

2007 Human Dimention Implementation Meeting  
Macedonian Human Rights Movement in Greece  
Wednesday 26, September 2007

Agias Sofias 13 Aridea, Pellis Greece 58 400  
Tel.: + 30 2384023-271 Fax: + 30 2384021-778

Dear Mr. Moderator,

The problem of political emigrants from the Civil War in Greece from the years 1946 to 1949 still has not been solved. People who were born on Greek soil, regardless of whether they participated in the Civil War (at that time they were from 4 to 14 years old) cannot return to their homes or the homes of their ancestors. Even their children are denied entry into Greece. After the defeat they together with their Greek brothers in arms had to leave Greece avoiding the terrible consequences of struggling on the wrong side. When in 1981 the Andreas Papandreou's government won the elections they announced that all political refugees would be able to return to Greece after over 32 years of exile. However, the new law 106841 let only the Greeks by origin return. The same law was passed in 1985 nr 1540. The Macedonians and their families who according to this law are not Greeks by origin were excluded from returning. Even though Greece is an EU member this law is still in force.

We, the Macedonians are asking the OSCE and the Greek state how is it possible that Greece let one million economical immigrants come to the country granting many of them the Greek citizenship and the Macedonians were stripped their Greek citizenship regardless that they were born in Greece and cannot return till today. What was the reason that their land and homes were confiscated and not returned after the democratic changes started in Greece?

We are asking how is it possible that one European country such as Greece has racist laws and still is regarded as European country?

How is the Greek state able to praise herself as a cradle of democracy when its own citizens of Macedonian origin cannot return to their own country. We are not talking about a few thousand people but we are talking about 100,000 people!

Why aren't Macedonians who are put on the black list of the internal Greek security system put on the European security system if they are truly a threat, as the Greek politicians say, "to Greek national security"? Would they not be a threat to the other European countries' security?

How long will the European countries tolerate such a member of the European Union and the OSCE?

Thank you very much for your attention!