MACEDONIA RISES

THE MACEDONIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT IN THE PIRIN PART OF MACEDONIA
Atanas Kiryakov and Aleksandar Donski

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The book that you have in front of you presents a part of the documentation from the personal archive of the Macedonian activist Atanas Kiryakov from Blagoevgrad, which is dedicated to the struggle for the basic human and national rights of the Macedonians in the Pirin part of Macedonia and Bulgaria.

People and events that Kiryakov himself directly or indirectly has met or attended are mentioned in here.

This means that the book does not claim to contain ALL the documents from the struggles of the Macedonians under Pirin or that it contains all Macedonian activities, so the rest of the documents, notable people and descriptions of this struggle, remain to be published in later issues.

*From the editors*
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INSTEAD OF AN INTRODUCTION

Before we move on to the basic subject of this book, we have to explain why the Macedonians were never Bulgarian, nor did they have ethnic Bulgarian origins, as it is claimed by the majority of Bulgarian governments and official organs. After we realize the truth that the Macedonians were never Bulgarian, we will understand why they struggled for decades to obtain their national rights.

It is very simple to understand why the Macedonians were never Bulgarian. According to the official Bulgarian historiography, the present-day Bulgarians came to be as a result of a mixture between the Turco-Mongolian Bulgars, Thracians and Slavs and this can be read in every single Bulgarian history textbook. However, the majority of the Macedonians (especially in recent genetic researches) are descended from the ancient Macedonians and from the Slavs (which of course can be backed up by a great deal of evidence).

This means that at least two (out of the three) ethnicities that make today's Bulgarian nation aren't a part of the ethno-genetic structure of the Macedonians, therefore the Macedonians, even if they want to, can't be Bulgarian. This especially refers to the Asiatic Bulgarians (Turco-Mongolian tribe from Asia, which in the VII century inhabited the territory of present-day Bulgaria for the first time, conquering the local Slavic and Thracian tribes). Actually, these are the real Bulgarians, i.e. this is the nation which represented the Bulgarian ethnical name for the first time in the history. These Bulgarians never significantly inhabited Macedonia. For example, the first Bulgarian khan Kubart lived in Asia the entire time and never stepped foot in Europe. Khan Kubart had probably never even heard of Macedonia, let alone be a "blood ancestor" to the present day Macedonians. Here we offer an illustration of an officially published postage stamp in Bulgaria, on which, based on Bulgarian awareness, are shown the faces of the first Bulgarian khans Kubart and his son Asparuh. We can clearly see that they were Mongols (descendants of the Asian race). We know that their language was similar to the present-day language of the Tatars in Russia, and as part of the Mongol tradition, they had shaved heads. We also offer an illustration of the Bulgarian general Mostich, who lived in the IX century. The illustration is taken from the book "What are we: Bulgarians or Tatars?" from the famous Tatar historian
Ahmetdzan Halikov (Kazan, 1992). We'd like to point out that Mostich was one of the greatest Bulgarian generals of all time because, during his time, Bulgaria significantly increased its territory. Therefore, the Bulgarians should obviously be proud of this famous historical figure, the same way they're proud of the Turco-Mongolian Bulgarian khan Asparuh, who was recently proclaimed to be the "most significant Bulgarian of all time" in Bulgaria.

However, seen from the point of view that we're interested in, we wonder if anyone can seriously claim that this is what the "blood ancestors" of the present-day Macedonians really looked like? A picture says a thousand words, so the illustrations listed here of well-known Bulgarians in the history give a clear answer as to whether the Macedonians have "ethnic Bulgarian roots" or not.
And not only that. We also ask the question, how many of today's Bulgarians are actually real Bulgarians (descendents of the Turco-Mongolian Bulgarians) and how many are descendents of the Thracians and the Slavs. If the official Bulgarian historiography claims that the present day Bulgarians (who belong to the white race) are descendants of the true Turco-Mongolian Bulgarians (who belonged to the Asian race), then it is nonsense because it is impossible for certain ancestors to have belonged to one race, and their descendants to another race. Therefore, it's absurd (and even ridiculous) when today's Caucasian Bulgarians praise people who belong in the Asian race as their "ethnic ancestors" (just like the true Turco-Mongolian Bulgarians were).

However, the truth is entirely different. Today's citizens of Bulgaria (who declare themselves as "Bulgarians") are actually an ethnological mixture of different nations (Slavs, Thracians, Macedonians, Vlachs, Turks, Gypsies...) to whom, in a certain period, the ethnonym "Bulgarian" was attributed as their common "ethnic name". It should be noted that the true Bulgarians (the Turco-Mongolian Bulgarians, whose origin you can read about in any encyclopedia or any serious Bulgarian history book), never massively inhabited the rest of Bulgaria (except in the north-east part where they moved when they first came from Asia). Therefore, most of today's "Bulgarians" in Bulgaria don't really have Bulgarian (Mongol) blood in them.

But sometimes many illogical things happen in history, that lead to bizarre dimensions. For example, the Turco-Mongolian Bulgarian khan Krum
(known for his cruelty) raided the city of Sredets in 809 (present day capitol Sofia), which was inhabited by a native, Thracian people. When Krum realized that he would not be able to conquer the city, he promised the citizens (mainly ethnic Thracians) that, if they were to surrender, he would let them flee to Byzantium. The citizens, lacking food, accepted this condition and opened the city gates. However, as soon as they entered Sredets, the Turco-Mongolian Bulgarians sneakily attacked the people and killed about 6000 citizens of Sredets.

What's bizarre today is the fact that today's citizens of Sofia (which are mostly descendents of the massacred Thracians) are proud of their "Bulgarian" ethnic name, i.e. with the ethnic name of the killers of their ancestors! We have posed this question numerous times to Bulgarian historians, but we were always left without an answer. Actually, the basic questions to our neighbor Bulgarians are: "Why aren't you proud of your Thracian ethno-cultural heritage and why do you keep forcing a Bulgarian ethno-cultural heritage instead? A heritage that you know belonged to the Turco-Mongolian tradition and which you are not really related to? Surely, you know that Thrace was one of the most cultured civilizations in the world at the time. You know well that most of you Bulgarians are descendants of this famous Thracian nation (and of course, the Slavs). So why do you run away from your own (Thracian and European) origin and accept a foreign one (Bulgarian and Asian)?"

But let's go back to the Macedonians. Keeping in mind these elementary facts, all the later declarations of certain Macedonians with the term "Bulgarians" are baseless because of the facts provided by the ethnogenesis (the origins of the nations). These declarations are the result of certain historical processes and conditions, but the fact is that no citizen of Macedonia ever declared themselves as a "Bulgarian" before the arrival of the Turco-Mongolian Bulgarians from Asia in the Balkans, even though at that time (the end of VII century) the beginnings of the present day Macedonian nation were already profiled.

Finally, if we mention the self declaration of individuals, it is known that many Bulgarians throughout the history declared themselves as Serbians, Greeks, Vlach, i.e. differently from what they are, which can be backed up by many facts as well.
We already mentioned that the Turco-Mongolian Bulgarian khans (who, according to the Bulgarian historiography represent the deepest officially acknowledged ethnic roots of the present day Bulgarian nation and whose names were Telec, Toktu, Pagan, Tsok, Omurtag, Vineh, Umor, Telerig, Kubart etc.) can't possibly be the first blood ancestors of the present day Macedonian nation, because a great deal of them hadn't even stepped foot in Macedonia, and some of them actually fought against the Macedonians.

Actually, these empirically proven ethnogenetic differences between the Macedonians and the Bulgarians aren't anything new as was seen in the works by many Macedonian and foreign authors from XIX and XX century, i.e. around the time when the Bulgarian ethnogenesis was starting to get proven. For example, the Austrian explorer Carl Hron, who worked in Macedonia for a while, wrote the following in an article that he published in Vienna in 1890:

As a conclusion to my personal investigations, I came to the awareness that the Macedonians, according to their history and their language, represent a different nationality. They inhabited the Balkan Peninsula much earlier than the Serbian and Bulgarian invasion and they did not mix with any of these nations. (Karl Hron, The nationality of the Macedonian Slavs, translated in Macedonian, Skopje, 1966)

More decisive is the Russian scholar A. F. Ritih, who in 1914 stated the following:

During the time of Simeon the Bulgarian, Sclauinia Bersitia was conquered by him, but that only lasted a short time and that doesn't mean that Macedonia became Bulgaria. In the Macedonian nation there is not a single drop of Mongol blood, like there is in the Slavs of today's Bulgaria even more than necessary. This can be confirmed by the name of their nation and by their anthropological type, who reminds us of our Pechenegs, Yazizi and Avars (Asian tribes) and their relatives the Bulgarians (taken from the Macedonian Golos, year II, number 11, from 20.09.1914 in Petersburg).

The Bulgarian scholar P. Slaveykov also claims that many Macedonians of the XIX century were also aware of their ethnogenetical differences between them and the Bulgarians, and they even harshly claimed it. He knew Macedonia pretty well, so in his article "The Macedonian question", published in January 1871 in his newspaper "Macedonia", he wrote:
Some Macedonians separate themselves from the Bulgarians and say that they're clearly Slavs, while the Bulgarians are Tatars.

Regarding the relationships between the Macedonians and the Bulgarians, it is known they were variable. There are many ancient sources that speak of animosity between the Macedonians and the Bulgarians as two separate nations.

It is well known that the penetration of the Turco-Mongolian Bulgarians in the Balkans was followed by great disturbances of the cultures that they found there.

The first attack on Macedonia by the Turco-Mongolian Bulgarians happened in 539 and left the country devastated. The historian Procopius wrote about this event and published it in “Christomatia po istoria na Bulgaria” (Sofia, 1964, p. 58). Here, under the title “The ancient Bulgarians attack the Balkan peninsula in the year 539”, we read:

Right after that, the big Hun army crossed the river Istar (Danube) and invaded the entire Europe. These kinds of things happened before, but never before did they do so much damage and evil to the people. Those barbarians destroyed everything before them, starting with the Yonian Gulf, and all the way to Byzantium. They took over thirty-two fortresses in Illyricum, and raided the city Casandrea (in Chalcidices)... Later they came here again and again, doing irreparable damage to the Romei.

We can see in this document that the Turco-Mongolian Bulgarians are called Huns. That's because of the fact that the Turco-Mongolian Bulgarians actively participated in the Hun attacks on Europe at the time.

The Bulgarian khan Telerig (772-777) in the year 773 wanted to attack the Macedonian sclauinia Berzitia (a region in Macedonia) with an army of 12 000 men and to enslave the people and take them to Bulgaria. However, the Byzantine Emperor discovered their intentions through his own spies and sent an army against them. We will quote an extract from Simeon Logotet's chronicle, a Byzantine writer from the X century, who described this event. The document has been published by Ivan Duichev (From the old Bulgarian literature, Tome 1, Sofia, 1943). Here's an extract from this work:

The king had made friends amongst the Bulgarians, who told him all of their duke's decisions. They also informed him that the Bulgarian duke Telerig was sending an army to raid Berzitia...
Berzitia was an independent principality inhabited by the tribe Bersitians (but, according to the great expert in middle-aged Macedonia, the Croatian professor Dr. Stjepan Antoljak, it also had descendants of the ancient Macedonians). Berzitia was on the territory in the present day Republic of Macedonia. The king mentioned is the Byzantine Emperor Constantinus Copronimus (741-775).

The Turco-Mongolian Bulgarians terrorized not only the Macedonian people, but also Thrace. For the fear caused by the Bulgarian khan Krum (IX c.) there is a document from the Bulgarian historian professor Vasil Zlatarski:

When the Bulgarians found out about the rebellion in the Byzantine army, they engaged more in the subjects of Macedonia and Thrace. They inflicted such fear and terror that the citizens of Anhal and Beroea abandoned their homes and escaped. The same happened with the people of the Thrace Nikea and Provam, but also in other parts. (V. Zlatarski, "History of the Bulgarian state over the centuries", tome 1, Sofia, 1970, page 339).

Someone might note that the theme (Byzantine district) of Macedonia could be found in Thrace. Many Bulgarian historians, taking advantage of the readers' lack of information, implemented this lie, according to which, every time the name Macedonia is mentioned in the middle-aged sources, it actually meant Thrace, because apparently the Byzantine theme (administrative district) “Macedonia” could be exclusively found in Thrace. However, this is not true at all. Bulgarian professor Zlatarski himself claims that the theme Macedonia was found in: “the present-day Thrace and in eastern Macedonia, between the rivers Struma and the lower part of the river Maritsa”.

So, the theme “Macedonia” contained larger territory from the present day Macedonia (and not just Thrace). This means that if the khan Krum was active in the theme “Macedonia”, that means that he was also active in parts of the present-day Macedonia. Meaning, he also acted against the Macedonians that lived in the present-day Macedonia at the time. This should also apply for the other events that took place in the theme “Macedonia”, i.e. we shouldn't claim that they only refer to Thrace, but also to the part of the present-day Macedonia.

Still, one of the most significant documents that testify for war, and not correlations or cultural and blood mixtures between the Bulgarians and Macedonian tribes, is the Presian article found in the ancient city of Philippi (southern Macedonia). This article represents an ancient document right from
the time of the penetration of the Bulgarians in Macedonia in 847. In this document, we can clearly conclude that the Bulgarian khan Presian led a harsh war on the Macedonians (more specifically the Smoliani, as a Macedonian tribe from south-eastern Macedonia). This document was published in J. Ivanov's book "Bulgarian antiquities from Macedonia" (Sofia 1931) and it says:

_Persian, the God proclaimed duke of many Bulgarians, sent the kavkhan Isbul after supplying him with an army, and the boil Ichyugru, and the boil Kolovur, and the kavkhan against the Smoliani._

The army that the Turkco-Mongolian Bulgarian khan Presian sent against the Macedonian tribe Smoliani was estimated to contain about 10,000 men.

The main reason behind this clash was that the Macedonians were preparing a rebellion against Byzantium, which was weakened because of their battle against the Arabs in Asia Minor. However, this attempt at freedom of our ancestors failed because of the sudden attack by the Turco-Mongolian Bulgarians.

According to the script of the monk Gregorios Decapolit, in this great army: _Blood streamed like a river, and the whole area (the Macedonian cities of Serez, Drama and Kavala) was burning and darkened._

The Macedonian tribe Smoliani at the time lived approximately at the territory on present-day Pirin and parts of Aegean Macedonia, which means that the Bulgarians at the time couldn't even enter this part of Macedonia without an army. For the area in which the Smoliani lived, Ivanov writes:

_The Slav tribe Smoliani lived in the South-eastern Macedonia. The Smoliani districts scattered around the south-west side of the Rodopian mountains, in the middle and in the lower area of the river Mesta._

The khan Presian was later replaced by his son Boris, who declared war on Byzantium, which caused the Macedonian people to suffer once more. His descendant, the king Simeon, inflicted pain and suffering on the Macedonians as well. The members of the family of the Bulgarian king Simeon spoke in their mother tongue at home pure Turco-Bulgarian language. They had only just begun to learn the Slavic language. There are testimonies according to which, during the war that Simeon led in Macedonia, his armies destroyed everything in front of them. Churches, houses and monasteries were destroyed. The Macedonian girls and women were raped, and the episcopes
and monks were tortured and murdered. Even the gardens were destroyed, and
the trees cut down. The Constantinople patriarch Nikolaos Mystic wrote
emotionally:

...But, when I reminisce about the large number of destroyed houses,
temples and homes, the murdered episcopes, the raped virgins, the tortured
monarchs - how can I hope that God will forget all this?

There is another testimony about the destruction caused by the
Bulgarian king Simeon in Macedonia from a Macedonian scholar in the XI
century, that says:

Simeon was cruel and dishonorable to people and he destroyed the
Macedonian land. It is then when all the people screamed and called out: Woe
on us, brothers, from this king!

Leonis Giakonnes in his History (GIBI, V, page 179) writes:

In September, Simeon the Bulgarian again brought his army against
Constantinople. He then robbed Thrace and Macedonia, where he destroyed
everything. (More details on this quote can be found at Sarisa Paraos, n.

The Byzantine historian Simeon Logotetus, for the destruction of our
land by the Bulgarian king Simeon, wrote the following:

In September, the Bulgarian duke Simeon with his entire army came
to Constantinople and then raided Thrace and Macedonia. They raided and
burned everything, and cut down all the trees.

So, here the questions can be asked: whose land did the Turco-
Mongolian Bulgarian Simeon destroy and whose women did his army rape?
Weren't they raping their own compatriots if supposedly we, the Macedonians,
are ethnic Bulgarians?

The Macedonians suffered from the Bulgarians during the time of the
so-called Second Bulgarian kingdom as well.

The ruler Kaloyan was especially known for all the misfortune he
brought upon the Macedonian nation. Because of the evil deeds he did in
Macedonia and Thrace, the Byzantinians called him Skili-Jovan (dog-Jovan).
He first ruined the Macedonian principality in Dobromir Hrs (founded in
1185), and later destroyed other Macedonian cities as well. He slaughtered
their inhabitants and enslaved them, while he robbed their estates and brought
whatever he could in Bulgaria. There are many testimonies about his crimes
towards the Macedonians from that time. For example: Vladislav Gramatik (who lived in the Rila monastery), wrote:

_That Kaloyan destroyed the Macedonian land after every battle with the Romei, and did many evil deeds to the population. He destroyed all their hideouts, and enslaved many people and took them across Danube._

This document is published in the Bulgarian book (Petar Nikov: _Materials for the middle-aged history of Bulgaria_, page 250, quote from Sarisa Paraos), and we can see that the king Kaloyan did not forget the old Asian custom of enslaving nations and taking them far away from their homes.

For the misfortunes that king Kaloyan brought upon the Macedonians, writes the Byzantine writer Nikita Honiates:

_It would be right to say that no human eye has seen, no human ear has heard, nor a human heart was touched like it was from what the Kumans (Asian tribe) and the Bulgarians did during their attacks. The big, known and populated cities, the beautiful villages around them, the neatly tilled fields, the flower gardens, that were replenished by fruits because of their watering from the local rivers, the tall castles, the beautiful paintings, the comfortable baths, the grapevines and every other object that made the land happy and made our lives pleasant, sweet and desirable - all that, after it was torn down, became the home of hedgehogs and wild animals._

_If someone took just one look at all that - filled with pain - he would hit himself on the chest and with tears in his eyes would say that he saw the destruction of the planet. In my language, there are no such expressions that will be worthy enough to list all the crimes and evil deeds they did. But, that was not enough. They wanted to reach the pinnacle of their evil. For example, when some of them died from natural causes or in war, they buried them and the horses that they rode on, the bows and swords they carried, but in the same graves they buried alive all the enslaved Romei. These barbarians had no limits to their inhumanity._ (S. Paraos, quoted from Bulgarian sources).

This startling testimony speaks enough for how the Macedonians and the Bulgarians were “one nation”.

Nikita Honiates describes the destruction of the king Kaloyan in the Macedonian city of Seres. This testimony has been published in the earlier quoted _Hristomatia po istoria na Bulgaria_ (page 271).
Nicephores Gregoras, for the attack made by Kaloyan on Macedonia and Thrace, writes:

*The Macedonian and the Thracian cities were completely destroyed, after being affected by many misfortunes by the Latins, as well as from the Bulgarians and Scythes. There is nothing they didn't do to the Christians, these bloodthirsty savages...* (V. Zlatarski: “History of the Bulgarian state during the middle ages”, III, 266)

In the “Acts of Saint Demetrios”, there is also a testimony for the destruction of the Bulgarian king Kaloyan in Macedonia:

*At the time, the ruler of the Bulgarians was Kaloyan. After he decimated Macedonia, destroyed all the areas, butchered and robbed the entire population along the cost of the river Danube - with one word, he turned into desert every single place that he touched. He then headed against Thessalonica, together with his army, which was more populated than the sand in the sea, and was consisted of Bulgarians, Kumans, Tatars, Hazars...*(Hristomatiya, page 273).

So, the Bulgarian king Kaloyan destroyed Macedonia and killed the Macedonians with his army, in which, besides the Bulgarians, he had their relatives, i.e. the Asiatic tribes: Kumans, Tatars and Hazars.

About the evil deeds that king Kaloyan did in Macedonia there are also Bulgarian sources. For example, the Bulgarian patriarch Evtimiy, in relation to the campaigns of king Kaloyan, wrote:

*When Kaloyan realized that the Greek kingdom was powerless (because of the Latin attacks), he mainly declared war on this kingdom. He destroyed many cities and villages on the way. Everything that had a price, was collected and brought in his famous city Trnovo, and all the people and animals were transported in his state.* (S. Paraos, quoted work).

Speaking of the destruction of the Macedonians and Macedonia during the reign of king Kaloyan, let's mention one more interesting fact. It is well known that this king raided the Macedonian city Thessalonica. During this harsh raid, the Macedonians of Thessalonica, young and old, defended their city with all their might. While the men warred, the women were in the churches day and night, praying for Saint Demetrios the Thessalonician to help them. Just when it seemed that the city would fall, Kaloyan was murdered by his boliar Manastar. The Thessalonicians attributed this as the work of Saint Demetrios. Ever since then, at all the frescos and icons in
Macedonia, Saint Demetrios was drawn with a long spear, mounted on a horse, enslaving a soldier, dressed in a Bulgarian military uniform. (Gorge Radule, "History of Macedonia", Sofia, 1997, page 144).

There are also many Byzantine testimonies about the destruction of Macedonia from the time of the Bulgarian king Michail Shishman (around the middle of the XII century). For example, the writer Georgios Acropolites, in his chronicle (published in the abovementioned “Hristomata po istoria na Bulgaria”, page 293) wrote:

*When the ruler of the Bulgarians learned that the emperor was far away, he called the allied Scythian army and sent it in the Macedonian regions to rob them, and scare away the Romans.*

In the beginning of this script, we can see that Michail Shishman had no problem with the conquering of the Bulgarian cities (in the present-day Bulgaria), because those cities were inhabited by Bulgarians. However, we see that Shishman sent the Scyths to rob the Macedonian cities.

I would like to expand my earlier explanation about the terms *Macedonia, Macedonian lands* and similar terms that we've seen so far. We mentioned that the representatives of the Bulgarian propaganda will pointlessly insist that these terms are referring to the Byzantine theme (administrative area) “Macedonia” (according to them: Thrace), because this theme really did include parts of Macedonia. Besides, we see that in the abovementioned quotes, some pure Macedonian places (Chalcidic, Seres, the Thessalonica surroundings, Struma etc) are clearly mentioned. These were Macedonian places that suffered from the Turco-Mongolian Bulgarians and were never a part of the Byzantine theme “Macedonia”. Meaning, the listed evil deeds made by the Turco-Mongolian Bulgarians really were done to the Macedonians and Macedonia.

Finally, it is a little known fact that during the penetration of the Ottoman Turks in the Balkans in the XIV century, the Bulgarians offered them great help (even though they suffered by them later on). The Bulgarian king Ivan Aleksandar was the only European leader that was in an alliance with the Ottoman Turks during their Balkan expeditions! Not only did he refuse the offer of the Byzantine king for an allied front against the Turks, he even made an alliance with them against Byzantium. This is all objectively displayed in the book *History of Bulgaria* (Sofia, 1954) where on page 235, we read:
The advancement of the Turks in Thrace made the urge to form a common, Balkan front against the Turks even bigger. Sadly, this front was never created. On the contraire - in 1364 between the Bulgarians and the Byzantines occurred a conflict around the cities Pomorie and Nesebar. To oppose the Byzantines, Ivan Aleksandar used Turkish mercenaries and made an alliance with the sultan Murat. It was a big mistake, that distraught the forces of the Balkan states and allowed the conquerors to easily accomplish their plans.

Later on, the Ottoman Turks occupied Macedonia, after having defeated the Macedonian feudal army at the river Maritsa in 1371, while the Bulgarians were in alliance with the Turks during this battle. Here is how the Macedonians acted in an attempt to preserve their freedom, in the quoted "History of Bulgaria":

The fear of the Turks overcame the Macedonian feudal rulers, who realized that it was their turn now. The strongest Macedonian feudalists at the time, Volkashin (who ruled the Prilep area) and Uglesha (who ruled the Seres area) decided to organize a feat to break the Turkish power. At the village Chernomen near the river Maritsa (not far from Odrin) the army was supposedly defeated by the forces of Apil-pasha (September 26, 1371). Many of the soldiers led by Volkashin and Uglesha died in the battle. After that battle, the Turks started to advance in the west and entered Macedonia. They were heavily resisted in numerous places by the people, who fought to preserve and protect their homes till the end. A drastic example of their bravery were the citizens of Bitola, who fought against the enemy for a very long time.

Further on in this Bulgarian book, we read that the Bulgarians broke their alliance with the Ottoman empire after the death of Ivan Aleksandar, after 1371. Meaning this was after the Turkish occupation in Macedonia.

Because of this, we can conclude that during the destruction and enslavement of Macedonia by the Turks - the Bulgarians were allies of the Ottoman Empire! Bulgaria was conquered by the Turks much later, in 1388, even thought Bulgaria is geographically closer to Turkey than Macedonia.

* All the testimonies that we've listed so far speak even clearer for the fact that the Macedonians had no Bulgarian ethnical roots whatsoever, but they even warred against each other very often. They weren't just clashes
between two different ethnicities, but between two different cultures. The Bulgarians at the time not only did not see Macedonia as a *Bulgarian country*, but not a single ancient Bulgarian thought to claim that our ancestors were related to them by blood. Finally, even the pupil of the Bulgarian patriarch Evtimiy, named Grigorij Tsamblak (who wrote about the exile of Evtimie in Macedonia near the end of the XIV century), not only did he clearly define Macedonia as a "foreign land", but he even wrote that Evtimie, as a Bulgarian, was a stranger in Macedonia. He writes:

*The Barbarian... sent in exile the man of God in Macedonia. But, God blessed that this foreign land too would acknowledge him, so his praise became even more true, and the citizens themselves became preachers and praisers of this foreign and tortured prisoner.* (C. Paraos, *Narodna Volja*, Blagoevgrad, May 1998, quote from authentic sources)
THE STATE OF PIRIN MACEDONIA FROM THE BALKAN WARS TO PRESENT DAY

Pirin Macedonia (named after the great Macedonian mountain Pirin) makes the area of Macedonia under Bulgaria. This territory is about 6798 km² in area and it has been under Bulgarian control since the Balkan wars. Between 1920 and 1928 around 96% of its population was ethnic Macedonian. The Bulgarian regime started right away with denationalization and convincing the Macedonians that they were Bulgarians. Pirin Macedonia became a base for many Macedonian revolutionary organizations after the Balkan wars, whose actions have been tolerated by the Bulgarians, even though the official policy of Bulgaria is anti-Macedonian. The most powerful organization in the twenties and thirties years of the XX century is VMRO (even though its leadership manipulates the Macedonian national identity and the future of Macedonia). It can be said that Bulgaria at the time still had a more liberal stance towards the Macedonians from the rest of the countries whose territories had parts of Macedonia. This may be due to Bulgaria's economical exhaustion and her role as a defeated country in World War I. VMRO has a major influence in Pirin Macedonia. They consider this territory as a free Macedonian territory.

Right after WWI, the Agricultural government of Aleksandar Stamboliski came to rule. He played a two-faced role towards the Macedonians. On one hand he cooperated with the leftist forces of Macedonia and promised them autonomy, but on the other hand he wanted to ally with Yugoslavia, which terrorized the Macedonians in Vardar Macedonia. VMRO, led by Todor Aleksandrov, opposed the politics that Stamboliski had, because they saw that their existence was endangered.

Therefore, VMRO helped in bringing down the government of Stamboliski by force in 1923. Aleksandar Cankov stepped up to lead the new Bulgarian government, but he too wanted to ally with Yugoslavia. Being endangered once again, the leaders of the more significant Macedonian factions led by VMRO and Todor Aleksandrov, signed a manifesto in 1924 in Vienna to unite their revolutionary forces. Because of some disagreements with the current government of Cankov, the Macedonian revolutionary forces asked for help from the Komintern. Cankov pressured Aleksandrov to resign from the manifesto and so he did. Aleksandrov was assassinated in 1924,
which was probably organized by the Bulgarian politicians. After his death, VMRO split off into three major parts. The right wing was led by Vancho Mihailov, who enforced the autonomy in Pirin Macedonia even more. Demonstrations for the Macedonian national feeling were tolerated, and even some Macedonian institutions were formed, including an illegal Macedonian army with its own War Inspector and other divisions. Of course, Mihailov was supported by certain circles in Sofia.

However, the bloody Macedonian fights between the Left and the Right wing soon shadowed these bright Macedonian assertions, during which dozens of Macedonians, but also Bulgarians were killed. The Bulgarian war reactionary circles opposed this separatism by Mihajlov, and the demands to stop the killings in Pirin Macedonia became more and more frequent. Because of this, in 1934 the new Bulgarian government led by Kimon Georgiev forcefully stopped the autonomy and banned VMRO. Mihailov barely managed to save himself and escape in Turkey. In Bulgaria, he was sentenced to death in absentia.

In 1936 many court processes began against the members of the Left wing of VMRO. Later, the Left wing allied with the communists. The period 1934-1944 represented a period of an even stronger Bulgarian terror against the Macedonians, a terror which the Left wing opposed the most. In September 1944, Bulgaria capitulated and the Left-oriented Otechestven Front (influenced by Stalin) took over the government. In agreement with the Treaty of Yalta, Bulgaria remained in the east Communist bloc. Because Yugoslavia's condition was the same, there was closeness between the two countries. The presidents of Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, Dimitrov and Tito, formed a deal about the future of Macedonia. The Macedonian nation was acknowledged in both Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, and a cultural autonomy was brought in Pirin Macedonia. They were allowed to declare themselves as Macedonians in the first census in 1946 and around 70% of the population of Pirin Macedonia declared themselves as Macedonians. A Macedonian theater was opened in Blagoevgrad (the biggest city in Pirin Macedonia), as well as many Macedonian study halls, and then Macedonian newspapers began to be published. The newly created (in Yugoslavia) People's Republic of Macedonia sent out teachers, who taught the children of Pirin Macedonia the Macedonian language. The border was also liberalized. The Bulgarian Communist Party (which ruled Bulgaria at the time) declared that they acknowledged the
Macedonian nation and it renounced all previous ill will towards the Macedonians. It was a period of exclusively good relations, not only between the Macedonians in both parts of Macedonia, but also between the Macedonians and the Bulgarians overall. There was just one more step for the two parts to be reunited in the proposed Yugoslav-Bulgarian federation.

Valuable and never before presented historical document about the existence of the Macedonians in Bulgaria! School report card of the student Evelina Atanasova Kirekova from the year 1949, in which it's clearly stated that she's MACEDONIAN!
Army booklet of Iliya Atanasov Kirekov (uncle of Atanas Kiryakov), who served in the Bulgarian army in 1952 in Nikopol. In this booklet Kirekov is clearly noted as a Macedonian by nationality.

However, this all fell apart after the clash between Tito and Stalin in 1948. Tito wanted to lead Yugoslavia on its own path, under the Communist influence. This clash impacted on the Macedonian question the hardest. Bulgaria, as a confidential ally to the USSR, started slowly abolishing the Macedonian cultural autonomy. Still, in the census of 1956 nearly 64% of the population of Pirin Macedonia nationally declared themselves as
Macedonians. Using this, the already anti-Yugoslav Bulgaria abolished the parole of a united and independent Macedonia, but Pirin Macedonia stood out as an obstacle to the union. The Yugoslavs wouldn't even want to think about this idea. Tito never wanted to give up on Yugoslav Macedonia. The Macedonian question was being affected by the Yugoslav-Bulgarian Communist clash. Finally, Bulgaria gave up, and soon came back to its anti-Macedonian and great Bulgarian antagonistic positions. The Bulgarian Communist party started to pressure and terrorize the Macedonians to not declare themselves as Macedonians any more, but rather as Bulgarians.

In the census made in 1965, only the bravest 8,750 ethnic Macedonians declared themselves as Macedonians. In the census of 1975, not a single Macedonian was allowed to declare themselves as such. The Macedonians were administratively wiped out as a nation. This was all followed by terror to all that was Macedonian by the Bulgarian Communist dictator Todor Zivkov. The totalitarian police regime began with arrests, internments and killings of Macedonians in order to scare them from declaring themselves as Macedonians. However, the Macedonians weren't indifferent to this situation. Their resistance was widely spread in illegal organizations, which fight for the national rights of the Macedonians.

In the sixties, seventies and eighties more and more cities and villages in Pirin Macedonia had arrests of Macedonians who simply asked for their national rights. Groups of Macedonians were interned in inner Bulgaria, some of them sentenced to life in prison, some of them secretly eliminated. In 1964 members of the Macedonian youth group "Garibaldi" were sentenced to 2-4 years in prison. Two years later the group from the village Skrt was shut down, and next was the group "Pirin" led by Sandanski.

Four people from Blagoevgrad were arrested because they wrote on the walls of the restaurant "Volga": "We are Macedonians! Long live the Macedonian nation!"

In 1968, over 30 men were arrested and jailed. Five young people were arrested in the village Damjanica. The police hunt of the Macedonians was especially strong in 1970, when the following was written in Blagoevgrad: "Brothers Macedonians, fight for Macedonia!" "We want national freedom!". The arrests were so vast that even police forces from Sofia had to assist.
The Pirin Macedonian Viktor Georgiev testifies that the city Petric had a Macedonian organization "Sokrat" and that six of its members were arrested because during the greatest pressures, the Pirin city Goce Delcev woke up with the messages written all over the walls: "The Macedonian name won't die!" The young Macedonians painted the face of Goce Delcev everywhere as a sign of resistance. (More details about the Bulgarian terror against the Macedonians can be found at Tosho Popovski: "The Macedonian minority in Bulgaria, Greece and Albania", Macedonian Book, Skopje, 1981. These books have quotes for these events from Bulgarian and other documents).

This condition wasn't left unnoted by the European democratic press. Many west European newspapers wrote about the terror done to the Macedonians by the Bulgarians. The publishing of the German publicist Viktor Maer caused a special interest. It was published in "Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung" on July 3rd 1978. He personally testified that the majority of the population in Pirin Macedonia are ethnic Macedonians, but are prohibited from saying so, which means they don't even have the most basic national rights. Among many things, Mr. Maer writes: "...Everyone who calls themselves a Macedonian, is automatically exposed to political exile...In the Pirin area, the question about the national awareness is under the police supervision...." Viktor Maer quotes the sentence that he heard from the Macedonians many times: "We are Macedonians, pure Macedonians, but we are not allowed to declare ourselves as such!"

The failure of Communism in Bulgaria and its conversion into a democratic country brought hope to the Macedonians that their condition might change. They rejoiced in the democracy and in 1989 and 1990 they protested and made a few public meetings in some places around Pirin Macedonia (and even in Sofia). A few Macedonian organizations were formed, and they even started publishing their own newspaper. Still, this wouldn't last long. Some of the leaders were arrested, and the public meetings were banned. The Bulgarian regime formed and financed an organization made purely by ethnic Macedonians - national betrayers who under the influence of the Bulgarian propaganda claimed that the Macedonians were "Bulgarians".
The emblem of the illegal Macedonian organization "Ilinden" from Pirin Macedonia in 1968, founded by Sokrat Markilov

Bulgaria is still afraid to admit the national rights of the Macedonians and not only do they have no national rights over there (schools in Macedonian language, political parties, cultural institutions etc), but they keep being exposed to different forms of pressure by the Bulgarian regime as well.

STATEMENT BY ATANAS KIRYAKOV:

During the communism, the Pirin Macedonians couldn't go anywhere without an "Otkrit paper" (a sort of visa for traveling), but they were also banned from listening to Macedonian songs. The only chance they had to see their relatives in Vardar Macedonia at that time were the so-called "svizdanya" (one-day long massive meetings). The Macedonians from Pirin Macedonia would buy records with Macedonian folk songs and would try to sneak them in across the border. If the Bulgarian police officers caught you, you'd be
punished, and the record would be broken right in front of you. Those who managed to transfer had to be really careful. They would then gather and play them quietly but only with the doors and windows shut tight.

I have noted other data about the suffering of the Macedonians in Pirin Macedonia during the communism in Bulgaria. I took some of these from the notes of the writer Slave Makedonski.

Yordan Konstantinov Ivanov spent five years in prison.
Stojan Georgiev Tomovichin spent eight years in prison.
Sokrat Danailov Markilov spent seventeen years in prison...
They were imprisoned only because they declared themselves as Macedonians... And how many, many more were tortured, interned, murdered... There is no end.

Stefan Smilenov Przovski has personally told me about his sufferings. In 1953, he was a member of an illegal Macedonian organization in Gorna Dzumaya (largest Macedonian town in Pirin Macedonia, present-day Blagoevgrad). He was sentenced to five years in prison. He spent one month in the Sofia prison, and then was transferred to the camp Belene near the river Danube. He stayed there until 1956. According to his memories, about a hundred Macedonians were there for the same reasons. Most of them were from the Pirin area, but there were also some from Bulgaria. One Macedonian was even from the Vardar area, from the village Mitrashinci, near Berovo. His
name was Ilcho Mustkovski. They forced them to dig a canal starting at 3 PM every day, until the early morning the following day. There was a lot of cold water and Stefan got sick, so he was taken to a hospital in 1957 in Sofia.

He was then transferred to the Kyustendil prison, where he stayed for another six months, after which he was released. The same year (1957) he decided to flee across the border. He moved to the Vardar part and lived four years in Veles. One day he decided to briefly come back and see his relatives in the village Pokrovnik. But, he was caught by the Bulgarian borderers and was sentenced to six and a half years in prison. He was first in Sofia, then in the Old Zagora prison, then in Plovdiv.

In 1964, after spending three years in prison, he was included in some amnesty from the Supreme Court, after which he was released. In the prisons (like the camp Belene), the Macedonians secretly celebrated the Macedonian national day Ilinden every year. When Stefan Przovski came out of prison, he returned home to the village Pokrovnik and continued with his Macedonian activities. He was arrested for the third time and sentenced to three years in prison, but served two and a half. After the fall of Communism in 1989, and until his death, Stefan Przovski was one of the most active members of OMO "Ilinden".

Metodi Nikolov Dzupanov from the village Dobarsko (near Razlog), was born in 1927. He studied Bulgarian philology in Sofia University, and after that went back to his village to work as a teacher. He joined an illegal Macedonian organization when he was still a student, and formed one of his own when he worked as a teacher. The Blagoevgrad police found out about this via spies, and he was called by the police for a "conversation". However, he was beaten and tortured in their underground chambers. He was forced to name the members of his organization. As a consequence of this beating, Metodi later passed away.

TESTIMONIES FROM SOKRAT DANAIOLOV MARKILOV:

Slavcho from the village Ribnik, former photographer from Petrich, photographed flyers from the illegal organization "Iliden", ordered by the representative Sokrat. That Slavcho showed one of the photographs to the current chief of police in Petrich, Kosta Mihalchev and told him that Sokrat
(me) with a group of patriots has created an illegal organization "Ilinden". On 15.11.1973 around 11am, Monday, on the road to Pompata, next to the canal, three cars stopped one after another, and they had a police jeep. The chief was there Dosev too, and Vancho Fuci, and seven more that I didn't know. They got closer to the fence I was standing on, Mihaelcev came and asked me "Good afternoon Sokrat, do you know why we're here?" I replied: "I know, but very little." Then Dosev came next to me with two more men, they grabbed me and handcuffed me, and then took me in the car and drove me to Petrich. They took me in the police and took me in a room with an unknown man. Before that, Mihaelcev had me searched. I saw that the unknown man was the main prosecutor of Bulgaria, Ivan Vachkov.

He started questioning me: "How many of you are in the organization? Where is your weapon? When was it created?" I replied that I didn't know anything and told him that the organization was founded on 15.04.1968. They took me down in the cells in Petrich. A policeman asked me: "Why were you arrested, Sokrat?" I replied: "Open the door and let me see who you are, then I will tell you." It was Atanas - the police thug. We knew each other and I asked him: "Atanas, do me a favor. There are 30 lev's on the table, take them and bring them to my wife so she can buy some bread for the children." It was from his visit that my wife found out that I was arrested. She contacted members of the organization right away and told them that I was arrested. On 06.11.1973, the next morning, without letting me eat, they put me in a car and I was taken to Blagoevgrad.

Corporal Acev was there with me and another police officer who kept an eye on me. I was taken to Sofia on Monday morning. I was taken to "Razvigor" - the underground chambers of the Public safety services in "Drevnica". The conditions I was kept in are pointless to explain because it's hard to explain to those who have no idea, and those who do, don't need to have them explained. The current officer Leonid Shalandziev ordered for my wife to be moved to Lovech, with my kids. They searched our house several times and whatever they liked in it, they stole it. When they were moving my wife and kids, Kosta Mihalchev, Slavcho the photographer, Chavkov, Kicev, Grishata, Docev and Stojan Maznikov were all there. Not much later, my wife came to her house with an "Otkrit paper" (visa) to pick up clothes and other things from the house. She went straight to Mihalchev and Indzev and told them: "Give me two or three days to pick up my things from the house". They
rejected her with the words: "Not only will we not sign your paper, but you will never even see Petrich again!" My wife Tsveta went to her neighbour Nada Spirova and told her: "Today in the police they told me I will never see Petrich again."

The same day, whether she was taken or went there on her own, Tsveta was found poisoned in our vineyard.

How and by whom, I still don't know. They officially stated that she poisoned herself, but that's a Communist lie. One of the evidences is that she was first found by the people from the police jeep in the villa of our vineyard. The police told my son in law Boris that his mother in law poisoned herself in the vineyard and to go with Iliya Dimitrov of the police. My son in law went with them to the vineyard, she was taken in a helicopter and taken to Sofia, where it was confirmed that my wife had poisoned herself. I was given the autopsy report in the prison, and then it was taken away from me.

Sokrat Danailov Markilov
Petrich, st. "Dimo Hadzidimov" no. 20
Written in 17.02.1992

TESTIMONIES FOR THE BULGARIAN TERROR ON THE MACEDONIANS DURING THE DEMOCRACY
(The testimonies have been collected by Atanas Kiryakov)

Many ethnic Macedonians died from "unexplained conditions" after 1989, like for example the president of the Macedonian Christian brotherhood "St. Prophet Iliya"- Asen Adziski and the secretary of this brotherhood - Ventsislav Ovnarski, who was found all beaten down lying in a coma in front of his house. The police said he supposedly "fell from the balcony".

- Konstadin "the Duke" from Petrich (who lived for many years in Chicago, USA) came to work in Pirin Macedonia, but soon had a car accident. We were told that he hit his car in a tow truck. We went to Sofia right away in the hospital "Pirogov". He was in a coma and died a few days later without regaining consciousness to tell us what really had happened.
- Ivan Gurov from the village Mikrevo, near Sandanski (treasurer and member of the United Macedonian Organization "Ilinden") was found
dead near the end of the village. The police reported that he was "gored by a village bull",

- Ite from Gremada was tied to the railroad tracks, so he could be ran over by a train near Sofia.
- Mircho Yurkov from UMO "Ilinden" was found ran over by a train near Sofia.
- Ivan Stefanov Milchev, a young poet from the village Gega (Petrich) and member of UMO "Ilinden" was found in the village cemetery blown up by a bomb.
- One of our members of the village Logodash was killed during a hunt. He was apparently "shot by accident" by a police employee.
- Mayor Ivan Zlatev (a Bulgarian from Yambol) and employee of the National security service in Petrich shot two Macedonian children. He shot the children because they were singing Macedonian songs ("Our Land Macedonia" and others). The children were called Pande Iliev Pandeliev and Georgi Getsev Kirilov.

This is just a small part of all the killed Macedonians, and there are many more left...

Here are some other events.

- On 23.03.1990 in Petrich during a peaceful Macedonian manifestation the Bulgarian police arrested one Macedonian. The present Macedonians blocked the police car with their bodies, after which the Macedonian was released.
- On 06.06.1990 in Blagoevgrad several Macedonians in front of the Courthouse protested with a hunger strike because the Court would not register UMO "Ilinden". The Bulgarian police came and forcefully pushed aside the Macedonian protesters. A large number were arrested and taken outside of Blagoevgrad in the police trucks and were thrown off the trucks on the ground near the tunnels of the village Zeleznica (near the area Simitli). The protesters then had to walk to the city.
- On 01.08.1990 UMO "Ilinden" was supposed to hold their first congress in the village Oshtava (planned to last for two days, 1st and 2nd of August). The present Macedonian emissaries were surrounded by heavily armed
policemen, who also had dogs. The policemen were standing in three cordons. The Macedonian emissaries were abused, and the materials of the First Congress of UMO "Iliden" were confiscated. Some of the Macedonian emissaries were arrested and taken to the city Sandanski. The UMO "Ilinden" congress was not held because the Bulgarian police took it apart.

- On 16.09.1990, near the place "Studena Voda, on the road to the village Mikrevo near Berovo (where an Assembly was supposed to take place) the Bulgarian police, without any explanation, took the passports of 22 Macedonians, members of UMO "Ilinden".
- On 19.12.1990 in Blagoevgrad the Macedonians collected signatures, but the police broke off this activity by force, and three Macedonians were arrested. Some of the Macedonians were beaten by the Bulgarian police.
- On 26.12.1990 again in Blagoevgrad in front of the Road administration, the Macedonians collected signatures again, but the police broke off this action as well. One Macedonian was arrested and many beaten.
- On 20th of April 1991 we organized assembly at the tomb of the Macedonian hero Yane Sandanski. The Bulgarian police and military prevented the assembly and pushed us off to the fields. Our power generator and our sound system were confiscated.
- On 04.05.1991 in Blagoevgrad members of UMO "Ilinden" put down flowers on the Statue of Goce Delchev (the most popular Macedonian hero from the beginning of 20th century). The Bulgarian police interfered, one Macedonian was arrested, and a few were beaten.
- On 19.04.1992 the Attorney general of Bulgaria Ivan Tatarchev banned the gatherings of UMO "Ilinden" to the tomb of Yane Sandanski in the Rozhen Monastery. The Macedonians were physically prevented from attending the monastery by the Bulgarian police, and many Macedonians were beaten.
DOCUMENTS AND TESTIMONIES

The United Macedonian Organization "Ilinden" was founded on the 14th of April 1990 in the city Sandanski (Pirin Macedonia) in the apartment of Vihren Zaprev. A couple of delegates from many illegal Macedonian organizations attended the meeting. The name United Macedonian Organization "Ilinden" (UMO "Ilinden"). Blagoevgrad was chosen as the main headquarters for the organization, as Pirin Macedonia's biggest city. This meeting chose the following people and functions:

- Sokrat Danailov Markilov (Honorary president)
- Stojan Georgiev Tomovichin (President)
- Jordan Kostadinov Ivanov (vice-president)
- Petar Marchev (Secretary)
- Atanas Kiryakov (Main coordinator)

Assembly of coordination:
- Members:
  - Jordan Berbatov
  - Teodosij Popov
  - Krasimir Tuparev
  - Georgi Suharev
  - Kostadin Zlatinov
  - Dimitar Karamachev
  - Kiril Ivanov (Treasurer)

Board of control and revision:
- Ivan Gurov
- Vihren Zaprev

The Constitution and Program were also founded. Part of the Program says:
Pirin Macedonia as a part of the whole Macedonia belongs to the Macedonian nation, who was formed even in ancient times, and continued its existence during the Ottoman empire and accomplished its national independence even after it was torn apart from the war separation treaty between Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia in 1912, until today.

The Macedonians are differed from their neighbours: Bulgarians, Serbians, Greeks and Albanians by their language, culture, folklore and national psychology. Today they are so separated as a community, just like all other nations that speak Slavic: Serbians, Croatians, Slovenians, Russians, Polish, Bulgarians, Czechs and Ukrainians.

Pirin Macedonia has over 90% Macedonian Christians and Macedonian Muslims with a Macedonian national self-awareness and only 5% are Bulgrophiles, who are the fruits of the Bulgarian assimilation politics from the XIX and XX century. 2% are Turks and Gypsies.

The name Macedonia, Macedonian represents pride, dignity and joy for the person, it's a name that was given to us by our ancestors and is still with us.

With the Macedonian crest /lion/ of Philip and Alexander the Great of Macedon, we wield the flag as a symbol of our national liberating struggles for a Macedonian country.

The Lion can be found in Macedonia in churches and monasteries. That's why Macedonia is not a geographical region and term, but a meaning, content, condition and dignity of a nation, who is proud and dies for Macedonia.

UMO "Ilinden" is a receiver and follow-up on the many national-liberating battles for an independent Macedonian country.

UMO "Ilinden" is a receiver and follow-up of the national-liberating movements in Pirin Macedonia for its independence.

After Macedonia was divided in 1912, and until 1944, the Macedonian fighters and descendants of Damyan Gruev, Yane Sandanski, continued their life struggle.

Rivers of blood run again in Macedonia. The killers of Ferdinand, Boris the Third, Aleksandar Tsankov, Todor Aleksandrov, Vancho Mihailov
and others prevent the development of the national identity of the Macedonians in Pirin Macedonia, seeding fear and terror among the people.

The fights for national independence did not stop until the period of 1948 until 1989 when the totalitarian regime of the communist party systematically destroyed the Macedonians and suppressed all ideas for independence. (...)

*  

During the founding of UMO "Ilinden", the Constitution was also founded. It says:

**CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED MACEDONIAN ORGANIZATION "ILINDEN"

Section 1. UMO "Ilinden" has a goal to unite all the Macedonians, citizens of Bulgaria, based on culture.

Section 2. In agreement with section 19 and 20 of the Helsinki Declaration and section 52 from the Constitution of Bulgaria, UMO "Ilinden" will work on the acceptance of the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria.

Section 3. UMO "Ilinden" will be organized on the territory principle.
A) UMO "Ilinden" will form its own section in every habitation.
B) Every section will be led by a local person.
C) All the areas of UMO "Ilinden" will be led by the Assembly of coordination based in Blagoevgrad.

Section 4. Anyone can be a member of the organization, no matter his political or party views, religion, language and social condition, and who isn't involved in anything dishonorable in the society.

Section 5. Acceptance of new members will be done by giving a statement to the region section.

Section 6. Any member that does something unacceptable to the organization, will be excluded.

Section 7. UMO "Ilinden" is a voluntary organization. Every member can leave the organization if they wish to.

Section 8. UMO "Ilinden" does not fight for splitting of the whole territory of Bulgaria.

Section 9. UMO "Ilinden" will not use violence, brutal and inhuman activities in order to achieve their goals.
Section 10. UMO "Ilinden" opposes any type of separatism, antagonism, assimilation and genocide.

Section 11. UMO "Ilinden" supports the right of a full declaration of a person's nationality, regardless of his ethnic and religious belonging.

Section 12. The members of UMO "Ilinden" are bound to help each other as brothers.

Section 13. UMO "Ilinden" is represented to the world by a president, secretary and spokesman.

Section 14. The Assembly of coordination consists of 11 men which include: president, vice president, secretary, main coordinator and spokesman. (...)

Section 15. The Assembly of coordination will be chosen every year.

Section 16. UMO "Ilinden" will organize a congress every year on August 2nd, the day of the Ilinden uprising in 1903.

Section 17. The highest function of UMO "Ilinden" is the Congress, and the Assembly of Coordination will respond to it.

Section 18. The Congress gets to choose the Assembly and it gives a position to a member via voting.

Section 19. The Organization will help materially and morally to any members that will need it (repression, fired without a valid cause etc.) and will help in securing their rights.

Section 20. UMO "Ilinden" will supply their assets via membership fees, gifts and other activities concluding the laws of Bulgaria.

Section 21. UMO "Ilinden" will have its own bank account, its symbol and a stamp for printing of the organization's documents.
A massive Macedonian assembly organized by UMO "Ilinden" near the tomb of Yane Sandanski of the Rozhen Monastery. 10 000 Macedonians gathered from Pirin Macedonia. The assembly took place on 22. 04. 1990.

The famous Macedonian activist and sufferer Sokrat Markilov with his wife (22.04.1990)
To the president of the District Court
City of Blagoevgrad

PETITION
from the members of the
UNITED MACEDONIAN ORGANIZATION "ILINDEN"

Mr. President,

We members of the UMO "Ilinden" ask You to register our organization so we can get a judicial status. By gaining this status, we will be able to open a bank account in the Bank of Bulgaria.

We are convinced that this plea will be approved!

We will contribute the following documents with the plea:
1. Constitution of UMO "Ilinden"
2. Program of UMO "Ilinden"
3. Protocol of the base assembly
4. Declaration of the members - founders

18.04.1990
City Sandanski

"Ilinden"

With respect,

UMO

Flyer from UMO "ILINDEN" from 1990
NO TO THE NEOFASCISM!

UNITED AND INDEPENDENT MACEDONIAN STATE - GUARANTEE FOR STABLE PEACE OF THE BALKAN!

NO TO THE NEW BARTHOLOMEW NIGHT!

MACEDONIANS!

67 years ago, on September 12 1924, according to the instructions of the Bulgarian court (king Boris and the prime minister Aleksandar Tsankov), the sadist, terrorist and self-proclaimed fascist Ivan Mihajlov (Vancho the bloodthirsty), together with a gang of “vrhovists” (Macedonians who were acting for Bulgaria) and traitors of the Macedonian people, bloodied the Macedonian lands with the blood of innocents.

September the 12th 1924 is a black day in the Macedonian history. The massacre started in Gorna Dzumaya with the murder of over 160 Macedonian revolutionaries. This massacre is known as Bartholomew's night. The next day, the river Bistritsa was bloody, and thousands of cries, screams and black scarves covered the enslaved Macedonia and she sank in terror. The massacre brought fear and terror among the Macedonian nation. The Bulgarian government needed a scared and docile Macedonian nation to keep them under slavery. This was a signal for the union of Sofia, Athens and Belgrade against Macedonia. Hundreds of Macedonians were murdered in the Aegean and Vardar part of Macedonia. Today, Macedonia still weeps for her sons. (NAMES TO FOLLOW)

MACEDONIANS, remember the past! Macedonians, don't let the neofascism and vrhovism be reformed! MACEDONIANS, fight for independent Macedonia!

NO TO THE FASCISM!

MACEDONIANS, VOTE FOR A FREE AND INDEPENDENT MACEDONIA!

PUBLISHED BY UMO "ILINDEN"
Flyer from the Macedonian organization "VMRO Independent" of Georgi Solunski
TO THE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
DECLARATION OF

the Memorial assembly, held by the UMO "Ilinden" on 20.IV.1991, in the Rozhen monastery because of the 76th anniversary of the cruel murder of Yane Sandanski.

Gathered here today, in front of the tomb of the legendary Macedonian revolutionary and fighter for a free and independent Macedonian state, us Macedonians from Pirin Macedonia declare ourselves with our historical, legal and national bases to protect the national rights of the Macedonians, relying on the international rights and international contracts from:

2. The common Declaration of the human rights from December 10th 1948.
3. The international pact for citizen and political rights.
4. The final act of the Assembly of safety and in cooperation with Europe (1975) signed in Helsinki by 35 states.
5. The Final document from the Vienna meeting from 15.02.1989.

All these documents have been signed by the Republic of Bulgaria.

Us members of UMO "Ilinden" continue to carry the century long battle of the Macedonian nation for an independent country and we will keep fighting for the national rights of the Macedonians in the Pirin part of Macedonia.

The struggles of this suffering nation never stop for this nation and many evidences can back this up:

- A string of heroic revolutions from the 7th to the 11th century with the final result - founding of the Tsar Samuil's Empire and its harsh destruction with the blinding of 15 000 soldiers.
- A period of the national-liberating struggles (a period crowned with the King Karposh's uprising), the Piyanets-Maleshevo uprising from 1876, the Kresna uprising in 1879 and the heroic Ilinden uprising from 1903.

The road for freedom of the Macedonian nation was prevented many times by:
The military alliance for the separation of Macedonia in 1912 and the genocide and assimilation of the Macedonian nation by Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece.

The First and Second World War took place on Macedonia's territory for influence.

The repression and assimilation did not stop even after WW2.

UMO "Ilinden" realized that since the 10th of November 1989 the relations between the national Macedonian assembly of Pirin Macedonia and the Bulgarian government hadn't changed, but on the contrary, the people had been discriminated against and assimilated.

The registration of UMO "Ilinden" was refused by the Supreme Court. The congress of the organization on August 2nd was brutally prevented, and armed forces were used, and it nearly led to bloodshed.

The refusal of the Bulgarian government to acknowledge the rights of the Macedonian nation gives us a lawful right and base to declare our protest and make our demands:

1. Our stolen national rights should be regulated in agreement with the cross-nation agreements for minority rights.

2. Establishing the Macedonian language, history and culture in all the schoolbooks and education facilities in Pirin Macedonia.

3. The right to stream radio and TV shows in Macedonian language in Blagoevgrad.

4. Lessons for teaching of the Macedonian language, history and folklore for the Macedonians in Bulgaria and Radio Sofia.

5. To stop the assimilation and the destruction of the Macedonian culture.

6. The right of books and print in the Macedonian language.

7. For the Nevrokop eparchy to unite with the Macedonian Orthodox Autocephaly Church with a center in Ohrid. For a Macedonian archbishop to be chosen and the Church of Pirin Macedonia to be independent from the Bulgarian.

8. All Bulgarian political parties and organizations in the Pirin part of Macedonia to be dismissed or to be renamed to Macedonian ones, which will protect the national rights of the Macedonians.

9. The Bulgarian national, neofascist and pro-Bulgarian parties and organizations should be banned for leading propaganda in favor of Great
Bulgaria and for assimilation of the Macedonian nation, in agreement with section 20 of the National pact of citizens and political rights.

10. UMO "Ilinden" condemns the politics of the Bulgarian Socialist Party that brought fear and terror in the Macedonian nation in Pirin after the genocide, terror and all other inhuman actions for destroying the national dignity of the Macedonians by the Bulgarian government in the period of 1912 until 1991.

11. UMO "Ilinden" will make big efforts to drive away the fear, stress and nervousness from the people in Pirin Macedonia, and condemns the communists who were a blind weapon of the April line in the destruction of the Macedonian national rights.

12. We demand for the politicians and the members of the security services to be brought to court because of the violations they caused against the Macedonian Muslims and Christians because of their national identity or religious beliefs.

13. UMO "Ilinden" will cooperate with the government and request for the parties and organizations who manipulated the Macedonian history to be held responsible.

14. Giving the status of a total commercial, cultural and political autonomy of Pirin Macedonia. The Bulgarian occupation army to leave Pirin Macedonia.

15. Right to demand an economical help from the Western countries for development of the village commerce and tourism in Pirin Macedonia.

16. If our demands aren't met by the Bulgarian government, UMO "Ilinden" will step up to the UN, the European community and the European parliament and step up to the Great forces in the interests of peace in the Balkans and Europe, to avoid war conflicts by the strong nationalism in Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece and Albania with the following demands:

- To negate the union from February 20th 1912 between Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece.

- For the occupiers to leave the enslaved territories of Macedonia who forcefully split Macedonia up in the Treaty in London on May 30th 1913.

- Uniting Macedonia protected under UN with a state system according to a western European mould.

- Putting an end to the century-long battles between the Balkan nations.

(20th April 1991)
For the chief of RDVR Blagoevgrad

We inform you that on July 21 1991 on Saturday at 10:30 AM on the "Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov" square - in Pirin Macedonia, UMO "Ilinden" will organize a ceremony for the 88th anniversary of the Ilinden uprising. We would like you to preserve the public peace during the ceremony.

24.07.1991
Blagoevgrad

KS of UMO "Ilinden"
President: St. Georgiev
Secretary: J. Berbatov

APPEAL
To the Macedonians of Pirin Macedonia

PIRIN MACEDONIA IS A PART OF THE WHOLE MACEDONIA AND BElongs purely to the Macedonian nation

Dear compatriots,
On October 13, 1991, elections will be held for the national representatives in the National assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria.
Brothers and sisters Macedonians, who will you give your vote to?.. All Bulgarian parties practice assimilation politics and negate your right to be Macedonians and children of your parents. Will you vote for the assimilators and nationalists? If the Serbian nationalism killed the Croatian people today, won't the Bulgarian one destroy the Macedonian tomorrow?
Brothers and sisters Macedonians,
Vote only when Pirin Macedonia will have Macedonian ethnic parties, who will fight united for your interests, national and political rights to all Macedonians.
UMO "Ilinden" calls for the Macedonian intelligence.
Learn that your parents worked 16 hours a day to raise you and educate you, and BSP deprives you from your national awareness. Don't be traitors of the Macedonian idea and for your grandfathers, who died in the fight for freedom.

- Intellectuals of SDS, don't accept the causes of the “mihailovists” and nationalists - it's the first step of national betrayal. Don't let your children be betrayers!

- We should never forget that it's exactly the national nihilism and betrayal towards Macedonia that led to the disunion of the national-liberating movement, after Macedonia was split up, to the century long tragedy of a proud and freedom-loving nation.

Dear compatriots!

Don't give your vote to political power-loving nationalists! YOUR every vote is a vote against our own nation! The current red or blue tyranny already committed physical and moral violations against UMO "Ilinden", an organization that keeps the battle of our nation for a free and independent Macedonian country.

Your vote should be the vote for the future of your children, for the future of peace and progress, for the future of the light!

UMO "ILINDEN"

DECLARATION

On the conference of UMO "Ilinden" held on 23.11.1991 in the village Mosomishte, Blagoevgrad, a few negative and positive statements and declarations were looked through, made by a few members of the organization.

Some points of the Declaration of UMO "Ilinden" read on 20.04.1991 in the assembly in the Rozhen monastery for the 75th anniversary of the tragic death of Jane Sandanski, addressed to the president and the Great people's Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria and entered as an official document of KEBS in Moscow, are completely opposite with the Constitution and Program of UMO "Ilinden":

7. For the Nevrokop eparchy to unite with the Macedonian Orthodox Autocephaly church with a center in Ohrid. For a Macedonian archbishop to
be chosen and the Church of Pirin Macedonia to be independent from the Bulgarian.

8. All Bulgarian political parties and organizations in the Pirin part of Macedonia to be dismissed or to be renamed to Macedonian ones, which will protect the national rights of the Macedonians.

14. Giving the status of a total commercial, cultural and political autonomy of Pirin Macedonia. The Bulgarian occupation army to leave Pirin Macedonia.

The Conference of UMO "Ilinden" rejects these points as they are in contrary to the Constitution and the statements like "Bulgarians go back in Asia!" and "Birth of the neofascism in Bulgaria as a policy from the president Zelju Zelev".

UMO "Ilinden" with agreement of point 1 in its Constitution is a legal, volunteering and non-party and independent organization, which protects the rights, freedom and interests of the Macedonians and other minorities, that live in the Pirin part of Macedonia, as well as Macedonian fugitives who live in Bulgaria, no matter their religion, gender, social status, material and society position.

Point 6. The main goal of UMO "Ilinden" is a spiritual uniting of the Macedonians from the three parts of Macedonia, as well as the Macedonians all around the world.

UMO "Ilinden" does not want to disturb the territorial wholeness of the Balkan states.

(Declaration from the Conference in Musomishte by the members of UMO "Ilinden", who did not agree with the previous Declaration of UMO "Ilinden". These members later founded the organization UMO "Ilinden" - Democratic movement)

TO THE MUNICIPALITY ASSEMBLY OF BSP - BLAGOEVGRAD
TO THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SDS - BLAGOEVGRAD
TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE OF BZNS - BLAGOEVGRAD
TO THE TELEVISION CENTER - BLAGOEVGRAD
TO THE EDITORIAL OF "PIRINSKO DELO"
The Assembly of organization of UMO "Ilinden" invites you to attend the festive mark of the 88 anniversary from the Ilinden uprising. The Ilinden festivities week will start on july 27 1991 (Saturday) at 10:30 AM in the city of Bansko on the "Nikola Yonkov Vaptsarov" square, and will end with and on 02.08.1991.

Welcome to the week of Ilinden festivities, organized by UMO "Ilinden".

24.07.1991
Blagoevgrad

KS OF OMO "ILINDEN"
PRESIDENT
St. Georgiev
SECRETARY
J. Berbatov
Бугарĳа е обврзана да ги почитува правата на малцинствата

Република Бугарĳа е обврзана целосно да ги почитува сите права на правата на правата на малцинствата. Она, меѓу другото, го рече вашиот концер на ОБСЕ за малцинствата Макѕ Ван дер Штул оценирајќи на посетата на правата на малцинствата во Скопје.

Со усвоеноста на права на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на правата на пра
PROTOCOL

Today, 13.XI.1991 in 16:00 in the Court house - Blagoevgrad the District committee with the First Blagoevgrad multi-mandate district, held a meeting with: Nezabravka Pokrovnishka, Georgi Hristov, Asen Boshankov, Snezana Popova, Marija Atanasova, Valentin Hristov, Irenka Topalova, Biljana Dimova, Krum Popovski, Veselin Parlakov and Ivan Popov.

The meeting had the following agenda:

1. Looking at the proposal of the Initiative committee for the registration of Atanas Georgiev Kiryakov as an independent candidate for a deputy.

   Report: Georgi Hristov - vice president of the Committee.

After the discussion, the District elective committee DECIDED:

Unanimous refusal of the registration of Atanas Georgiev Kiryakov as an independent candidate for a deputy in the First Blagoevgrad multi-mandate elective district. The decision can be appealed in four days before the Committee in accordance with Section 3 from the Law of choosing national ambassadors, district advisors and headmen.

MOTIVES:

The District committee refused the registration of Atanas Georgiev Kiryakov for the following reasons:

The requirements of the Law for choosing of national deputies, district advisors and headmen Section 41, 5 and 6, were not met. The documents are represented for the initiative assembly by seven people. The lists of a total of 2258 electors written on 151 pages was presented. It's concluded that the list includes 2258 names. Out of them, 353 aren't consistent with the names and numbers of EGN, 25 names are repeated, 13 are minors, 21 aren't in the district, and 37 missing in the data of ESGRAON.

Therefore, in the proposed list we can see the votes of 1809 electors, which is below the minimum as required by Section 41, 5 of 2000 electors.

COMMITTEE
President:
N. Pokrovnishka
Vice president: As. Boshankov
Vice president: G. Hristov
Secretary: Sn. Popova
Members:
1. M. Atanasova
2. B. Hristov
3. Ir. Topalova
4. Kr. Popovski
5. L. Dimova
6. Z. Parljakov
7. Iv. Popov

A fax from the first page of the Protocol that rejected the candidature of Atanas Kiryakov, member of UMO "Ilinden"

CENTRAL ELECTION COMMITTEE
DECISION 127-A

Or: Confirming the decision of the District elective committee
An appeal has been made to the President of the initiative assembly Kiril Ivanov for the candidature of an independent candidate in the First multi-mandate elections against the decision of RIK - Blagoevgrad on 13.09.1991 for the rejection of the registration.

The Central committee established that the complaint is groundless because the demands of the Law for choosing of national deputies, district advisors and headmen Section 41, 5 and 6, were not met. The lists of a total of 2258 electors written on 151 pages was presented. It's concluded that the list includes 2258 names. Out of them, 353 aren't consistent with the names and numbers of EGN, 25 names are repeated, 13 are minors, 21 aren't in the district, and 37 missing in the data of ESGRAON.

Because of the abovementioned data and based on Section 35, 2 of ZINPOSK, the Central elective committee DECIDED:

The appeal made by Kiril Ivanov has been rejected, as it is baseless and the decision made by the District committee - Blagoevgrad has been confirmed.

President:
Secretary:

APPEAL

FROM THE MACEDONIAN UNITED ORGANIZATION "ILINDEN"
MACEDONIANS, YOU WHO LIVE IN THE PIRIN PART OF MACEDONIA!
DON'T VOTE ON THE ELECTIONS!!!
DON'T BELIEVE THE LIES AND FALSE PROMISES BY MANY POLITICAL PARTIES!
HOW LONG WILL YOU ALLOW TO BE FOOLED AND USED AS THEY PLEASE! DON'T YOU SEE THAT THEY DON'T RECOGNIZE OUR HISTORY, LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND NOT EVEN OUR CHURCH! THEY DON'T RECOGNIZE US AS A NATION, NOR AS PEOPLE! THEY TREAT US LIKE SLAVES! WE ARE PURPOSELY PUT IN THE HARDEST ECONOMICAL SLAVERY WHICH HAS REFLECTED ON OUR GRANDPARENTS, OUR FATHERS AND OURSELVES. WE BELIEVE THAT YOU DON'T WANT TOMORROWS DAY TO BE DARKER AND SADDER FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.
OPPRESSED MACEDONIANS!
MACEDONIA CAN NOT WAIT!
RAISE YOUR HEADS! WAKE UP!
THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS ABOUT YOU!
MACEDONIANS,
WITHOUT THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE MACEDONIAN NATION, THERE IS NO DEMOCRACY!!!

PUBLISHED BY UMO "ILINDEN"

MACEDONIA - PAIN IN OUR SOUL
Macedonia is a pain in my soul. When they try to lie me with it, when we're beaten for it, I have a wish to just stand up straight and yell out: ENOUGH!
I wouldn't want to oppose the Bulgarian politicians, historians and press, who are often advised to back down on their words, but I want to believe that times are changing for the better.

To me, democracy is protection and respect for the common human values.

And because I'm thinking of Macedonia and the Macedonians, I'd like to ask:

- Who gives you the right to scare the people in the Pirin part of Macedonia? To be afraid from their compatriots from Vardar Macedonia and to not show interest to their compatriots in the Aegean Macedonia?

This is proof of your hellish plans and for the lack of power to assimilate a nation. You convince the Bulgarians that Macedonia is yours, but you're afraid of a United Macedonia and the free lives of the Macedonian people.

(...) Extract from an article in the newspaper "Skornuvanje" ("Rising") of UMO "Ilinden" (22.11.1991)

Hello Atanas,

I honestly applaud you for the victory that is the publishing of the first issue of the newspaper.

You don't know how happy we, the Macedonians in Sofia, are with the newspaper that we awaited for so long.

Atanas, I don't know what happened, but the first issue never made it here. One of our men, that you know as well, accidentally ran into it and brought it for us to read it. We loved how it's made and we're all thankful for it. Could you please send us 10 copies of the following issues for the Sofia organizations? I personally beg you to send a copy of the first issue as well, if there's any left. Please reply how we can send you money for the newspapers. Today, one person complained that you sent him twelve copies, but he still hasn't received them.

Atanas, I can't write anymore for obvious reasons, even though I'm sending you this letter via a friend. He will leave tomorrow on 24.12.1991 for the village Lozenitsa, near Melnik and his name is Georgi Vasilev (from the same village).
Atanas, I have old archived photographs from Macedonia from 1912. I can make you reproductions of some of them and send them to you. I have them so I can gift them to free Macedonia. Let me know when you are coming to Sofia on my home phone 79-64-11 Angel Micev. We will talk about everything when we see each other.

I believe in you and I'm with you because you're the only one brave enough to tell the truth about the Macedonians to the monsters of the court.

I'll be waiting for a response,
With respect,
A. Micev
23.12.1991

Respected Judge,

TO THE SUPREME COURT – SOFIA

35
We categorically protest against the manipulation of the District court - Blagoevgrad with the Protocol number 5 from 11.07.1990, which is butchered, untrue and incomplete.

We beg you to keep in mind this fact, as we beg for our statement to be written down correctly, word by word. Because we've been following the events with great attention, we the members of UMO "Ilinden", Macedonians by nationality, expect the Macedonian issue to be resolved above all. The Macedonian issue is known all across the world. All attempts to solve it have been without any results and with many injustices. Neither the reforms during the Turkish regime, nor the criminal robberies and splitting during the Balkan wars, nor the bloody fascist slavery, nor the totalitarian dictator regime led to the solving of the Macedonian issue and peace in the Balkans, and with that, peace in Europe. We Macedonians in our distant and close past have given a lot of proof that we won't be subject to any foreign influence whether it's Bulgarian, Serbian or Greek. The rebellions have proven this point many times. If we haven't succeeded yet, we are not to blame, but other factors that play a part, and in fact only supported the regime of political injustice and slavery of the Macedonian nation (…)

UNITED MACEDONIAN ORGANIZATION "ILINDEN"

The organization got its name on April 14th 1990 in the city Sandanski and united four organizations under the common name UMO "Ilinden".

The Organization created a Program and a Constitution and pleaded for a registration in the District court in Blagoevgrad.

In 1991, there's been a new Program and Constitution, that conclude with the National contracts and the National rights, and this organization will work for a cultural development of the people from the assimilation politics of the Bulgarian nationalism.

Is UMO "Ilinden" illegal and will it be ban by the state court? The answer is no. Concluding with the national agreements and the national rights and the states that participated in Copenhagen in June 1990, in the founded documents, section 7 reads:

"The states that participated secure the right of the individuals to create in their total freedom political parties or other political organizations".
Here is why UMO "Ilinden", as unregistered by the Supreme court of Bulgaria, is legal and has a right to develop its activities by the Program and Constitution. Under the influence of the evil Bulgarian nationalistic program aimed against UMO "Ilinden", some are afraid and don't dare enter the ranks of the organization.

The Bulgarian nationalistic propaganda to assimilate the Macedonians has been shaken down to the core, and that's why violence is used against the Organization that fights to protect the national rights of the Macedonians in Pirin Macedonia and Bulgaria.

UMO "Ilinden" is under the protection of the National contracts and National rights.

UMO "Ilinden" will exist in future.

Yordan Kostadinov
Official note from the Bulgarian police for the taken passport of Atanais Kiryakov according to Section 7 (letter G). This section of the Bulgarian law refers to "a person who disturbs the territorial integrity of the state of Bulgaria".

STATEMENT

By ATANAS GEORGIEV KIRYAKOV - citizen of Blagoevgrad,
lives on "Slavjanska" no. 11

Mr. prosecutor,
On 16.09.1990 the organs of State security RDVR in Blagoevgrad confiscated my passport, series K number 0132903, published by MVR of Blagoevgrad, for political reasons.
I consider that my passport is held ILLEGALLY and should be handed to me urgently. I have never been investigated or convicted.
I'm sending you copies of the following documents:
1. Official note from RDVR in Blagoevgrad for the confiscation of my passport on 16.09.1990
2. Testimony by the court number 5673/05/09.1991

23.01.1991
Blagoevgrad
Atanas Kiryakov
MARIJA DIMITROVA ZOTEVA - District prosecutor in Blagoevgrad, after I read through the materials in the article Vh. no. 388/92, according to the description of your charge,

I ESTABLISHED THAT:

Your plea to the prosecutor could not be accepted. The grounds of the actions of the prosecutor are unclear.

Following the content of Section 14 of the Law of passports across the border, "the confiscation of the passport can be pleaded in agreement with the Law of administrative production".

In this case, after the chief of RDVR - Blagoevgrad took your passport, the complaint can be handled by the higher administrative organ.

Because of this,

I CONCLUDED:

I am ABOLISHING the act Vh. no. 388/92 after the description of our prosecution.

The resolution for the abolishment can be appealed in 7 days.

Send a copy of the resolution to Atanas Kiryakov

District prosecutor,
M. Zoteva
TO THE PROGRESSIVE WORLD PUBLIC
STATEMENT

By Atanas Georgiev Kiryakov - Citizen of Blagoevgrad, Macedonian by nationality

On 16.09.1990 the organs of State security to RDVR in Blagoevgrad confiscated my passport, series K number 0132903, published by MVR of Blagoevgrad, for political reasons.
I consider that my passport is held ILLEGALLY and should be handed to me urgently. I have never been investigated or convicted.
The passports of Bozidar Kiryanov of the city Sandanski and Boyan Bachev of Blagoevgrad have also been confiscated.

1 March 1992
Blagoevgrad

19.06.1992

TO ATANAS GEORGIYEV KIRYAKOV
Slavjanska 11

Your demand has not been met because it's not in agreement with Section 9 of the Law of changes and additions to the Law of cross-border passports (DV no. 38/1989). The confiscation can be appealed at ZAP.

Prosecutor:
(Sn. Kacarska)
Adm. Secretary
(Il. Hristova)
APPEAL TO THE MACEDONIANS IN BULGARIA

The United Macedonian Organization "Ilinden" appeals to the Macedonians in Bulgaria in this decisive moment to address this historical event with great responsibility - the census of the population. As all our brothers in the Republic of Macedonia on the referendum of September 8th nearly 100% decided for an independent Macedonian state, so should we, without any gear, use our right of free nationality and declare proudly that we are MACEDONIANS!

It's a great delusion what is constantly written in the media in Bulgaria that the Macedonian nation is a "Comintern creation" and that we are not Macedonians, but "pure Bulgarians"!

For centuries the Macedonian nation has fought for its cultural, spiritual and political freedom.

There are numerous famous dates in the history of the Macedonian nation, as there are many victims that fell for mother Macedonia, all in the name of our common homeland.

The Comintern wasn't even created when the Skopje Metropolitan Theodosius led a harsh battle against the Bulgarian patriarchate to separate the Ohrid Archiepiscopy from the Bulgarian Orthodox church and to separate it as an independent, separate Macedonian church.

Isn't it a real paradox what is happening today by Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece? (…) (1992)

MOURNFUL COMMEMORATION
It's been 40 days since the death of Sokrat Danailov Makrilov (aged 72)

For years I tried, I built a home and a living place, I created a family, I raised children, I lived, I suffered. I wore shackles. I was locked in a dark cell where the tyrant tortured me because I fought for the freedom of my homeland Macedonia.

Don't mourn me, brothers Macedonians! Heads up, sing "Biser Balkanski" (“Balkans’ pearl” is a popular Macedonian folk song) and keep fighting for the only thing our tortured nation has wanted - freedom!

Let my death be an eternal curse upon the Macedonian enemies, greedy slavedrivers, without a drop of honor, without a drop of shame.

The funeral will be held on 12.09.1993 at 10 AM on the Petrich cemetery.

UMO "ILINDEN"
Monument of the Macedonian revolutionary Gotse Delchev sculpted by Georgi Suharov from Petrich and placed in his yard.
Nasko,

There won't be a council before the congress on 6.III.94. Reasons: a few days ago I was physically violated by some secret agents, I was economically punished and many of my farm animals were slaughtered. I cannot organize the meeting in these conditions.

2.III.94

G. Suharov

Petrich
ANNOUNCEMENT:

On 01.10.1994 in the village Mosomishte, near the area Gotse Delchev, an assembly was held in which the United Macedonian organization "Ilinden" - the Democracy movement (OMO "Ilinden" - DM)

A program and constitution were chosen and so were the leaders.

UMO "Ilinden" DN is a legal, democratic and non-partisan organization of the Macedonians in Pirin Macedonia and Bulgaria.

The Organization will fight for the recognition of the rights of the Macedonian minority in this state with all the legal, democratic and peaceful measures, in agreement with the Laws of Republic of Bulgaria.

UMO "Ilinden" DM will work for a borderless Balkans and Europe.

The Organization declares that its actions will not contribute to the destruction of the territorial integrity of the state and its members are loyal citizens of Republic of Bulgaria.

(From the leaderboard of UMO "Ilinden" DM)

The Macedonians of Blagoevgrad putting down a wreath in front of the monument of Gotse Delchev in Blagoevgrad
Standing: Zarko and Stefan from the village Lozhani

A list of the present members of the Second congress UMO "Ilinden" held on 02.12.1995

1. Asen Georgiev Boev
2. Atanas Traykov Mirchev
3. Nedelcho Sotirov Nedelchev
4. Ivan Borisov Galabov
5. Plamen Iliev Chanov
6. Ilija Eftimov Harizanov
7. Aleksandar Georgiev Paskov
8. Aleksandar Grigorov Andreev
9. Rajna Petrova Milenova
10. Angel Ferdinandov Panov
11. Roza Stefanova Panova
12. Vasilka Anastasova Patonova
13. Georgi Aleksiev Nakov
14. Simeon Lazarov Gochev
15. Ivan Georgiev Boshkov
16. Slave Makedonski
17. Jordan Berbatov
18. Jordan Andrev Gurov
19. Vencho Chernev
20. Maxim Stoyanov Chilev
21. Nikola Zanev
22. Valeri Gyorov
23. Stojan Velikov Marvakov
24. Iliya Kochev
25. Iliya Halachev
26. Veselin Palyushev
27. Atanas Kiryakov
28. Aleksandar Andonov
29. Asen Hadzijski
30. Andrey Zarev
31. Rumen Ivanov
32. Ivan Yosifov
33. Valeri Iliev
34. Sredko Markov

Part of the report of the Second Congress of UMO "Ilinden" held on 02.12.1995
The cover of the brochure "Orisiya" ("A Fate") by a Macedonian historian Aleksandar Donski (short translation and review of his book "Ethnogenetical differences between the Macedonians and the Bulgarians"). This brochure was published in Bulgaria by a Macedonian activist and writer Slave Makedonski in 1997.
Article in Macedonian language prepared by Aleksandar Donski and published as an article in the newspaper "Spiritually United Macedonia", published and freely handed out in Sofia by the writer Slave Makedonski (1997)
Father Strahil Spasov from Blagoevgrad (alone with the company of the archbishop of MPC g. g. Mihail)
Part of the members of the Macedonian Christian brotherhood "St. Iliya" from Blagoevgrad during the celebration of Ilinden near the Macedonian orthodox chapel in the village Pokrovnik, built by the Brotherhood itself.

Part of the publishings of the Macedonian activist and writer Master Slave Makedonski

Part of the publishings of Slave Makedonski
The Bulgarian newspaper "Struma" writes about the activities of UMO "Ilinden" - PIRIN

Higher party forums brings together the Macedonians from Bulgaria in Pirin

UMO "Ilinden" - PIRIN in Kresna organizes the First National Conference

The date of the "congress" clashes with the SDS conference, the comments are: "It's not an accident!"

33 Delegates from the area Blagoevgrad were chosen yesterday to represent the members of UMO "Ilinden" - PIRIN on the First national election conference, planned on February 26 in Kresna. The delegates are from the 10 regions in the city and they each have 5 members of the party. By the end of the week Blagoevgrad will recieve the lists of names of the
delegates from Gotse Delchev, Razlog, Petrich and Sandanski, and the full number of representatives of Pirin is expected to be around 100.

Besides them, next Saturday in the cinema of Kresna the delegates from the rest of the 27 areas in the country will gather as well, explained the leader of the party Atanas Kiryakov.

The agenda will have two points - a report of the past period (the party was officially registered the past year) and an election for the new assembly to lead UMO. At the moment the leaderboard has 5 members with Ivan Singartiski as president, three vice presidents and a secretary, and a president of the Central revision committee.

According to the political observers the date of the official conference of UMO is not chosen by accident - it's the same date as the national conference of SDS. The representatives in this case can openly distance themselves from SDS, because the blues did not support them in either area of Pirin during the elections.
Macedonians - Candidates for the Bulgarian parliament?"

TO THE BULGARIAN PARLIAMENT

Copy to THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT

PROTEST NOTE

From Sofia

72
Dear Gentlemen,

For the second time the Bulgarian court refused the registration of a Macedonian organization based on ethnic grounds, in terms with the Constitution of Republic of Bulgaria.

The Blagoevgrad District court, the Sofia appeals court and the High Court - Sofia in 1999 declined the registration again with the motives:

1. "Bulgaria has no Macedonian minorities. There is no historical, religious, linguistic or ethnic bases for these claims".
2. "In terms of our Constitution, our country has one nation and has no Macedonians".

On these grounds, we are declaring a PROTEST NOTE in which we invite the people of Pirin Macedonia to support us in the protection of our human and national rights because the Macedonians have a thousand year old history, language, religion, culture, tradition and customs, that are negated by the Bulgarian forces. The Constitution of Bulgaria, which was voted by the Bulgarian parliament destroys the elementary democratic principles accepted by the Frame convention for protection of national minorities. The current Constitution contains RACIST IDEOLOGY, which decides if there is or isn't Macedonians or a Macedonian minority.

Us Macedonians in Bulgaria are deprived of:
- Freedom for peaceful gatherings and freedom for befriending.
- We are deprived of the right to express ourselves in our mother tongue, religion, customs and traditions.
- We have no acces to Bulgarian public media.
- Our population in Pirin Macedonia today is deprived from normal living conditions, food, work, social security and security from violence.

We declare our protest against the racist discrimination and asimilation of the Macedonians in Bulgaria by the Bulgarian state institutes and we want to be given and guaranteed the basic human social and national rights in Bulgaria.
The paper "Narodna Volya" ("Peoples’ Will") which after its publishing in London and Australia began to be published in Pirin Macedonia as well. The main editor is Aleksandar Hristov, and then his brother Georgi Hristov. The paper is still published today and it represents one of the most significant Macedonian media in the Pirin part of Macedonia and Bulgaria. Appeal of UMO "Ilinden" in 1999

THE MACEDONIAN MINORITY IN BULGARIA AFTER THE HARD ROAD TO SELF-DETERMINATION
The Macedonian self-awareness has its roots in the ancients past. The struggle to acknowledge the Macedonian minority has never stopped. Today it's led in the modern democratic way and with peaceful methods. Many contracts, declarations and deals can back this up.

The Macedonian minority is specific because it lives compactly in Pirin Macedonia, but the state also has many Macedonian fugitives from Pirin and Aegean Macedonia.

At the moment, the following Macedonian organizations exist:

UMO "Ilinden" - PIRIN, UMO "Ilinden", the Traditional Macedonian organization., the Bulgarian-Macedonian society, the Cultural-sport society "Lighthouse", the Christian brotherhood "St. Iliya" etc.

UMO "Ilinden" - Pirin is not a party just for one minority but it also protects the other minorities that live in Bulgaria. There are many among the Macedonian community who are afraid of economic, political and physical repressions and that's why they can't publicly act. The Macedonian minority can't gain their rights because the Bulgarian government won't acknowledge it's real existence. It's a result of a long-term national position of Bulgarian Communist Party and to the current leaders of SDS (Union of Democratic Foces) and other parties and organizations - their partners. To satisfy their cultural needs, the Macedonian minority should ask for help from the National organizations to protect their rights, the UN and the European Council. This real minority has a need for real material back-up by their compatriots who live in different parts of the world.

To solve the problems of the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria, the following needs to be resolved:

1. Accepting of the Frame convention in Bulgaria and address it to the Macedonian minority.
2. Asking and finding resources for real material help for the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria.
3. Creating a corporate economical program for Pirin Macedonia.
5. Opening of a Macedonian representation in Blagoevgrad.
7. Opening a Macedonian theatre in Blagoevgrad.
8. Creating new cultural relations between reading groups from Pirin Macedonia and Republic of Macedonia, cultural-art gatherings and church organizations in Macedonia, Europe, America, Canada, Australia.


10. Publishing of books, magazines and newspapers in Macedonian language.

11. Giving licence to the radio-TV centers to show programs in Macedonian language.

12. Introducing the Macedonian language in the schools.

13. Delivering the Macedonian language versions of the Bible and the Quran.

14. Building of a memorial monument of the Macedonian fighters who died for the freedom of Macedonia.

15. Access to the archives of BCP and DS from the Communist period of Bulgaria.


17. Returning the confiscated materials by DS from the members of UMO "Ilinden".

18. Stop following the people who have a Macedonian self-identity.

19. Strengthening the economical and traffic relations Strumitsa - Berovo, the corridor Blagoevgrad - Skopje

20. Stimulating and technical relief of the spiritual union of the Macedonians from Pirin, Vardar and Aegean, as well as the whole world.

21. The banished Macedonians from Aegean Macedonia should gain rights to return to their homeland.

With accepting the Frame convention in Bulgaria, we will be given an opportunity to freely express after all the organizations have been registered. When the Bulgarian rights are in tune with the European ones, then the Macedonian minority can gain their rights. The hunger and misery which are a result of unemployment, bring this nation into desperation, apathy and indifference to the problems of their ethnic roots. This brings about their detachment from their traditions, inherited by their ancestors via songs, dances and customs. The Macedonian intelligence is forced to call themselves "Macedonian Bulgarians" in order not to lose their job and products for their
family. At the same time, they spiritually suffer because of the lack of ability
to call themselves however they feel.

Giving collective rights to the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria depends
on other higher organs as well: The European Council, OSCE, Republic of
Macedonia and the UN, and also the diplomatic activity of the Macedonian
diaspora.

The opening of the Macedonian council in Blagoevgrad will solve many
problems for the Macedonians in Pirin Macedonia.

Creating Macedonian cultural homes in the cities of Pirin Macedonia
will give our children the opportunity to continue the traditions of the
Macedonian folklore - authentic and wonderful. The opening of the
Macedonian theater and libraries will allow the Macedonian intelligentsia to
directly see the accomplishments of their compatriots in the areas of art, culture
and literature. The publishing of books and newspapers will please the
minorities in Bulgaria.

The publishing of a Macedonian newspaper that will suit the interests of
the Macedonian minority is a long-awaited act. Everyone will be able to find
something for themselves in it. It is needed to reform the Macedonian self-
awareness and so that the people can live in peace and friendship with all the
minorities. The paper should speak to the people about the need of a peaceful
and tolerant development of their ethnic or religious roots. The content of the
paper will be dedicated to the well-being and culture of the Macedonian
minority, and their socio-political activities will mark the way to the future
development for a higher life standard. By forming this paper, we can oppose
all the newspapers that are published in Bulgaria and preserve the Macedonian
language.

As for the electronic media, us Macedonians in Pirin Macedonia are
surrounded with a great number of local, private and state Radio centers which
always promote, historical and political, pro-Bulgarian facts. We don't want
our ethnicity to be negated. It can't be true that everything that is Macedonian,
was Bulgarian. We need protection on that level, but we're not allowed, unlike
the national legal documents and the Frame convention for minorities.

We should also mention the Macedonian religion - the Orthodox
Christianity and the Muslim religion. Our compatriots are deep believers and
we should gain our rights in this area as well. But, here we see the difference
between the Macedonian territory devision. All the religious holidays are
celebrated 14 days apart. We need for the holidays to even out and for our prayers to be better heard, and therefore the spiritual union of the Macedonians will be greater.

The road for the Macedonian self-determination has always been long and filled with many twists, but the fate of Macedonia has always been in our hands and we believe in a happier future.

The economical and social politics are an indestructable part of the actions of UMO "Ilinden" - Pirin. Its goal is to actually improve the living standards of the Macedonians in the Pirin area. That's why we work for the following steps:

- To not redirect the water resources of Pirin Macedonia to other regions and to provide a better existence of the population.
- The Bulgarian government to make it convenient for foreigners to be able to invest in the agriculture, industry and tourism in order to decrease unemployment in Pirin Macedonia.
- To make it easier to trade between the Balkan states and to establish a wider collaboration in the water farms, power generation, ecology, village industry, tourism, science and education, sport etc.
- To provide tax relief for firms and organizations that will open new places for the unemployed and disabled.

To realize the program of UMO "Ilinden" - Pirin the social life of Bulgaria needs to be democratized to accept the rights of the minorities in terms of the National contracts for protecting the human rights.

17 February 1999
Village Ilindenci
Eng. Kiril Ivanov
UMO "Ilinden"
Македонското малцинство в България по трудни пъти на самосъделяне

Македонското самосъзнаване има своите корени и дневните муходовният за независима, а българското малцинство не е предшестващо. Днес та се води по съвременен демократичен начин чрез широки средства. Предпоставката за този процес е многообразните международни договори и догооварения, декларации и решения на съвместните за правата на малцинствата.

Специфичното за македонското малцинство е това, че то живее компактно в Пиринска Македония, и във вътрешността на страната има много български македонски села от Пиринска и Егейска Македония.


МО "Илидан" - Пирин / "Обединена македонска организация "Илидан" - парламент за македонското развитие и интеграция на населението се на съществена основа и се задължава и останалите малцинства живеещи в Пиринска Македония и България: македонци, гърци, евреи, арменци и др. Има много корена сред македонската интелигенция, което се страхуват от индустриален, политически и физически репресии и не могат да се явяват като такива. Македонското малцинство не може да добие своите права задължително зависи от българското правителство, а и наредом с него реално съществуване. То е под наименовата национално-политическите позиции на БСИ /BSCI/ върху създаването на македонските организации от ОБС и др. и част от организацията - техни създатели, За да задържа своите културни потребности, македонското малцинство трябва да потърси помощта на международните правозащитни организации, Съвета на Европа, ООН. Това реално съществуващо малцинство се нуждае в от реална корена и институционално подкрепа на своите сънародници.
From the collaboration with Macedonians from Australia
PROTOCOL

Today 13.02.2000, was the day when the regional section of UMO "Ilinden" - Pirin was founded, in Orlinovo Maalo. The following members attended the meeting:

1. Kiril Georgiev Kiryakov
2. Krasimir Metodiev Stoyanov
3. Hristo Stefanov Todorski
4. Kostadin Blagoev Rusyakov
5. Zdravko Borisov Stoychev
6. Georgi Andonov Eftimov
7. Grigor Dimitrov Dimov
8. Kiril Kostadinov Terziski
9. Georgi Atanasov Kirekov
10. Zlatka Kirilova Kirekova
11. Andrey Mihailov Dimitrov
12. Stoycho Metodiev Stoyanov

The meeting suggested the following Agenda:
1. Electing a leadership board
2. Electing delegates for the conference on 26.02.2000
3. Electing a candidate for a president of the party.

The president was unanimously suggested and elected to be Kiril Kirekov, and vice-president was going to be Krasimir Stoyanov, who filled the duties of a secretary-treasurer as well.

It was decided on the meeting that, according to the Constitution, the original protocols should be kept by the president, and a copy by the secretary. The membership should be collected by the secretary-treasurer.

As for the second point, it was decided:
1. Kiril Georgiev Kirekov (by the Constitution)
2. Kiril Kostadinov Terziski
3. Kostadin Blagoev Rusakov

For the third point, Atanas Georgiev Kiryakov was suggested and approved to be a candidate.
The fourth point, the Committee decided to use the club at the old bus station until a proper location was provided. The flag and stamp should be kept by the president. Every member should try to attract more members.

05.02.2000
The famous fighter for the human rights of the Macedonians in Greece archimandrite Nikodim Tsarknias and Atanas Kiryakov
INVITATION

To Mr. Atanas Kiryakov, delegate of the National elective conference of UMO ILINDEN PIRIN, which will be held on 26.02.2000 in the city Kresna at 9:00 AM in the Reading saloon, with the following agenda:

1. Lecture from the president of the Party
2. Lecture from the president of CKRK
3. Change of the constitution
4. Approving the program for the following two years
5. Choosing leading organs
6. Approving other documents

President: Eng. Ivan Singartiski

PROTOCOL NUMBER 1

84
Today at 09.02.200 (Wensday) the city district section of UMO "Ilinden" - PIRIN was based for the "Beach" district.

The meeting was attended by:

1. Kostadin Slavchov Berovski
2. Spas Lazarov Zahariev
3. Kiril Venov Novoselski
4. Atanas Georgiev Kiryakov
5. Maria Ognanova Atanasova
6. Slavcho Kirilov Popovski
7. Lubomir Yordanov Vasilev
8. Zlatko Petrov Bachev
9. Mario Kostadinov Grahovski
10. Georgi Milushev Malchev
11. Kiril Vladimir Hristov
12. Toma Dimchov Filipov
13. Blagoy Angelov Dupkarski
14. Ivan Stoyanov Suharov
15. Rozalina Filchova Haidushka

The meeting happened with the following agenda:

1. Electing a leader of the city section
2. Electing delegates of the congress on 26.02.2000
3. Suggestion for the president of the party

Atanas Georgiev Kiryakov was unanimously chosen as a president. Konstantin Slavchov Berovski was chosen to be the vise president. Spas Lazarov Zahariev was chosen as the secretary. The three leaders had equal rights.

The following were suggested as delegates: Spas Lazarov Zahariev, Konstantin Slavchov Berovski and Lubomir Yordanov Vasilev. The three candidates were accepted via voting, and Maria Ognanova was chosen as a standby.

Aleksandar Borisov was chosen as a candidate to be the president.

As a suggestion by Berovski, the city district section decided to carry the name Macedonian revolutionist "Pitu Guli".
All the present members were responsible for finding a club (room) for the activities. The suggestion made by Berovski for respect between everyone was accepted. It was decided for the membership fee to be paid according to the Constitution, and for pensioners, students and unemployed the fee should be 0.20 lev.

The original protocol should be kept by the president, and the secretary should have a copy.

The Macedonian committee "Pitu Guli" will have its own stamp, flag and documentation.

09.02.2000
Blagoevgrad

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Decision no. 1
From 29 February 2000
In terms with the Constitutional work no. 3 from 1999.

The constitutional court with the president Zivko Stalev and the members: Asen Manov, Tsanko Hadzistoychev, Stanislav Dimitrov, Nedelcho Beronov, Dimitar Gocev, Stefanka Stoyanova, Ivan Grigorov, Todor Todorov, Aleksandar Arabadziev, Georgi Markov, Margarita Zlatareva, together with the secretaries Enita Enikova and Silviya Vasileva looked through the Constitutional work on 25th November 1999, referred by Tsanko Hadzistoychev.

The work was created on March 4 1999. After the demand of 61 delegates from the XXXVIII National meeting.

The Court is entitled to use the force according to section 149, 1, 5 of the constitution. It was decided for the center of the UMO "Ilinden"-Pirin to be Blagoevgrad. There were claims of its anti-constitution based on the section 11, 4, 44 from the Constitution, as well as the constitution principles, proclaimed in the Preamble, more specifically to preserve the national and state unity of Bulgaria.
According to the demand, the activities of UMO "Ilinden"-Pirin that happened before and after it was registered by a court show that "their goals are aimed towards the unity of the Bulgarian nation, integrity and territorial unity of the state". It was pointed out that the organization was basically formed in 1990 as a sequel to the organization "Ilinden", whose final goal was "creating an independent Macedonian country by separating Pirin Macedonia from Bulgaria". In the demand, it was stated that this party has a separatist character and it is factually built on ethnic grounds, even though there is no such ethnicity in Bulgaria."

With the decision on March 9 1999, the Constitutional court allowed this demand to be looked into. With the same decision the court determined all the interested parties.

These parties (with the exception of the Ministerial assembly) used the given opportunity and presented their stances.

The stance of the interested party, signed by the president, disagreed with this demand. It was pointed out that UMO "Ilinden"-Pirin is a democratic party which uses this constitution and the laws of Bulgaria. It was stated that "we will support it and we will always support the government to quickly bring Bulgaria closer to the Euro-Atlantic structures".

The stances of the National committee (made by the committee by the public issues and laws against corruption and was unanimously accepted), were that they support the demand and want it to be accepted.

As for the Bulgarian Helsinki committee and the Bulgarian center for human rights the demand is groundless and should be rejected.

The stances of the ministry for internal affairs and the public prosecutor presented evidences as well. The ministry gave letters no. 8739 from 01.11.1999 and no. 9377 from 23.11.1999. The sections 12802/98 from the Sofia court and 5/90 76198 from the Blagoevgrad court were also presented.

Many documents were presented and the representatives of the opposing side gave written statements. In the three day period that was given, extra documents for UMO "Ilinden" were delivered by the Bulgarian-Helsinki committee.

The Constitutional court looked through all the evidences and materials before they made their decisions, and concluded the following:

1. For the meaning of the activities:
For the constitution, one party should be judged based on its activity above all. It is not enough to just evaluate it over the declaration of its constitution and program. The constitution could be just a facade and that's why we need to see the practical activities of the party. The European court for human rights had this stance as well, in Strasburg.

The Constitutional court does not accept the explanation that "the activities of a political party if under the ban of section 44 from the Constitution, aren't affected by the conflict of their constitution according to section 149 from the Constitution".

The permission from the Supreme court cannot limit the constitutional control. The Constitution via section 149, 2 forbids for the Constitution to be taken away and it has priority over other laws. From this point of view, the Constitution cannot be eliminated from the possible grounds, which can lead to a conflict between the essence of the Constitution and the elected party. according to section 149, 1, 5 from the Constitution.

2. For UMO "Ilinden" and UMO "Ilinden"-Pirin

The organization is registered as a political party with decision no. 48 on 12.02.1999 under f.d. no. 12802/98 of the Sofia city court. A Constitution was presented which was adopted by the commitee on 28.02.1998 in the city Gotse Delchev.

UMO "Ilinden"-Pirin is not an original organization, which presents itself for the first time. It has its ancestor and represents its followers.

On April 18, 1990, based on a few illegal organizations, UMO "Ilinden" - Pirin was founded as an non-profit organization based in Blagoevgrad. The Blagoevgrad district court declined its registration. It was concluded that "the goals of the organization and the resources for their achievement are aimed at the national and ethnic hatred, based on anti-Bulgarian grounds and disrupt Bulgaria's independence." The refusal was confirmed by the Supreme court as well. Even though the registration was refused, the organization continued in their activities.

In 1994 something split the organization. A group was formed (cloned) that was called UMO "Ilinden"- Democracy Movement. It declared itself as more moderate than the extremists, but continued the battle for the "Macedonian minority" and solving the Macedonian issue.

In its constitution the symbols "Red flag with a 16-ray Macedonian star" was proposed, but at the time it represented the national symbol of another
country, and the song "Narode Makedonski" (People of Macedonia) was proposed to be the national anthem. The current members of UMO "Ilinden" - Pirin were a part of it, led by Ivan Singartiski, leader of the group at the time, and now president of the party. To complete their goals, he received resources from outside and in an illegal way (article from 01.10.1994).

Another formation after the split is UMO "Ilinden" - Blagoevgrad, led by Kiril Ivanov. He is one of the founders from 1990, one of the leaders of the organization and is leading the party in question.

The two formations of UMO "Ilinden" led by Ivan Singartiski and UMO "Ilinden" - led by Kiril Ivanov were united even after the failure to be registered by the Blagoevgrad court and they managed to register their party in Sofia. That is how OMO "Ilinden" - Pirin was founded and registered.

The citations, based on the claims that there is a link between the registered political party and the unregistered committee from 1990, were accepted by the court as proven and backed up. There are a few arguments for this.

First, both organizations have the same name. As for the adjective PIRIN in the name of the party, it represents an explanation for the party and what it holds. In order to gain the word "PIRIN", part of the activities of the organization were presented, whose initials made the word PIRIN.

Second, one and the same people are leaders and members of the one and the other organization. And something more. The leaders of UMO "Ilinden" - Pirin participated in the illegal congress of UMO "Ilinden" on 02.08.1990 near the village Osthava.

Finally, the president of the disputed party Ivan Singartiski admits these circumstances. In the interview given on 20.10.1999 for the newspaper "New Macedonia", he pointed out the participation in the local elections (1995), where he states: "There was five of us from UMO "Ilinden" then, but illegally". They took advantage of another party. Before this interview Ivan Singartiski in Skopje pointed out that "Bulgaria even today adopts Macedonia's cultural inheritance" and that "Bulgaria was an initiator in the division of Macedonia" etc.

UMO "Ilinden" - Pirin, together with foreign organizations participated in the Declaration of protection of the national ethnicity of the Macedonian nation, and brought to the government of Republic of Macedonia. In section 5 of the Declaration, it was demanded to be publicly published that on the
Macedonian territory, that was temporarily ruled by Greece, Bulgaria and Albania with the Bucharest treaty from 1913, lives a part of the Macedonian nation. It was again claimed that this part of the territory is foreign and it was temporarily given to them.

On 08.10.1990 Atanas Manushkin, candidate from the area Razlog from UMO "Ilinden" - Pirin, stated the following at a press conference in the Agency "Balkan":

"It is claimed by members of the Bulgarian government that if the SDS does not win the elections in Razlog, that region won't receive any supplies. Then, if we win the government will give us the rights of a free choice to say that it is a free territory that will be later decided which direction to take".

The president of the party Ivan Singartski in the interview that we already mentioned goes even further. After he explains that they should be firm and protect the interests of Pirin Macedonia, he states that it should be told to the pime minister Ivan Kostov "We want that, or we will split off Pirin Macedonia".

The letter from 20.07.1999 which Kiril Kostadinov Ivanov, member of the NIS, sends in the name of the party "Open Society" from Budapest is also important. After the problems were pointed out, the desire came up: "for Pirin Macedonia to gain cultural, political and economical autonomy", as well as "the human rights of the Macedonians are more important than the national sovereignty of Bulgaria". The leaders of UMO "Ilinden" - Pirin stated that they are enclosing from Kiril Ivanov, but that happened after the document became public and affected the organization.

From the given facts, we see that the activities are focused around the Pirin part. The disputed party treats this part of our state as a non-Bulgarian land. For them, it's a foreign territory, given to Bulgaria for temporary rulership based on an international treaty. The activities are going in that direction as well, splitting off the territory from Bulgaria.

This is shown by the appeals for autonomy, banned by section 2 from the Constitution. This can be established by the published maps of Macedonia, from the determination of the Pirin part as a part of Macedonia, and from the interpretations of the Balkan wars and the Bucharest contract from 1913, which culminated in threats to split off the Pirin part, unless the demands of the party were met. This threat, because it was made by the president of the
party, does not only represent words, but it's also real and represents the stances of the party itself, supported by its leaders.

The given activities represent an activity aimed at the territorial integrity of the state by section 44, 2 from the Constitution.

The political party that claimed that the part of Bulgaria is foreign and starts acting for its separation is an anti-constitutional party and has no right to exist.

The Constitutional court found it necessary to point out that the effort put into the interpretation of the anti-constitution is in terms with the section 22 from the International agreement for citizen and political rights, as well as section 11 of the European convention for human rights. These parts allow limitations in the right of free association, when they are needed for national security, like in this case. There is no doubt that the activity against the territorial integrity of Bulgaria endangers her national security.

In agreement with the stated facts and based on section 149 and section 44 from the Constitution, the Constitutional court

DECIDED

The UMO "Ilinden" - Pirin party based in Blagoevgrad and registered under the file 12803/98 in the Sofia city Court (23.02.1999) is declared as an anti-constitutional political party.

The judges Stefanka Stoyanova, Aleksandar Arabadziev and Margareta Zlatareva signed this decision with their own opinion.

President: Zivko Stalev
Part of the Macedonian press after the activities of UMO "Ilinden"-Pirin were banned

Even after it was banned, the activities of UMO "Ilinden" continue...
Macedonian Orthodox Community Of Geelong, Victoria, Inc.
Macedonian Orthodox Church
St John The Baptist
Cnr Ballarat & Ballan Rds Batesford P.O. Box 5176 North Geelong Victoria 3215
Telephone (03) 5276 1440 Fax (03) 5276 1140

Atanas Kirjakov
ul. Petko D. Petkov br. 11
2700 Blagoevgrad
Bugarija

Pocituvani A. Kirjakov

Pocituvani braca i sestri od Pirinskiot del na Macedoniia, nanapret od ime na
Upravata na Makedonskata Prvostavna Opština Sv Jovan Krstitel od
Geelong i od ime na site Makedonci iselenici od Geelong Avstralija, ve
pozdravuvame so bratski pozdravi i vi pozeluvame dobro zdravi i razbiranje
vo vasto ceni Familii.

Po dolgto zaakazranve na vasto pismo poradi netocnata adresa konacno
pristignu na tocnata adresa.

Pocituvani braca i sestri od Pirinska Macedoniia, nanapret da ve zapoznawme
deka nasata Uprava go razgleduvase vasto baranje na Sostanokot na
14/5/2000 god. Vo vasto baranje se naveduva deka imate zelba da ja
prestavite kulturata na Makedoncите od Pirinskiot del na Macedoniia, ovaa
kultura ce ja prestavite proku. Galeria, likovni dela, zivopis kako i igraarna
grupa. Nie Makedoncите iselenici od Geelong Avstralija ce bidime poceve od
blagodarni ako ova go napravite.

Na ovoj Sostanok Nasata Uprava ja donese slednava odluka: Vo sekoe vreme
mocite da nastapite vo nasiot Centar vo Geelong, samo bez nikaki
zadolenja na Makedonskata Prvostavna Opština Sv Jovan Krstitel od
Geelong.

Od ime na Upravata i site Makedonci iselenici od Geelong Avstralija ve
pozdravuvame so bratski pozdravi i se nadevame ce se vidime kade zadnicky
ce se poveseleme.

Sekutar
Dimec Ristevski
CITIZEN!

To be loyal to the state does not mean to sell our own awareness and to be her servants.

Let's show each other and to the world that we Macedonians are still here, we are eternal like the Macedonian spirit, like the Macedonian song, like the tradition left by our grandparents!

Respected citizen, after the first half of March 2001 there will be a listing of the population of Bulgaria.

As always after 1948 the section "Macedonian" is lacking from the list, but there has always been sections for "Turk", "Gypsy", etc.

You can only fill the section if you boldly and openly, without any fear (because many institutions are behind you) DECLARE YOURSELF AS A MACEDONIAN, as you feel like and as you ARE!
Today, at the start of the 21 century, it's funny and sad for someone else to claim what we are.
We are what we feel like, what our own conscience tells us - MACEDONIANS!
Let's say this boldly and openly and be faithful to our blood that runs through our veins and the memories of our fathers and grandfathers who died for Macedonia!

*Every person, who belongs to a national minority has a right to choose whether to be or not be treated as such...*

Section 3 of the Frame convention for protection of the national minorities, 1994.
*All men are born free and equal by dignity and rights.*
Section 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria.
We are citizens of Bulgaria and we speak the official language, but our mother tongue is the Macedonian.
This is why, citizen, you decide what you declare yourself as on the following listing as you feel, and not as you're dictated! Do it like this:

14. Ethnicity:
01 Bulgarian
02 Turkish
03 Romanian (gypsy)
04: Other : Macedonian
99 Does not self-declare
15. Mother tongue
01. Bulgarian
02 Turkish
03 Romanian (gypsy)
04 Other : Macedonian
99 Does not self-declare

Because a forgery is possible, ask for the squares of the paper to be filled with a pen, not a pencil.

From the CS of UMO "Ilinden" - PIRIN
To:
The United Nations
NATO
General secretaty
European commitee
Minister committee

PETITION
From the Macedonian national minority, that lives in the Republic of Bulgaria, concentrated in Pirin Macedonia

Gentlemen,
We are sending you this petition asking for help for the Macedonians who lived in Bulgaria.

1. The Bulgarian government must acknowledge the existence of the Macedonian national minority in Bulgaria.

2. The Bulgarian government must give rights to the Macedonian national minority according to the Frame Convention for the protection of national minorities and in agreement with the international documents for human rights.

3. In collaboration with Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia to denounce the Bucharest peace treaty from August 1913.

4. To stop the genocide, assimilation and discrimination over the Macedonian national minority in R. Bulgaria.

5. To be given economical subsidy to the population in Pirin Macedonia and to renew the agriculture, forestry, husbandry and industry and to help renew the ecological balance in this region.

Best regards,
Kiril Ivanov
President of the United Macedonian organization,
Macedonian initiative committee
Third congress of UMO Ilinden
From the international activity of the Macedonian organizations (2003)
Photography of the members of UMO "Ilinden" and "Rainbow", the party of the Macedonians in the Aegian part of Macedonia and Greece (Krushevo, 02.08.2003) - Atanas Kiryakov with a group of Macedonians
From the opening of the art display of the Cultural society "Lighthouse" in the gallery "Macedonia-Art" for the 100 anniversary of the Ilinden uprising (Blagoevgrad, August 2003).

Left to right: Todor Petrov (president of WMC), Ilcho Iliev (mayor of Delchevo), Blagoj Dupkarsi and Atanas Kiryakov

From the celebration of 100 years since the Ilinded uprising, organized by "Lighthouse" in Blagoevgrad.

To the presidents of:
Association "Sontse" (Sun)
VMRO Independent
Gentlemen,

On the meeting of the Presidential committee of UMO Ilinden - PIRIN, held on 27.06.2004 in Blagoevgrad we decided to introduce you in writing to our stance on the painful and always active issue about uniting the Macedonian organizations in Bulgaria. The following text has been approved by the Assembly of the National concil of the party held in Razlog on 11.07.2004.

Keeping in mind the real conditions that exist:
1. The existence of the registered Macedonian organizations in the state
2. Parties and organizations that submitted documents about the registration in the Bulgarian court.
3. An action in the international court for the banning of UMO "Ilinden" - PIRIN.
4. The actions that are taking place right now in the international court by UMO "Ilinden".
5. The objective need of existence of the Macedonian party and the Macedonian organization in the state.
6. The existence of contradictions and difficulties in reaching a quick and full unity.

We suggest the following that we consider will be the best for the Macedonians in Bulgaria and what is most essential for them.

Instead of creating one party or organization which would endanger many achievements of the past 15 years, let's consider creating a unity of the Macedonian parties and organizations in Bulgaria, with a common organ for coordination during the common activities. This formula was successfully established by our brothers in Albania.

We ask you to deliver your stance on this issue on paper as soon as possible, on the following address:
Blagoevgrad, 2700, st. Krsto Asenov 20, Spas Lazarov Zahariev.

11.07.2004
Blagoevgrad
STANCE

Of the government of Republic of Bulgaria on the complaint number 59491/00 before the European court for human rights - UMO "Ilinden" and others versus Republic of Bulgaria

On March 28, 2000, the United Macedonian Organization "ILINDEN" - Pirin (UMO - Ilinden) with Yordan Kostadinov Ivanov, Boris Georgiev Pavlov, Atanas Dimitrov Urdev, Velik Dimitrov Hristoskov, Kiril Serafimov Tilev and Aleksandar Velev Manchev submitted an appeal at the European Court of Human Rights ("the Court") according to the subject number 34 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms ("the Convention").

By a letter, on September 30, 2002, the Court informed the Bulgarian government of the appeal and invited them to present their opinion regarding the validity and the substance of the appeal received for consideration.

The Bulgarian government considers that the appeal should be rejected by the Court as inadmissible and insubstantial.

I. Facts exposing:


18.04.1990 in the town of Sandanski, members and supporters of the National Macedonian governmental organization “Ilinden” held the meeting of foundation for the receiving of a new constitution and program, new leadership and new name of the organization.

The organization’s constitution states that:

Ar. 2: UMO “Ilinden” will work on the recognition of the Macedonian minority.

In the organization’s program the following purposes are noted:

...popularization of the Macedonian history and culture to the world community and to us...providing a free forum for the expression of alternative views on the issues of socio-political development of Macedonia.

On 23.05.1990, an application for registering the organization under the Law of persons and family is submitted to the District Court in Blagoevgrad.
On 06.06.1990 a court hearing was conducted, but due to the allowable flaws by the applicants, the hearing was not completed, but it was postponed for another date.

On 11.07.1990 the application for the registration of UMO "Ilinden" as a non-profit association was reviewed at an open court hearing. The representatives for UMO “Ilinden” stated that their goal is the development of cultural and educational activities among the Macedonians in Bulgaria. The prosecutor on the other hand argues that UMO Ilinden is acting against the unity of the nation, and their goals are political.

On 12.07.1990 a court decision was submitted, refusing to register OMO Ilinden as a non-profit legal entity.

26.12.1990 - Managing Council of UMO "Ilinden" appealed the decision made by the High Court before the supervisory instance.

21.02.1991 - The Supreme Court consisting of five members reviewed the act on basis of the complaint and on 11.03.1991, a decision was made, stating that the decisions made in the two previous instances remain in effect. The decision *inter alia* states that:

"According to the cited articles of the constitution and the program of UMO “Ilinden”, its activity is directed towards denationalization of the Bulgarian population and its transformation into a population with Macedonian national awareness. Because of this, the organization is directed against the unity of the nation and therefore, it is prohibited under Article 35, parag. 3 of the Constitution, and fully in line with the attacked decisions, its registration is rejected."

1.2. The procedure in terms of the registration in 1998-1999.

On 26.10.1997 the assembly committee of took place. A new Constitution was adopted by the organization:

Section 1

UMO Ilinden is a Macedonian national organization based on ethnic grounds and origin from the borders of Bulgaria and it is a giver and a receiver of the national-liberating battle of the Macedonian nation....as well as a receiver of VMRO...and the Macedonian fighters, fallen victims of the Bulgarian state terrorism and genocide.

Section 3
The goals and activities of UMO Ilinden... are to articulate and protect...the rights of the Macedonians who live in the Macedonian land under Bulgarian occupation and to the Macedonians who live in Bulgaria.

Section 4
(1) UMO Ilinden protects the Macedonians that are assimilated by the Bulgarian national politics.
(2) Giving the status of a cultural autonomy of Pirin Macedonia and stopping the process of assimilation of the Macedonians.
(5) Giving autocephaly to the Macedonian church in Pirin Macedonia and stopping the assimilation activities of the Bulgarian spiritualists.

Section 5
UMO "Ilinden" will work to release the Macedonians from the feeling of fear and terror by the assimilation and discrimination politics of the Bulgarian state.

Section 6

(3) Giving political rights for the Macedonians to be elected as national representatives, rights to participate in the government and rights to have access to civil duties.

Section 7

(4) Participation in the elections by candidating independent Macedonian candidates who will work for the national rights of the Macedonians in the Bulgarian parliament and the Bulgarian government.

Section 8
(2) Any Macedonian can be a member of the organization, and of other nationalities too.

On 26.10.1997 the leaderboard of UMO "Ilinden" made a plea to register to the District court - Blagoevgrad

On 23.03.1998 the Court of Blagoevgrad informs the president Yordan Kostadinov Ivanov that the statement for registration has not been processed because the plea was not signed by the members of the District council, and the original signatures of the founders were not included.

On 30.04.1998 the Court of Blagoevgrad informs Yordan Kostadinov Ivanov that with section 136 of ZLS a solution should be delivered for the founding of the party.
On 19.06.1998 the court processed the action. The maker of the complaint Yordan Ivanov points out that "the goals and tasks of UMO "Ilinden" as an non-govermental organization is to articulate and protect the citizen, national and social-economical rights of the Macedonians". The prosecutor makes a stand that these formed goals contradict section 2 of the Constitution of Republic of Bulgaria.

On 10.07.1998 Atanas Urdev, in the name of the organization, deployed a new protocol from the common meeting of the founding of UMO Ilinden and this caused a new court assembly.

On 02.11.1998 the decision was made by the court to refuse the registration of UMO Ilinden. In the section where the reasons are listed, the court gives the following reasons:

"The using of the term occupation shows that, according to the pleaders, there are forcefully obtained Macedonian lands in Bulgaria, and they will fight for their liberation. This idea has been pointed out in a few places in the Constitution. So, in section 4 it's spoken about protection from the Bulgarian assimilation by giving cultural autonomy to Pirin Macedonia, after which it's concluded that the population there isn't Bulgarian, and in section 5 the sparing of the Macedonians from the condition of discrimination and assimilation by the Bulgarian state.

... In sections 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 from the Constitution contains claims of the Macedonian minority who is denied from their rights, which the Constitution gives to all the Bulgarian citizens.

... The demand of a registration of UMO Ilinden is not in agreement with the law because of the non-coordination of the documents with parts of the Constitution, Law for political parties and the Law for people and families."

On 23.11.1998 the Court of UMO Ilinden made an appeal to the Sofia court against the solution made on 02.11.1998 which demanded a dismissal on the solution and a new argument for the same. After the complaint, it was claimed that the court misunderstood the Constitution of the organization.

On 20.04.1999 there was a court debate and more evidence was presented.

On 28.04.1999 the Court made a decision which accepts the court orders and forcefully implemented their verdict.
On 26.05.1999 UMO Ilinden makes an appeal to VKS against the solution of the court.
On 06.10.1999 there was another court debate.
On 12.10.1999 VKS declared a verdict by which the previous verdict becomes forcefully implemented. It said:

"SAS did not allow disruption of the material law and the existing process rights. Citizens may freely associate, but their objectives should be in line with the requirements of the constitution. In this case, however, the goals are directed against the nation the unity or are characteristic of political parties. Because these objectives are in conflict with the Constitution, registration is justifiably rejected.

... The Court of Appeal's decision is correct. The statements made, according to which there are no legal requirements for the registration of the association, correspond to the presented documents of the action and in particular the Constitution. Registration of the association is based on the request of the US, which should be resolved for its establishment and its constitution, signed by the founders, rather than separate lists and transcripts.

Segment 6, par. 2 of the Constitution does not allow any privileges, based upon nationality and ethnicity, origin, etc.. According to Art. 12, par. 2 of the Constitution, citizens' associations can not afford to set policy objectives and to carry out political activity, which is unique to political parties. The content of the article 13th the same law should be noted here."

Legal analysis of the facts.
The makers of the plea complain that with the refusal of the registration of UMO Ilinden, the state violated their right to freedom of association guaranteed by Art. 11 of the Convention. They also claim that the court twisted the facts and gave an arbitrary interpretation of legal contents.
The Government categorically argues that there is no arbitrary limit on the right to freedom of association and the appeal of its submitter for violation of Art. 11 of the Convention, should be rejected as unfounded.
On October 15, 2006 (Sunday) from 10.00 am in the reading room "Culture" in the city Kresna will hold founding session for the establishment of the political party United Macedonian Organisation (POMO "Ilinden")

Agenda:
1. Adoption of Constitution
2. Choice of Governing organs
3. Selection of control organs

20.09.2006
Sandanski
Initiative founding Board POMO "Ilinden"
INVITATION

UMO "Ilinden" organizes a conference on September 19, 2010 (Sunday) from 10:00 h. in the restaurant "Guarantor" motel near the town Sandanski.

Agenda
10.00 h. Speech activity UMO "Ilinden"
10.30 h. Receive the constitution and program
11.00 h. Election of new leadership
11.30 Collecting signatures for initial registration protocol before the District Court - Blagoevgrad
12.00 h. cultural program
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Anyone who gets an invite must attend the conference, and should also try to invite their relatives and to participate in this event. The European Court in Strasbourg leads two actions of UMO "Ilinden" against Bulgaria, under which the Court will bring a solution by the end of the year. This occasion requires us to hold a conference where we need to collect the necessary signatures for the new registration before the Blagoevgrad District Court, in accordance with the requirements of the European Court.

UMO "Ilinden" is not a political party, but an organization on the cultural basis for the protection of the rights of Macedonians in Bulgaria. Therefore every citizen who is a member of a political party can support us with his own signature that is not against the law and is consistent with the political parties.

WEAR YOUR ID'S.

US of UMO "Ilinden"
President: Yordan Kostadinov

INDEPENDENT EXPERT RECOMMENDS BULGARIA TO RECOGNIZE ITS MACEDONIAN MINORITY

15 February 2012

Blagoevgrad/Gorna Dzumaja (Bulgaria),
Melbourne (Australia) and Toronto (Canada)

OMO “Ilinden” PIRIN, the political party of the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria, together with the Australian Macedonian Human Rights Committee (AMHRC) and Macedonian Human Rights Movement International (MHRMI) welcome the recent release of the report of the United Nations Independent Expert on Minority Issues on the situation in Bulgaria.

The report was made public on 3 January 2012 by the newly appointed UN Independent Expert, Ms. Rita Izsák and follows the visit to Bulgaria in July
2011 of her predecessor, Ms Gay McGougall. During the visit to Bulgaria, the Independent Expert met with representatives of the Macedonian minority in the country. The delegation comprised of: Stojko Stojkov, Co-President of OMO "Ilinden" PIRIN and Stahil Tupalski, Central Council Member of OMO "Ilinden" PIRIN; Stojan Gerasimov from the Society of Repressed Macedonians; and Georgi Hristov, the Chief Editor of the pro-Macedonian newspaper, Narodna Volja. The meeting gave the Macedonian organisations the opportunity to provide the Independent Expert with a first hand, documented account of the problems facing the Macedonian population in Bulgaria.

The post-visit report made a number of observations in relation to the situation of minorities in Bulgaria. In paragraphs 66-67, devoted to the Macedonian minority, the Independent Expert noted that:

“66. Article 54 of the Bulgarian Constitution states that “everyone shall have the right to avail himself of the national and universal human cultural values and to develop his own culture in accordance with his ethnic self-identification, which shall be recognized and guaranteed by the law.” However, the Government denies the existence of an ethnic Macedonian minority, and does not recognize the Pomaks (considered as Bulgarian-speaking Muslims by the Government) as a distinct minority – claiming that both groups are in fact ethnic Bulgarians. Representatives of those who self-identify as ethnic Macedonians and as Pomaks claim that their minority rights are consequently violated.

67. Ethnic Macedonians consider it of crucial importance that their ethnic identity and distinctiveness be officially recognized. Community representatives strongly dispute census findings reflecting very low and declining numbers of Macedonians, and claim that the true population is many times higher. The Macedonian language is not recognized or taught in schools and Macedonians are not represented on the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues.
Most significantly though, the Independent Expert made a number of significant recommendations in relation to the recognition of the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria. In relation to **respect for self-identification** the Independent Expert recommended that:

“93. In accordance with its Constitutional provisions to respect the right to ethnic self-identification, the Government should ensure and protect this right, as well as the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of association of members of the Macedonian and Pomak minorities.

94. Policies relating to the recognition and rights of minority groups must be assessed in relation to the State’s obligations under international human rights law. Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that “in those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their own religion, or to use their own language.” The question of the existence of minorities is addressed by the Human Rights Committee in its general comment No. 23 (1994) on the rights of minorities. Article 5.2 states that “the existence of an ethnic, religious or linguistic minority in a given State party does not depend upon a decision by that State party but requires to be established by objective criteria.”

95. With regard to identification with a particular racial or ethnic group, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination has established in its general recommendation No. 8 (1990) on article 1 of the Convention that “such identification shall, if no justification exists to the contrary, be based upon self-identification by the individual concerned.” The right of individuals to freely identify as belonging to an ethnic, religious or linguistic group is therefore established in international law. Domestic law should recognize such rights and ensure that no individual or group suffers from any disadvantage or discriminatory treatment on the basis of their freely chosen identity as belonging (or not) to an ethnic, religious, linguistic or any other group.
On Bulgaria’s refusal to abide by judgments of the European Court of Human Rights, the views of the Independent Expert were quite explicit:

96. Bulgaria should comply fully with the judgments of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) relating to persons belonging to such communities and implement its rulings without further delay. Associations should be allowed to register and function without impediment, use their chosen names and express their ethnic identities freely. Associations that have been denied in the past should promptly be given official registration.

The Independent Expert also recommended the introduction of the Macedonian language to the Bulgarian education system:

“97. The Government’s position not to allow the use of mother tongue languages as the language of instruction in schools, particularly in regions where minorities are a majority or constitute a large percentage of the population, is a concern for minorities, including the Roma, Turkish Muslims and Macedonians. Bilingual education commencing in the early years of schooling would enable children to become proficient in their mother tongue as well as in Bulgarian. Furthermore, it would enable them to maintain their ethnic and linguistic identity and help minority pupils to achieve positive educational outcomes. The Government is urged to consider introducing bilingual education and to ratify the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages”

The United Macedonian Organisation “Ilinden” PIRIN, the political party of the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria, together with the Australian Macedonian Human Rights Committee (AMHRC) and Macedonian Human Rights Movement International (MHRMI) demands that the Bulgarian Government to take note of the report of the UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues and implement, in full and without delay, each of the recommendations contained in the report.

The full report can be downloaded here:
http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/19session/A.HRC.19.56.Add.2_en.pdf
OMO "Ilinden" PIRIN is a political party supporting the rights of the Macedonian minority in Bulgaria. It has been banned since 2000, despite a 2005 European Court of Human Rights Judgment ruling that the decision was a violation of the European Convention on Human Rights. For more information please visit www.omoilindenpirin.org.

Established in 1984 the Australian Macedonian Human Rights Committee (AMHRC) is a non governmental organisation that advocates before governments, international institutions and broader communities about combating discrimination and promoting basic human rights. Our aspiration is to ensure that Macedonian communities and other excluded groups throughout the world are recognized, respected and afforded equitable treatment. For more information please visit www.macedonianhr.org.au, or contact AMHRC by email info@macedonianhr.org.au or on +61 3 93298960.

Macedonian Human Rights Movement International (MHRMI) has been active on human and national rights issues for Macedonians and other oppressed peoples since 1986. For more information: www.mhrmi.org, twitter.com/mhrmi, facebook.com/mhrmi, info@mhrmi.org, +1 416-850-7125.
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