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

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Harassment against Catalan pro-independence political leaders and independence supporters must end

Written declaration No. 728

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:

We are deeply concerned about the ongoing repression happening since 2017 against pro-independence supporters.

Catalan President Puigdemont (elected MEP) was recently arrested in Italy, at Alghero Airport, following a European Arrest Warrant.

The judicial strategy of the Supreme Court of Spain puts in jeopardy principles of solidarity among members of the European Union space and is in breach of fundamental human rights. It has failed in Germany, Belgium, Scotland and hopefully Italy.

The Parliamentary Assembly previously recognised that extradition or irregular lifting of immunities should not be abused to silence disrupting initiatives.

Moreover, we should strive to protect and promote non-violent speech, however disturbing it may be, insofar as criminalisation only exacerbates the existing wound to the detriment of our values.

Therefore, European institutions should not avoid this debate any longer, including on self-determination, and should use available means to secure parliamentarian representation.

We call on Spanish authorities to immediately withdraw the existing European Arrest Warrants and extradition orders against all Catalan politicians in exile.

We encourage an amnesty for all those judicially harassed and active political negotiations to take place, where a safe solution is found to meet Catalans' aspirations, in line with the recommendations drawn last June by the Assembly.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

CASTEL Laura, Spain, UEL
AHEDO Nerea, Spain, ALDE
AKBULUT Gökay, Germany
BAYR Petra, Austria, SOC
BEN CHIKHA Fourat, Belgium, SOC
CALVET François, France, EPP/CD
EFSTATHIOU Constantinos, Cyprus, SOC
FAMELLOS Sokratis, Greece, UEL
GAVAN Paul, Ireland, UEL
GUNNARSSON Ólafur Þór, Iceland
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
JALLOW Momodou Malcolm, Sweden, UEL
JALLOW Momodou Malcolm, Sweden, UEL
KIVELÄ Mai, Finland, UEL
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
MARILOTTI Gianni, Italy, SOC
ÖZSOY Hişyar, Turkey, UEL
PRINGLE Thomas, Ireland, UEL
RAMPI Roberto, Italy, SOC
SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
SØNDERGAARD Søren, Denmark, UEL
UCA Feleknas, Turkey, UEL

Total = 22

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