

Press Release

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Russian hostages in Iraq : declaration by the Committee of Ministers

Strasbourg, 27.06.2006 - The Committee of Ministers has learned with dismay of the execution of the four Russian hostages detained in Iraq by a terrorist group. It firmly condemns this absurd and barbaric crime; political reasons or circumstances cannot justify it.

The Committee of Ministers stands by the Russian people and authorities, as well as the victims' families, in this tragedy.

Such acts only serve to strengthen the need for decisive action at international level against terrorism in all its forms, and the determination of the Council of Europe and its member states to contribute to the collective fight against this evil.

Otages russes en Irak : déclaration du Comité des Ministres

Strasbourg, 27.06.2006 - Le Comité des Ministres a appris avec consternation l'exécution des quatre otages russes détenus en Irak par un groupe terroriste. Il condamne avec la plus grande fermeté ce crime absurde et barbare qu'aucun prétexte politique ou circonstance ne saurait justifier.

Le Comité des Ministres se tient aux côtés du peuple et des autorités russes, ainsi que des familles des victimes, dans cette tragique épreuve.

De tels actes ne font que renforcer la nécessité d'une action résolue, sur le plan international, contre le terrorisme sous toutes ses formes, ainsi que la détermination du Conseil de l'Europe et de ses Etats membres à apporter leur contribution à ce combat commun.

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A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 46 member states.