

Senate Act

Inquiry n.4-07937

Presented by:

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Tuesday 1 August 2017, session n. 870

COMPAGNA, MANCONI - *To the President of the Council of Ministers, the Minister of the Internal Affairs, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation*

Given that:

the press conference, put forth by the Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty, with Dolkun Isa, Secretary of the World Uyghur Congress had been scheduled to take place on Wednesday 26 July 2017 in the Senate several days before;

the press conference took place, but without the presence of the Uyghur human rights defender, as approximately 20 security officers escorted him to undergo verification checks immediately before the event, thus effectively preventing his participation;

this incident has been covered in the international press, such as on an online article by the New York Times on the 28th July;

Mr Isa was held in custody for about three hours, sufficient time for him to miss the entirety of the conference;

the reasons behind this detainment are related to a so-called red-alert by Interpol, the important international police organisation;

that regarding this instrument (so called “red alert”), the international community is beginning to question whether this is running the risk of becoming a way to reach dissidents, political opponents and human rights defenders across borders, as opposed to its original purpose of being an instrument to combat international organised crime;

in this respect, the last act approved by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe was Resolution 2171, adopted on 26 April 2017;

in addition, since 2012 (Munich Declaration and Istanbul Declaration the following year) the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE have adopted resolutions which call for a more cautious use of the red-alert;

Interpol itself has raised concerns regarding the correct use of the red alert, in a constructive confrontation with the realities of those civil societies most vulnerable to these tactics;

Furthermore, given that:

in 1997 Dolkun Isa received political asylum in Germany, of which he then became a citizen in 2006;

the World Uyghur Congress was established in Munich, Germany, on 16 April 2004;

the President of the World Uyghur Congress, Rebiya Kadeer, who obtained US citizenship, has received important awards for her human rights advocacy and has in the past been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize;

Considering that:

the Uyghur people are a Muslim Turkic minority residing in Xinjiang, an autonomous region in the north-west of the People's Republic of China, rich in oil and natural gas, with a surface area five times that of Italy;

the Uyghur minority is discriminated against and persecuted and numerous associations around the world are dedicated to advocating for their human rights to be respected;

Also considering that:

Italy, along with abiding by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, adheres to the principal international documents that outline the protection of ethnic and religious minorities and the preservation of individual and group freedoms from any form of discrimination, both in the United Nations with the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities; as in the European Union with the European Convention on Human Rights, European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities;

Requests to know:

- If the Senate knows who called for Mr Dolkun Isa to undergo security checks at the very time he was scheduled to speak at a press conference and to what avail.
- what measures the government intends to take to prevent Interpol red alerts from being strategically misused by certain governments.

- how the government is working, in collaboration with other countries that are members of Interpol, to ensure that the organisation focuses on effectively pursuing its aim to combat international organised crime.