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Stop the abuse of the state of emergency in France against the right to assembly and the right to strike

Written declaration No. 608

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.

In November 2015, France declared that it was going to take measures derogating from the European Convention on Human Rights to prevent terrorist attacks. The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and the Parliamentary Assembly in Resolution 2090 (2016) and Resolution 2116 (2016) expressed concerns about this state of emergency, calling for it to be limited to “the shortest possible period of time and space”.

The state of emergency was misused to prohibit demonstrations of climate activists at the COP21, to authorise house searches and house detentions and to restrict the jungle of Calais, despite the lack of any relation to terrorism.

The state of emergency is now abused to prevent demonstrations and strikes against the “Loi Travail” organised by citizens, workers, unions and Nuit Debout in France. Activists are arbitrarily put under house detention and demonstrations are prohibited. Tear gas, rubber bullets and shock grenades are systematically deployed, whilst the political and judicial control is not promoting the evaluation of the necessity and proportionality of the legal and practical measures.

We condemn the abuse of the state of emergency and the threat of terrorism to violate the right to assembly and to strike, without due respect for the European Convention on Human Rights.

Signed (see overleaf)



Signed¹:

HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
CILEVIČS Boriss, Latvia, SOC
ELZINGA Tuur, Netherlands, UEL
FINCKH-KRÄMER Ute, Germany, SOC
GROTH Annette, Germany, UEL
HANŽEK Matjaž, Slovenia, UEL
JOHNSON FORNARVE Lotta, Sweden, UEL
JÓNASSON Ögmundur, Iceland, UEL
KAVVADIA Ioanneta, Greece, UEL
KERESTECİOĞLU DEMİR Filiz, Turkey, UEL
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
KÜRKÇÜ Ertuğrul, Turkey, UEL
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
MAURY PASQUIER Liliane, Switzerland, SOC
MEALE Alan, United Kingdom, SOC
NORDQVIST Rasmus, Denmark, UEL
ÖZSOY Hısyar, Turkey, UEL
POSTOICO Maria, Republic of Moldova, UEL
PSYCHOGIOS Georgios, Greece, UEL
RODRIGUES António Filipe, Portugal, UEL
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL

Total = 22

1. SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left