

Free political prisoners in Russia and ensure free and fair elections

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Athens, Greece, on 24-26 October 2019:

Notes:

- the success of the ALDE full member party Yabloko in the recent local and regional elections in Russia;
- that the Yabloko Party gained mandates despite obstacles and unequal campaign conditions, non-registration of many Yabloko candidates in the campaign to the Moscow City Parliament as well as large-scale electoral fraud in municipal elections in St. Petersburg;
- the formation of the so far biggest Yabloko faction in the Moscow City Parliament despite all aforementioned obstacles, reprisals and interference.

Expresses great concern about:

- the persistent refusal to permit peaceful rallies and demonstrations by regional governments;
- detentions and arrests in the course of the “Moscow riots case” which resulted from violent dispersals of peaceful demonstrations against the rigging of the Moscow parliamentary elections of September 8 and brutal arrests of peaceful protesters and passersby during peaceful demonstrations in Moscow on July 27 and August 3 by the police;
- the use of pressure by investigators against people who were detained in the course of the fraudulent “Moscow riots case” in order to make them “confess” to non-existent guilt;
- the brutal handling of peaceful protesters and unjustified violent beating of unarmed peaceful people by Russian law enforcement;
- unprecedented reprisals against, searches of homes and the imprisonment of peaceful protesters in Moscow and other Russian cities, who demanded fair elections and the registration of independent candidates;
- the use of law enforcement and the judiciary as a tool for reprisal against dissenting voices;
- searches and reprisals against human rights organisations such as the search of the Committee for the Civil Rights on October 22, reprisals against the Memorial Human Rights Center and imprisonment of its regional heads as well as recent attempts to close the “For the Human Rights” movement and others;
- the defiance of human rights, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly by Moscow’s authorities and other Russian regions as well

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as general disrespect of international obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, other international treaties the Russian Federation is part of as well as standards for free and fair elections.

Urges:

- Russian authorities to consolidate democracy, ensure free and fair elections, end reprisals against dissenting voices, revoke unlawful court decisions and close criminal cases against political prisoners and immediately release all political protesters of the summer protests and stop pressure and imprisonment of citizens who bear no guilt but demand from the state to obey to its obligations;
- Russian authorities to punish those guilty of police violence, pressuring and imprisoning citizens who bear no guilt but demand from the state to obey to its obligations, and rigging the elections;
- Russian authorities to restore the reputation of the Russian Federation as a democratic state while upholding the right to elect and be elected, the right to freedom of assembly and freedom of speech as basic democratic values.

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