

Press Release

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Bulgarian nurses and doctor: PACE President "relieved"

Strasbourg, 18.07.2007 - René van der Linden, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), declared himself "relieved" by the decision of the High Judicial Council, commuting the death sentences of the Bulgarian nurses and doctor into life imprisonment. "I am of course relieved that the death sentences have been lifted. However, the decision of the High Judicial Council is shameful. These people are innocent, victims of a travesty of justice and political bargaining and should have been released long ago".

"This decision will never erase the terrible injustice suffered by the innocent medics" Mr van der Linden stated. He also said it was high time the Libyan authorities addressed the errors of their health policy to avoid any repetition of the humanitarian tragedy that hit the children and their families.

The Parliamentary Assembly brings together 318 members from the national parliaments of the 47 member states.

President: René van der Linden (Netherlands, EPP/CD); Secretary General of the Assembly: Mateo Sorinas.

Political Groups: 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).