

**The Voice of the Macedonian students:  
Complaint against breaking of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by  
United Nations, European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

Your Excellency,

We are writing to you on behalf of thousands of students and young people from Macedonia, who gathered in a series of protests against the breaking of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by United Nations, European Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and other international organisations. These organisations refuse to acknowledge our name and our identity. In a series of student and youth protests, we have raised our voice against the **injustice** and **discrimination** we face on a daily basis from these organisations. It is a shame that even the United Nations is breaking the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is discriminating against us.

Under the auspices of United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative Matthew Nimetz, June 17, 2018 an agreement was signed between the Governments of Greece and Macedonia on the "name issue". This agreement is absolutely unacceptable to us - the Macedonians. This agreement changes the name, language, and identity of the Macedonians. This type of undertaking is unprecedented in the history of mankind. It not only violates the fundamental right to self-determination and basic cultural rights of the Macedonians, but it is also a crime against humanity – a genocide in the making.

No one has the right to force us to change our name and identity, we are not "North Macedonia" nor citizens of "North Macedonia". We demand the United Nations to respect our most basic right to self-determination and Republic of Macedonia to be a member of UN under our rightful constitutional name. The name of our country is the Republic of Macedonia and we do not accept the changing of our name "North Macedonia". We have a dignity and no one has a right to deny our dignity and our basic human rights. International law is on our side, and here we will mention here only some of the law that are broken:

- Denial of the Right to Self-Determination, established as an absolute right to all

peoples under common Article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

- Denial of Human Dignity, under Article 1 of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights and Article 1 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
- Denial of Integrity of the Person, under Article 3 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
- Discrimination based on language and national origin, and on the international status of the country, under Article 2 of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights
- Denial of cultural rights, under the Preamble and Articles 1, 3, 6, and 15 of the of the International Covenant for Economic Social and Cultural Rights
- Intentional destruction of cultural heritage, as defined under Part II of the UNESCO Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage
- Genocide, under Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and under Article 6 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

No one has the right to force us or put pressure on us to change our name. Some things like the name are non negotiable. We the Macedonians, can no longer accept anymore of this humiliation, and deserve dignity and respect.

We would like to mention that all human beings, including us – the Macedonians, are born free and equal and we all deserve dignity and rights, therefore no one can force us to change our name and identity. We are also human beings as are all other ethnic groups in the world. We have a right to be equal with all other people in the world. Therefore, we ask that this discrimination against us should stop and we should be treated on the equal basis with all the other people in this world.

No one can force us, to change our name and our identity. We have dignity and international law is on our side. It is not permissible in today's democratic world, for the United Nations to force the Republic of Macedonia and the Macedonians to change their name and identity. It is not permissible in the 21st century for someone to deny the fundamental human rights of the Macedonians. We demand the United Nations to respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the right of self-determination, and therefore put a stop to the discrimination against us.

Yours Sincerely,

*Youth for Macedonia*

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