

**JOINT STATEMENT BY
THE MACEDONIAN DIASPORA**

The Macedonian Diaspora is highly concerned about the current situation in the Republic of Macedonia. We are concerned that external forces are implicated in the creation of the crisis which began in February 2015 by which the opposition blackmailed the Prime Minister into resigning.

We are concerned about the current attempts of the federalization of the Republic of Macedonia, and the fact that the opposition, aided by foreign authorities, tried to forcibly come to power, even though they lost the elections in December 2016.

We appeal to the Human Rights Council to put pressure on the external forces to stop interfering in the internal affairs of the country. Macedonian citizens alone should be able to choose their own government, through democratically held elections.

We appeal to the Human Rights Council and all Member States, to support new parliamentary elections in Macedonia.

The Macedonian Diaspora expresses its concerns about any and all attempts to change the name of the Republic of Macedonia, the unitary character of the country, the distinctiveness of the Macedonian nation, and the ethnic and national identity of the Macedonian people!

We call upon the United Nations to stop denying the existence of the Macedonian nation and language and to recognize the existence of a separate Macedonian language, and a separate Macedonian ethnic and national identity.

We demand the unconditional and immediate recognition of the Macedonian minority in the neighboring countries, Bulgaria and Greece, as in accordance with the 2009 Report of the Mission to Greece the United Nations Independent Expert on Minority Issues, Gay McDougall.

Summary:

We appeal to the Human Rights Council to put pressure on the external forces to stop interfering in the internal affairs of the country, and to support new parliamentary elections in Macedonia. We call upon the United Nations to stop denying the existence of the Macedonian nation and language, and to recognize the existence of a separate Macedonian language, and a separate Macedonian ethnic and national identity. We demand the unconditional and immediate recognition of the Macedonian minority in the neighboring countries, Bulgaria and Greece.