Parliamentary **Assembly**
Assemblée parlementaire

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Doc. 11060
4 October 2006

Liberation of detained Palestinian parliamentarians must be started

Written Declaration No 385

This written declaration commits only the members who have signed it

The elections of the Palestinian Legislative Council in January 2006 were observed by main international organisations, including the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly. The PACE delegation was unanimous to say that the elections with high turnout were conducted "in a well-organised and democratic fashion." " During the campaign and on Election Day all players generally showed restraint and mutual respect" – reads a statement. Unfortunately the situation changed after the elections and it was aggravated drastically during the military operations in July-August when the Israeli Army detained twenty parlamentarians and eight ministers. The majority of them are still in Israeli prisons.

Taking into account the universal rule that legitimately elected parlamentarians enjoy paliamentary immunity.

Recognising and confirming the responsibility of the CEPA for what is happening in Palestine, we insist on the proved right that the elected parlamentarians should become valuable partners and potential mediators for negotiations and contacts which do not exist today in Palestine.

We call upon the Israeli authorities to immediately start the process of release of the Palestinian parlamentarians being convinced that the liberation of all hostages must go ahead on principles of mutuality and good will.

Signed (see overleaf)

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Signed: [1]

ALATALU, Toomas, Estonia, EDG
ABURTO, María Rosario Fátima, Spain, SOC
Baroness, HOOPER, Gloria, United Kingdom, EDG
ÇAVUŞOĞLU, Mevlüt, Turkey, EDG
EINARSSON, Mats, Sweden, UEL
FOMENKO, Alexander, Russian Federation, UEL
GROSS, Andreas, Switzerland, SOC
IVANOV, Sergei, Estonia, ALDE
JACOBSEN, Bjørn, Norway, UEL
JAKAVONIS, Gediminas, Lithuania, ALDE
KAIKKONEN, Antti, Finland, ALDE
KANELLI, Liana, Greece, UEL
KHALIL, Ali Rashid, Italy, NR
KOX, Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
Lord, RUSSELL-JOHNSTON, Russel, United Kingdom, ALDE
OSKINA, Vera, Russian Federation, EDG
PLATVOET, Leo, Netherlands, UEL
POSTOICO, Maria, Moldova, UEL
ROSSI, Alessandro, San Marino, UEL
SMIRNOVA, Svetlana, Russian Federation, EDG
SOBKO, Sergey, Russian Federation, UEL
TOMASZEWSKA, Ewa, Poland, EDG

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Total = 22

[1] SOC: Socialist Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EDG: European Democratic Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left
NR: not registered in a group