

Debate on the topic:  
**Pressures on Freedom of Expression**

Skopje, 19 November 2009

**Declaration**

**DISORDER CANNOT BE ORDER!**

Again, common become verbal attacks on those publicly expressing political ideas different from the ones held by the government. Such practices are chronic and distressing. The current government attempts in-country depreciation of any failure of the Macedonian positions in the international arena by encouraging witch hunts, pursuing traitors and inside enemies.

Two weeks ago, the ruling party - in an utterly ambiguous manner - stigmatized a group of citizens, mainly from the civil sector, accusing them of being on the "payroll" of the former President and the present opposition leader. Only few days later, "one of the pillars of the Macedonian state" (as the current government prefers to consider the Macedonian Orthodox Church), the Archbishop Stefan, defamed the citizens objecting to the construction of religious buildings on the Skopje square, by labeling them as "blasphemers" and "surveyors" working for others' interests.

Three weeks ago, one of the most ferocious regime executors - TV and newspaper editor-in-chief - in an unprecedented plebeianism and aggressiveness attacked three non-governmental activists (primarily referring to them as "fags") and in his ranting violated all possible ethic and professional norms.

On the same television, people holding positions opposite to the one of the government were labeled "quasi-intellectuals, bribed journalists, separatists, mercenaries of different organizations, oppressed Albanians"... Whereas "conscious intellectuals, good journalists, loyal Albanians and NGOs with statehood-making capacity" were called upon to confront the first.

Matters become increasingly distressing knowing that the key ideologists and promoters of governmental policies are no less than people matching the editor-in-chief's profile: limited, brutal, irresponsible and manipulative. Instead of committed and responsible professionals, the current affairs media sphere (including the public broadcaster) is dominated by regime's spokespersons and commissars of common's instincts. Such commissarship implies serving the government by all means available; misconstrues, manipulations, defamation, insults, hate speech, verbal violence, conspiracy... Intellect is undesirable.

"The lower the perception of reality, the greater the need for violence", Radomir Konstatinovic wrote. Again, just as immediate before and in the aftermath of Bucharest, we are witnessing the internalization of destruction, public speech being reduced to ruthlessness, permanent expansion of hate speech, labeling and enemy pursuit. We firmly believe that such tendencies, asperity, stupidity and deafness to difference are more efficient in annihilating us as a nation than the foreign non-recognition.

Drowsing spirits are reluctant to acknowledging the barbarization of the society. They refuse to identify our government's actions with spiritual and physical devastation of our future. Today, the bleak prehistory of the Balkan shatters the nation's reasoning. Disorder is marketed as order.

Citizens of Macedonia will, however, win back their modern civilization consciousness of existence. Macedonian citizens will be no slaves to national subconsciousness and mythological superconsciousness. In order to defend the goals of both, the intellect and future, we are faced with the responsibility to counter-fight "manufacturing of enemies" - in an open, resounding and clear manner.

We believe that to free the nation, the individual should be free. Unconditionally free individuals make for an unconditionally free nation. Today, only free individuals raise their voices in defense of suppressed civil liberties. Civil conscience and reason should be the line of defense for the remains of the civilization in our environment. There is no civil and free society as long as citizens are subjects, cowards and opportunists. We will have to fight for the right to be citizens, the right to be free, and the right to participate in the democratic life.

### **List of individuals supporting this declaration**

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