



## **Reaction of the Albanian Diaspora in Austria**

Against the backdrop of recent events in Macedonia and the Presevo Valley, the Albanian diaspora in Austria would like to respond to the collective prejudice and terror against innocent Albanian citizens which is fuelled by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Macedonia headed by Minister Jankulovska and that of Serbia headed by Minister Dacic. It should be noted that, when it comes to charges against Albanians, the state law is continuously violated by the Macedonian and Serbian state.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continuously uses violence against its Albanian citizens and the inhuman and degrading treatment of the Albanian population proves that it is acting against the principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**Crime is crime in every language, every ethnicity and every society. Therefore, there is no collective crime and there is no collective punishment.**

The institutionalization of collective crime does not put the fate of Albanians at risk, but rather the future of Macedonia. We are deeply appalled by the actions taken by the Macedonian executive and believe that the arrestments of our brothers and sisters, of whom most of were proven to be innocent afterwards, by the politically biased Macedonian courts, are far beyond the pale.

Throughout history, Albanians have never shown any aggressive form of nationalism based on ethnicity and religion in Macedonia. On the contrary, we as Albanians have always shown tolerance and accepted the coexistence with our fellow Macedonians. However, the recent events in the Macedonian government coalition show how fragile the situation in Macedonia is. A refusal to listen to and communicate with the Albanian population in Macedonia and intents to damage our image are useless.

Throughout the region Albanians have proven to be tolerant and Western-oriented. The Macedonians should not delude themselves as there is no point in pretending that the state could move forward at the expense of its Albanians citizens, whose legitimate rights are being trampled on. This anti-Albanian mentality used to stay in power by the Gruevski government in Skopje, shows that the political and economic crisis is deepening every day at the expense of the Albanians in the country.

As a result, the Albanian diaspora in Austria therefore urges the Albanian political party forming part of the current government of Macedonia to pre-empt further incidents and to dissociate itself from the politics of Gruevski's government. At the same time, we call upon the international community to react to the violence and the detentions of innocent Albanians between Skopje and Belgrade.



Associations, which support this reaction are:

1. Union Albanian Muslim in Austria Gutenbergstr. 5, 4600 Wels
2. Albanian association, Bayerhamerstr. 21, 5020 Salzburg
3. Albanaia Kultur association "Ikre", Bahnhofstr. 13, 4800 Attnang-Puchheim
4. Albanian Muslim Association, Gutenbergstr. 15, 4600 Wels
5. Albanaia Kultur Women Association "Ardhmëria", Waldegstr. 59, 4020 Linz
6. Albanian Kultur- and Sportassociation "Bashkimi", Waldegstr. 59, 4020 Linz
7. Albanian Kultur- and Sportassociation "Kosova", Krempflstr. 3, 4020 Linz
8. Albanian Kultur- and Sportassociation "Dardania", Friedhofstr. 6, 4020 Linz
9. Albanaia Student-in Association J.W.-Kleinstraße 72/3, 4040 Linz
10. Albanian Muslim Association "Bujaria", Göthestr. 32, 4020 Linz
11. Radio Pendimi, Göthestr. 32, 4020 Linz
12. Albanian association in Wien, Menzlgasse 15/1-4, 1160 Wien
13. Albanian association "Abdyl Frashëri", Wilhelmsburgerstrasse 11, 3151 St. Pölten
14. Albanian Muslim Association in Hollabrunn, Wienastr. 57, 2020 Hollabrunn
15. Albanian Association "Nur", Gfiderstr. 7, 2630 Ternitz
16. Albanian Association "Shar", 8020 Graz
17. Albanian Association "Vëllazëria", Wienerstrasse 20, 3493 Hadersdorf am Kamp
18. Albanian Fotboll association in Austri
19. Albanian association, Menzlgasse 15, 1160 Wien
20. Albanian Kultur- and Sportassociation "Iliria", Burnergasse 13, 1100 Wien



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