Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
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Failure of the Macedonian authorities to respond to repeated attacks on the LGBTI Support Centre in Skopje

Written declaration No. 585

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.

On 23 October 2014 an event celebrating the second anniversary of the LGBTI Support Centre in Skopje was attacked by 30 people. Two participants in the event were assaulted and a number of others were injured by flying glass.

This was the sixth attack on the LGBTI centre and its activities during the two years of its existence. In only one – which was a part of larger, inter-ethnic riots – have the authorities made any progress with criminal investigations. Furthermore, the Prime Minister, the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Justice have failed to particularly condemn both these attacks and wider homophobic violence in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

We call upon the Macedonian authorities:

– to publicly condemn such violence;

– to ensure that law enforcement agencies respond rapidly and effectively to specific incidents;

– to take wider measures to address homophobia and transphobia in society, as required under Committee of Ministers Recommendation CM/Rec(2010)5 on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC
ÅBERG Boriana, Sweden, EPP/CD
ADAM Claude, Luxembourg, SOC
ANDREOLI Paride, San Marino, SOC
BLONDIN Maryvonne, France, SOC
CORSINI Paolo, Italy, SOC
CRAUSBY David, United Kingdom, SOC
GIOVAGNOLI Gerardo, San Marino, SOC
GUNNARSSON Jonas, Sweden, SOC
HAIDER Monica, Sweden, SOC
HETTO-GAASCH Françoise, Luxembourg, EPP/CD
JANSSON Eva-Lena, Sweden, SOC
JOHNSSON FORNARVE Lotta, Sweden, UEL
LE BORGN' Pierre-Yves, France, SOC
MAHOUX Philippe, Belgium, SOC
MAIJ Marit, Netherlands, SOC
McNAMARA Michael, Ireland, SOC
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
MENDONÇA Ana Catarina, Portugal, SOC
MULIĆ Melita, Croatia, SOC
NICOLETTI Michele, Italy, SOC
OHLSSON Carina, Sweden, SOC
ROSEIRA Maria de Belém, Portugal, SOC
SCHEMBRI Deborah, Malta, SOC
STRIK Tineke, Netherlands, SOC
SUTTER Petra, De, Belgium, SOC

Total = 26

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1. EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
   SOC: Socialist Group
   UEL: Group of the Unified European Left