Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Call to draw attention to the persistent scourge of impunity in Turkey

Written declaration No. 505

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.

The Criminal Code and the Anti-Terrorism Act continue to seriously impede freedom of expression in Turkey. The provisions of these pieces of legislation have been applied to disproportionately limit freedom of expression, including that of journalists, broadcasters and publishers. The amendments adopted so far by Turkey have not been sufficient to deal with the root causes of violations of the right to freedom of expression found by the European Court of Human Rights. We express our particular concern about the use of civil and criminal defamation provisions and invite public figures to refrain from initiating defamation proceedings which have serious effects on media freedom.

We consider that the Turkish authorities should urgently review the Internet and Radio and Television Acts and in particular recognize that systematic Internet censorship and the blocking of websites by competent administrative authorities are beyond what is necessary in democratic societies.

Recalling notably the murder of Hrant Dink, advocate of the freedom of expression, we urge the authorities to step up efforts to effectively protect journalists from violence and intimidation.

We are concerned about the continuous denial of the Genocide of Armenians, Greeks, and Assyrians (Syriacs) by the Turkish authorities and the use of Article 301 of the Criminal Code for criminal persecution of journalists and writers.

We strongly condemn the continuous violations of their international obligations by the authorities of Turkey.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

POSTANJYAN Zaruhi, Armenia, EPP/CD
ALIGRUDIĆ Miloš, Serbia, EPP/CD
BARDINA PAU Josep Anton, Andorra, ALDE
CEDERBRATT Mikael, Sweden, EPP/CD
CHISU Corneliu, Canada
COLOMBIER Georges, France, EPP/CD
CONDE Agustín, Spain, EPP/CD
DENDIAS Nikolaos, Greece, EPP/CD
DERVOZ Ismeta, Bosnia and Herzegovina, EPP/CD
DI NINO Consiglio, Canada
DONABAUER Karl, Austria, EPP/CD
FARINA Gianni, Italy, SOC
FARINA Renato, Italy, EPP/CD
FISCHER Axel E., Germany, EPP/CD
GUŢU Ana, Republic of Moldova, ALDE
HARUTYUNYAN Davit, Armenia, EDG
HUSKOWSKI Stanisław, Poland, EPP/CD
JÓNSSON Birkir Jón, Iceland, ALDE
KYRIAKIDES Stella, Cyprus, EPP/CD
LOUKAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
MARIN Christine, France, EPP/CD
MARLAND-MILITELLO Muriel, France, EPP/CD
MAYER Edgar, Austria, EPP/CD
McNAMARA Michael, Ireland, SOC
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
NAGHDALYAN Hermine, Armenia, ALDE
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
OTTAVIANI Nadia, San Marino, EPP/CD
PFLUG Johannes, Germany, SOC
POULSEN Lisbeth Bech, Denmark, UEL
ROCHEBLOINE François, France, EPP/CD
ROUQUET René, France, SOC
RUSTAMYAN Armen, Armenia, SOC
SCHÄDLER Leander, Liechtenstein, EPP/CD
VIROLAINEN Anne-Mari, Finland, EPP/CD
ZELLER Karl, Italy, EPP/CD
ZOHRABYAN Naira, Armenia, ALDE

Total = 35

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democrat Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left