

**FIRST CHILDREN'S EMBASSY IN THE WORLD-MEGJASHI
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**



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1. THE GOVERNMENT WRITING OFF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

An information letter from the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy arrived in the First Children Embassy in the World Megjashi on September 2nd 2005. According to a decision from the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, on the 18th Session held on February 17th 2005, the 17 internally displaced people settled in our shelter for whom "conditions for safe return to their homes have been fulfilled," their internally displaced people status has been discontinued, as well as all benefits thereunto appertaining.

With this information letter from September 5th 2005 the status of the internal displaced people has been discontinued.

They will stay in our shelter at the side of the Government decision, because, beside that, their homes are reconstructed, they do not feel safe to go back in

Aracinovo and they can not leave our shelter, because their new habitats around Skopje are under construction.

2. CASES OF VIOLATION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

❖ For the case of physical and sexual mistreatment upon the two minor children B.H (10) and K.H (7) by their mother, we have been informed through the letter by their father K.H. from Bitola. He informed us that his former wife was continuously violating the children: she hit them and she mistreated them in different ways including sexual abuse.

He claims that on the 25th of November 2004 he asked for help in the Center of social work from Bitola, but he did not get any help from them.

The Embassy Megjashi contacted with CSW from Bitola and informed us that they interrogated this case and said to us that this is a case of personal fight between the parents not a mistreatment of children.

We informed the Ombudsman about this and we are expecting a reply from him.

❖ With the beginning of the school year we had a several phone calls from different persons and we get one letter from the parents of the child S.P. who is a pupil in the second grade in the E.S. of "Rajko Zinzifof" in Dracevo, Skopje.

The letter stated that he and several other children were moved to another class. As a reaction to that, the child has some symptoms like choking, coughing and he has rejection of the school, and actually he does not want to go on the class because he is not with the same teacher and same kids from the last year.

For this case we have been informed the Ombudsman. The physiologist from the school promised us that will do everything what is possible to find positive solution about this case. Several days after, the pupil was returned, and we were informed about this by a letter from the Ombudsman.

❖ As it is known, in the 2004 the First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi reacted for the case of sexual abuse. The information was announced in the daily newspaper "Dnevnik" and the information was about the recorded pornographic film in which the leading roles were sixteen years old student and her boyfriend.

The First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi and the Association for protection of children's rights on 29th of December 2004 submitted criminal charges to the Public Attorney's Office, against the offenders who are distributing and selling private amateur porn tapes to the public. The criminal charges were based on the Criminal Code Article 152 Paragraph 1 and 3, on

unauthorized filming, as well as Article 174 Paragraph 2 for disclosure of personal and family information.

On the submitted request by the First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi to the Public Affairs - Skopje for getting information about the criminal charge on the 11th of May 2005 we have been informed that the Public Attorney's Office has initiated the procedure to detect and apprehend to the District Police in Skopje on February 1st 2005. As we are interested in the outcome of this case, we have sent a letter to the Public Attorney's Office on September 16th 2005, requesting that we be informed as to the pending criminal indictment. We have not yet received a reply.

3. SUMMER CAMP

On the 07th till 14th of August 2005 we organized summer camp in Ohrid which goal was secondary school people form mixed gender and ethnical structure from five secondary schools (DSU Nikola Karev, DSMU Pance Karagozov i DSU Cvetan Dimov from Skopje, DSU Nace Bugoni from Kumanovo and DSMU Nikola Stein from Tetovo) to make friendship together, to learn more



about non-violent communication and obtain elementary skills for entrepreneurship.

The program was designed to raise youth awareness through volunteerism about their part in to the community as active citizens.

The camp was organized from the project "Making friends through multiethnic cooperation" financed by the European

Commission and supported by the OSCE - The Monitoring mission in Skopje through the sector of development on the education and with cooperation with the Head Office for Development and Promotion of the education of languages of nationalities.

Here's what some participants said about the camp:

"The camp was organized whit purpose to get to know each other, all clubs between them selves and to cooperate in order to learn something through the amusement and game. There were organized classes and workshops in which we developed following tops: the problems in to the schools, the plan about featuring activities, communications and conflicts.

Simultaneously, we visited the culture and historical sights; we had a conversation with the president of the OSCE and on the end of the camp obtained diplomas.

During these 4 months we have to realize our appointed goals which are going to be presented on the next training.” - Marijan

“This camp was organized very well, and it is not only I spend the time with the friends who I like them and they like me, then I learned many things which I didn’t know it and I find the answers which I was asking my self all the time and I couldn’t find the answer. I think, the friendship with different nationalities is something to light the dark way for the future and without friendship it is no life. I am expecting to have some more this kind of camps in the future and I believe I will meet a lot of friends for friendship and together we will enjoy in the life, and to learn something new which is going to be needed in my future.”- Arzim

The project “Making friends through multiethnic cooperation in the 5 multiethnic clubs in the high schools in Skopje, Tetovo and Kumanovo” was financially supported by the Mermeren Kombinat Prilep and Intrakom Skopje.

4. TOGETHER FOR TRANSPARENCY

This year as the last year, the Embassy Megjashi together with the civil organizations, members of the civil platform in Macedonia, decided voluntarily to proclaim the annual reports including financial reports and independent auditor’s report.

The goal is to give attribute for the transparency of the work on the civil organizations, as an attribute to become better for the effective on the civil sector.

The transparently and accountably working is a guaranty for building the trust between the civil sector and the public, also that kind of trust will bring the civil society to them who belong to, the citizen.

We believe, proclaiming the annual reports including financial reports and independent auditor’s report is one of the manners for building the responsibility.

Those are organizations which beside the First Children’s Embassy in the World - Megjashi are published in the annual reports: Macedonian development foundation for firms, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, Postpolio group for support Polio plus, Union on the women

organizations in the Macedonia, Foundation Institute open society - Macedonia, Centar of civil initiative - Prilep.

For further information visit: www.graganskisvet.org.mk



5. PARTICIPATION ON THE 2nd CHILD WORLD CONGRESS AGAINST CHILD LABOR

Our Embassy as a national coordinator of the Global March Against Child Labor, participated on the 2nd Children's World Congress Against Child Labor and Education which has been organized by the Global March Against Child Labor, in New Delhi, India from September 4 - 8, 2005.

The representatives from the Embassy were Ivana Stojanovska (14 years old), the child delegate, member and activist of the Children's Embassy Megjashi, and Emilija Milevska - Program Assistant.

On this Congress more than 200 children participated from 30 countries across the world (India, Macedonia, Malawi, Cambodia, USA, Spain, Iran, Mexico, Nepal, Japan etc). They were discussing about their terrible experiences, about the children exploitation in the factory, in the mines, also children pornography, prostitution and terrorism, about the bad experiences of their friends, and they discussed about their wish to help and finding solution regarding this raising problem.

Representatives from agencies of the UN, from the Government and civil society in New Delhi were jointed on this Congress and they promised, in the future will support elimination of different kind of child labor.



On the end of this Congress, the children victims of child labor and the children activities against child labor proposed Declaration with theirs requests about elimination of the child labor and providing education for all of them.

Ivana Stojanovska the child delegate, member and activist of the Children's Embassy Megjashi represented the situation in

Macedonia and she gained support for her activities which she were taking against child labor, also for the featuring cooperation with the others members of this world organization.

The Congress finished with March across New Delhi on 08 of September 2005 on which participated more than 50.000 people.

This is what Ivana said after her return from India:

"During the Congress Against Child Labor and Education, I had a new experience meeting and communicating with many interesting persons. Through the sessions, I become familiarized with real situation on this field in the more country across the world which participated on this Congress. Every

country was representing the own situation with the reports, also our country as well.

I really liked the way the children were seeking theirs rights, also I was touched by theirs true stories in which kind of way they have been abused. Also, the children were fighters against child labor.

I am really glad, because we have been part of this Congress and I hope that we will do everything to make a better situation in Macedonia against child labor.”

6. NUMBER OF CALLS TO THE SOS PHONE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (0800 1 2222) QUADRUPLES

The SOS phone for children and youth 0800 1 2222 by the First Children’s Embassy in the World - Megjashi has been active for 12 years. Thanks to the Macedonian Telecommunications (from 01st of June 2005) the SOS phone is toll -free.



This SOS toll - free phone now is more accessible to the children and youth, especially to impoverished children. They can call now every day from 8:30 am until 20:30 pm. They can talk with the volunteer on duty or through the direct contact with expert person - the psychologist from our counseling service (from 16:30 pm until 20:30 pm).

In the last period four more volunteers have joined our team and now the number of active volunteers is raised to 25.

“In the beginning of SOS phone we had 20 calls and only 5 volunteers, now the situation are different. We have more volunteers now, better coordination and recovered conditions and of course my experience as well.

I want to appoint the aspect of my communication with the parents who have problems with theirs children”. - Said a one volunteer from the SOS service.

As a result of media cover of SOS service and as a result of the new toll-free phone, the number of calls on the SOS phone is raised 4 times more in the last 4 months. In addition, 426 children and youth ask for help, 267 female and 159 male. Just for comparison, last year was registered 414 cases for all year.

To better introduce the public with the new SOS number and the psychological counselor, in the last 4 months 13 interviews were held in the: A1 television (2 interviews and 2 news statements), Channel 4, Sitel, Channel 5, Orbis - Bitola, Macedonian radio, Aktuel, Graganski Svet, La Nova.

The SOS video clip was distributed to the many television and radio stations across the country: Macedonian Television, Sitel, Kanal 5, A1, Alfa Television, Telma, Sky Net, Kanal 4, MTM, BTR, ERA, Orbis – Bitola, Radio Fortuna,

Macedonian Radio, Kanal 77 and many others. The video clip is aired for free on some of those stations. Also, the SOS video clip was translated in Albanian language by the ERA television and spread to the Albanian media. Coordinator of the SOS phone is Maja Korubin, and financial support comes from CHI – Child Helpline International (until 12th of October 2005). For the next period provided financial support from the QBE and Pexim, Curver.

7. START OF CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

With the beginning in the new school year 2005/06, the children's workshops start with work. They represent the opportunity for the children from different ethnicities and low economic status to plying together through the myriad activities aimed their interest using appropriate amenities and to development their creativity and fantasy.



The children between 4 until 14 years of age can visit some of following workshops: computer workshop, English language, human value education, theatre workshop, creative writing – literately, astronomical, ecological, art workshop and origami, every working day from 16:00 pm until 20:30 pm. Those workshops are working once a week

for 75 minutes.

Each group has 12 to 15 children. In the workshops as educators worked volunteers and most of them are students.

The workshops can visit just the children members of the Embassy Megjashi. The membership is symbolic, 300.00 Macedonian denars per year. Those children whose parents are social cases, the orphans and the refugees children are not paying membership.

For better introduce to the public couple of statements were held for the Sky Net television, Macedonian TV, Vest and Dnevnik.

We welcome the coordinators of the children's workshops: Aleksandra Koceva, Mirjana Burazer and Marija Nikolova.

8. DONATIONS

Our Embassy continued with its activities for providing and procurement humanitarian help as a food, cloths, shoes, domestic products for 10 social endangered families and for support of 4 families in our shelter.

The coordinator of social service is Meri Nikoloska.

Our gratitude to the following donors: Soko - Skopje; Step Tours-Tetovo; Zito luks- Skopje; Galicki Biser - s. Bardovci; Golak - Skopje; Shou Kompani- Gostivar; Pik Vrbas - Skopje; Aviso - Skopje; Vreme - Skopje; Ino Spektar - Skopje; Al Maks - Strumica; Pilko - Skopje; Albi - Skopje; Trimaks- Skopje; TOZ - Skopje.



Until the next number

Sincerely Yours,

From the team of
The First Children's Embassy in the World – Megjashi
Republic of Macedonia

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