## REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA 41<sup>ST</sup> NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## DECLARATION

## Against the attempts to undermine the ethnic and religious peace in the country

We, the Members of the National Assembly, hereby unconditionally condemn the aggressive conduct of Ataka Political Party in respect to believers in the centre of the capital on May 20, 2011. It is particularly scandalous that this was done during the holy Friday Prayer of Muslims. By these actions, this party has isolated itself from Bulgarian democratic society.

Its conduct is profoundly alien to the Bulgarian people, its religious open-mindedness and ethnic tolerance. We express deep concern with the attempts to undermine ethnic peace and build tension between Bulgarian citizens on religious grounds.

Following its attempt at aggression against ethnic peace, creating a threat to the national security of the Republic of Bulgaria, Ataka Political Party has become a threat to the governance of the country.

As the Bulgarian Constitution decrees, it is inadmissible to use religious communities and institutions – or religious beliefs – to political ends.

We, the Members of the National Assembly, insist that all competent state institutions, including the prosecuting magistracy and the court, undertake the necessary measures and ensure abidance by the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Bulgaria.

We appeal to the media for responsible conduct which, at this tense and rife with provocation moment, means not to provide a platform for the language of hatred.

This Declaration was adopted by the 41st National Assembly on the 27th of May 2011 and was affixed with the official seal of the National Assembly.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAIR: (signed) Tsetska Tsacheva