
ÇELİK KANAT Sena Nur, Türkiye, ALDE
ĆUDIĆ Sabina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, ALDE
DEŠIĆ Edina, Montenegro, EPP/CD
EDER-GITSCHTHALER Andrea, Austria, EPP/CD
EMRE Yunus, Türkiye, SOC
ESTRELA Edite, Portugal, SOC
FOULKES George, United Kingdom, SOC
GERMAN Michael, United Kingdom, ALDE
GÖKÇEN Gökçe, Türkiye, SOC
GONCHARENKO Oleksii, Ukraine, ECPA
GÖTHBERG Gustaf, Sweden, EPP/CD
GRÄßLE Inge, Germany, EPP/CD
GRIFFIN Theresa, United Kingdom, SOC
GRIFFITHS Leslie, United Kingdom, SOC
HAATAINEN Tuula, Finland, SOC
HARDT Jürgen, Germany, EPP/CD
HEINRICH Gabriela, Germany, SOC
HUNT Ruth, United Kingdom, SOC
IKIĆ BANIČEK Kristina, Croatia, SOC
IORDANOVA Nadejda, Bulgaria, NR
JABŁOŃSKI Paweł, Poland, ECPA
JENSEN Mogens, Denmark, SOC
JONES Carwyn, United Kingdom, SOC
JOSWIG Julian, Germany, SOC
KARAMEHIĆ-ABAZOVIĆ Mia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, ALDE
KERSTEN Franziska, Germany, SOC
KLUIT Saskia, Netherlands, SOC
KOSTADINOVSKA-STOJCHEVSKA Bisera, North Macedonia, SOC
LACROIX Christophe, Belgium, SOC
LUARASI Iris, Albania, SOC
LUCKS Max, Germany, SOC
LYDEKA Arminas, Lithuania, ALDE
MAGAZINOVIĆ Saša, Bosnia and Herzegovina, SOC
MERZHZKO Oleksandr, Ukraine, ALDE
MOLINA Fabian, Switzerland, SOC
MOREL Louise, France, ALDE
OBERHOFER Dominik, Austria, ALDE
PAVIĆ Marko, Croatia, EPP/CD
PERTEGHELLA Manuela, United Kingdom, ALDE
PLAVÁKOVÁ Lucia, Slovak Republic, ALDE
PULJAK Marijana, Croatia, ALDE
RAČAN Ivan, Croatia, SOC

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
ECPA: European Conservatives, Patriots and Affiliates
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialists, Democrats and Greens Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: Representatives not belonging to a Political Group

ROOVERS Daan, Netherlands, SOC
RUSHWORTH Sam, United Kingdom, SOC
TAN Namık, Türkiye, SOC
TIBLOM Victoria, Sweden, ECPA
VASYLENKO Lesia, Ukraine, ALDE
VOKSHI Albana, Albania, EPP/CD
VOLKMANN Johannes, Germany, EPP/CD
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Total = 60