

Macedonian Human Rights of Greece

Dear Mr. Moderator, distinguished Ambassadors,

Greece in the past few years wants to show as a country which is actively involved in the humanitarian help during the last crisis in the Balkans and the Near East. Greece donated huge amounts of money to build schools in Albania, Serbia, Bosnia and in Russia namely in Byeslan. We are happy because of that but at the same time we must admit that this is an act of hypocrisy. Why? Because in her own country ethnic minorities such as; Roma, Macedonians and Albanians comprise more then 10% of the whole population of Greece they do not have their school even if according to all international laws Greece is obliged to build them and protect their own minorities. For us Macedonians after the partition of Macedonia in 1913 the biggest part of Macedonia i.e. 51% of the whole territory was incorporated to Greece.

In 1925 under the pressure of the general public Greece together with Bulgaria signed a protocol Kalfov-Politi in which Greece agreed to print a Primer ABECEDAR in the Latin alphabet for the Macedonian children based on the Bitola-Lerin (Florina) dialect. Unfortunately after the visit of the representatives of the League of Nations the Primer ABECEDAR was destroyed and never reached the Macedonian children and the schools where the Macedonian language was supposed to be taught were never opened.

Official Greek propaganda from that time till 1992 called the Macedonians of Greece as Bulgars which in the Greece language it is a pejorative term. Since 1993 after the emergence of the independent Republic of Macedonia the Macedonians are called "Skopjans" after the name of the Macedonian capital.

We, Macedonians are blocked economically and politically by the Greek Government. For example it is very difficult for us to receive credits in order to develop our businesses and it is very difficult for us to get governmental jobs.

This is a consequence of instructions in secret documents in which the Macedonians are described as people with a very low Greek self-identification.

Regardless all of these abstractions made by the Greek state we managed to publish since 1978 a monthly magazine called "Moglena" later "Meglen". Unfortunately the Greek state makes a pressure on the publishing companies using the secret police in order to stop cooperation with us because we present view which are in contradiction to the official ones.

We have problem with distribution of our magazine. Even the Greek Post refuses sending it. The people who as volunteers share our magazine are called by the Greek police who tries to frighten the volunteers saying that they will be jailed.

Referring to yesterday's statement of the Greek delegate that people who declare themselves as Turks can freely get governmental jobs I must state that this is not true. They can declare that they are Muslims and not Turks. The same happens to the Macedonians. If they want to get governmental jobs or make a carrier as officials they must declare themselves as Greeks.

Enclosing my statement Mr. Moderator I would expect from Greece to change its attitude to all minorities and people who think differently then the Greek state. Also we, Macedonians expect that the European institutions will pressure on Greece in order to put in practice all conventions protecting minorities which were signed ny the Greek state.

Thank you for your attention.