

Press Release

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PACE rapporteur shocked by the attack on Lev Ponomarev

Strasbourg, 01.04.2009 - Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger (Germany, ALDE), rapporteur on behalf of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights on "allegations of politically-motivated abuses of the criminal justice system" has expressed her shock at the attack on Lev Ponomarev, head of the "All Russia movement for human rights" :

"I had a very interesting discussion with Mr Ponomarev yesterday afternoon on the human rights situation in general and the situation of the judiciary in Russia in particular, which I am presently looking into on behalf of the Parliamentary Assembly.

I learned this morning that Mr Ponomarev was severely beaten after our meeting.

I do not wish to speculate on the reasons for this attack, but I call on the Russian authorities to fully investigate this crime and to hold his perpetrators to account.

Meanwhile I address my best wishes for recovery to Mr Ponomarev", Mrs Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger stated.

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

President: Lluís Maria de Puig (Spain, SOC) – Secretary General of the Assembly: Mateo Sorinas.

Political groups: EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); SOC (Socialist Group); EDG (European Democrat Group); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe); UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).