



OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION  
IMPLEMENTATION MEETING  
21-September-2 October 2015

Warsaw –Poland

Working Session I: Fundamental freedoms I, including freedom of expression, free media and information

HDIM.NGO/0010/15  
21 September 2015

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Thank you Ms/Mr Moderator,

Distinguished Delegates,

Western Thrace Minority University Graduates Association calls upon the Greek State,

To respect the right to freedom of expression and free media to protect pluralism in the society and enrich the diversity of opinion in the media, especially for the disadvantageous groups and minorities.

To reconsider and revise the related legislation and ensure the equality principle for the every segments of the society, including the Turkish Minority of Western Thrace.

To eliminate disparities between minority media and mainstream media in the application of legislation and in judicial process.

In line with the above recommendations it is possible to say that Greece dramatically falls behind the democratic values with its oppressive environment of journalism even though the Greek constitution protects freedom of expression in Article 14. The first paragraph of Art. 14 states that “every person may express and propagate his thoughts orally, in writing and through the press in compliance with the laws of the State”. However, in the practice it is easy to observe the inequity and arbitrariness. The Greek State’s attitude to minority and majority media is the indicator of the significant deterioration of human rights and equality principle. While the hate-speech and biased broadcasting of the majority media towards the Turkish Minority and other non-Greek ethnic groups have remained untouched, the small minority media has been oppressed for years.

Ms/Mr Moderator,

Some journalists of the majority media use degrading and biased phrases for the Turkish Minority’s leading figures. However, even after the adoption of hate-crime law, no journalist has been questioned about their insulting expressions. On the other hand, Turkish Minority media has been subjected to various bureaucratic obstacles and faced with high amount of compensations on the grounds that they published unsubstantiated news/articles about a Greek teacher working in a minority school.

The Greek authorities adopted the media law (No: 3592/2007) without taking into account the ethnic minorities and other different elements of the society as many other laws. The local, national and international communities expressed their objections towards the unfair provisions of this law. However, up to now no revision has been made.

Thank you for your attention.