

Press Release

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Yavuz Mildon: "The murder of the Mayor of Kandalaksha is an assault on local self-government"

Strasbourg, 17.12.2008 – "The murder of Nina Varlamova, Mayor of Kandalaksha, is an assault not only on human values. Taking the life of an elected representative is also an assault on our democratic values and people's right to choose their government," Yavuz Mildon, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, stressed today in his reaction to the deadly attack on the mayor of the city in northern Russia.

"This crime is a stark reminder of the risks underlying the high exposure that comes with public office and representing people in the democratic system of governance, which requires special protection at all levels," he said.

On behalf of the Congress, President Mildon expressed his condolences to the Mayor's family, the residents of Kandalaksha and the Russian authorities.

Yavuz Mildon: « L'assassinat du maire de Kandalaksha est un affront à l'autonomie locale »

Strasbourg, 17.12.2008 – « L'assassinat de Nina Varlamova, Maire de Kandalaksha, est un affront, et pas seulement aux valeurs humaines. Prendre la vie d'une élue, c'est bafouer nos valeurs démocratiques et le droit de la population de choisir son gouvernement » a souligné aujourd'hui Yavuz Mildon, Président du Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux du Conseil de l'Europe, dans sa réaction à l'attaque meurtrière sur le maire de la ville dans le nord de la Russie.

« Ce crime est un rappel brutal des risques liés à la forte exposition inhérente à tout poste public et de représentation de la population dans un système de gouvernance démocratique, exigeant une protection spéciale à tous les niveaux » a-t-il déclaré.

Au nom du Congrès, le Président Mildon a exprimé ses condoléances à la famille du maire, aux résidents de Kandalaksha et aux autorités russes.

The Congress has two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions.

It brings together 318 full and 318 substitute members representing more than 200 000 European territorial communities.

President of the Congress : Yavuz Mildon (Turkey, EPP/CD), President of the Chamber of Regions: Ludmila Sfirloaga (Romania, SOC),

President of the Chamber of Local Authorities : Ian Micallef (Malta, EPP/CD).

Political Groups : Socialist Group (SOC), Group of the European People's Party – Christian Democrats (EPP/CD),

Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG).