



**Associazione di volontariato**

**“Il Ponte di Pietra”**

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International Peace Protest for the Defense of the Unitary State of the Republic of Macedonia

January 27, 2018

### **Appeal for the Macedonian Cause**

Asti (Italy),

Paris (France),

Berlin (Germany)

Geneva (Swiss Confederation)

London (UK)

On 8 September 1991, the independence of the Republic of Macedonia from the SFR Yugoslavia was determined by peaceful referendum.

International recognition was postponed due to Greek opposition to the use of the name Republic of Macedonia, to some of the national symbols and some parts of the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia. Macedonia.

In 1992, the Constitutional EU Commission of Badinter concluded that the name Macedonia does not endanger anyone.

In 1993, the United Nations recognized the country as the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Today, it is recognized under the constitutional name by 137 countries, including China, Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States and has diplomatic relations with 170 states.

However, the Republic of Greece remained unhappy and imposed a unilateral economic embargo in 1994, which was withdrawn only after the Republic of Macedonia changed the flag and some parts of the Constitution, but the name of the state remained a source of local and international disputes.

All this prevented the entry of the Republic of Macedonia into the EU and NATO, slowed down the long-term economic development and is one of the reasons for creating another economic exodus.

In 1999, during the Kosovo war, some 340,000 Albanians fled Kosovo and sought shelter in the Republic of Macedonia. This situation alters the ethnic composition of the region where the

refugees settled and becomes a threat to the balance between the Macedonians and the Albanians.

At the end of the war, when the Serbian government of Slobodan Milosevic capitulated and refugees were allowed to return home under UN protection, most preferred to stay in Macedonia.

In the spring of 2001, a part of the Albanian ethnic minority with the support of NATO-controlled Kosovo Albanians resorted to weapons in the western part of the Republic of Macedonia on the pretext that they were fighting for some rights. In order to resolve the conflict, the Ohrid Framework Agreement was signed so that this minority in Macedonia could acquire rights that no minority in any country in the world, including, use of their language in some municipalities and the Macedonian Parliament. It is obvious that this is not enough, and now they are demanding that their language be raised to the level of the Macedonian, in the whole territory of the state.

For the past twenty-seven years, Macedonia has been trying to fulfill all the requirements of the International Community for joining NATO and the European Union, recognizing all ethnic groups present on its territory, taking care of their rights, confirmed by their presence in all social and political institutions, including 20 MPs, ministers and incumbent, albeit illegitimate, President of the Assembly.

Today's basic rights of the majority have been violated. A point has been reached where it can no longer be managed democratically with the state due to the strong interference of the Albanian ethnic group, supported by a political class that cannot guarantee the preservation of democracy, but also the national interests of the Republic of Macedonia. Today, we cannot oppose even the most absurd demands of this ethnic group, because they can very easily take on weapons and use of force.

Faced with the historic challenge to the survival of our country, Macedonia's emigration around the world is organized to warn and bring awareness to the international community and to encourage solidarity to help the Macedonian people for the survival of their homeland.

The Macedonian people are a peaceful people, but with a strong sense of belonging, which managed to maintain its peculiarity even after hundreds of years of foreign occupation.

In order to integrate into the international community, it has already made many concessions. Now we say we have had ENOUGH!

Trying to satisfy others we are doomed to lose our name, our identity, our language, our millennium culture and our Christian religion.

We have an illegitimate government, with corrupt politicians, a result of a clear election fraud, which is no longer able to defend national interests.

Despite its thousands-year-old culture and an example of fostering genuine democratic values, the Macedonians are still in constant struggle for their right to exist, to call themselves with their own name MACEDONIANS, on behalf of their country REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA, to speak their Macedonian language, and to practice and preach in their religion.

For that purpose, we have prepared a declaration that we will submit to the Italian government through the prefect of the city of Asti, to the EU High Commissioner for Enlargement, Federica Mogherini, and will be deposited in all the governments in which there is a Macedonian community and all the International institutions.

## Declaration

**1. Macedonians from Europe are asking for an end to the talks over the differences on the name Macedonia between the Government of Macedonia and the Government of Athens, and the unconditional continuation of membership in the United Nations and all international organizations under the state name Republic of Macedonia.**

**2. The Macedonian language and its Cyrillic alphabet is an official language throughout the territory of the Republic of Macedonia and in its international relations, with respect to languages and ethnic minorities in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution. Therefore, we demand the suspension of the procedure in the Parliament on the voting of the law on bilingualism that creates a bi-national state by introducing the Albanian language as the second official language in the whole territory thus favoring the Albanian minority, compared with all others.**

**3. We sharply reject the blackmailing demands of the Tirana Platform during the formation of a government after the extraordinary parliamentary elections in December 2016, and especially the interference of Tirana and Pristina in the internal affairs of the Republic of Macedonia.**

**4. We strongly reject the threats of secession, separation and the formation of paralegal institutions of power. Starting from our experience in the Diaspora, we consider that ethnic minorities in Macedonia have the highest standards of freedom and rights in relation to other minority groups in Europe and the world.**

**5. We demand the implementation of a population census in accordance with European standards, under the auspices of the International Community. The Albanian minority bases all its demands on its number, which is never established by a regular census.**

**6. We propose the creation of agreements for lasting peace and good neighborly relations between Macedonia and its neighbors, on the basis of the principles of equality, reciprocity and assistance in mutual respect of the respective national sovereignties.**

**7. We demand the annulment of all agreements and laws approved and adopted by this government, which we consider illegitimate because they are the result of fraud and intimidation.**

**8. We demand the release of unlawfully detained patriots and the interruption of the political persecution and terror that this government does, unfortunately, in the eyes of the entire International Community that remains indifferent or insufficiently informed about the actual situation in the country.**

**9. We demand early parliamentary elections with the monitoring of the international community, which will lead to the formation of a legitimate government in the Republic of Macedonia.**

The Macedonian question is obviously not closed even after 100 years of the embarrassing 1913 Treaty of Bucharest between the great powers.

Macedonia has been shown in these 27 years as a peacekeeper in the Balkans. Do not let Macedonia turn into a powder keg.

The Macedonian emigration, present in Europe for decades, actively contributes to the economic development and culture of the Western countries, where it is an example of seriousness, cooperation, but above all a desire for integration in strict accordance with the laws, maximum respect for traditions, cultural and religious relations. This nation, although integrated in its second homeland, though scattered across Europe and the world, is still hearing the cry of its homeland.

We ask the European governments and all the people with whom we are already connected and with whom we share the same moral, ethical and democratic values, to draw our attention to the Republic of Macedonia and to properly approach our problem, as well as to commit to respecting the verdict of the UN's International Court of Justice from 2011.

For the survival of our country, the Republic of Macedonia depends on the stability of this part of Europe.

**We do not ask much except to call ourselves by our name MACEDONIA, our ethnic identity MACEDONIANS, to speak our language MACEDONIAN, and not to be blackmailed. Is it too much to ask?**

Asti, Italy

January 27, 2018

**President**

***Ilona Zaharieva***

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