

**The Former Yugoslav Republic Of Macedonia under  
UPR/UPR 18<sup>th</sup> Session  
(Geneva, 27.01-07.02.14)**

Questions-Recommendations by Greece

Thank you M. President,

Greece would like to welcome the delegation of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group headed by H.E. .... and thanks them for the presentation of their national report.

We are however deeply concerned with the sentencing of the journalist Tomislav Kezarovski to 4.5 years imprisonment (for the alleged revelation of the identity of a witness in a murder case) by the Skopje Basic Court, as well as his lengthy detention. This excessive conviction sends a message of censorship to other journalists in the country and could have serious consequences on freedom of expression and media freedom. Criminal prosecution of reporters for their journalist work (as it has already been pointed out by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media Dunja Mijatovic) violates the fundamental human right to free expression and the country's OSCE commitments to develop and protect free media.

At the same time, there is serious concern on the adoption by the Parliament of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia of the new Laws on Media and on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services, with the introduction of last minute changes, without the consultation and prior consent of the country's most representative Association AJM/ZNM. Moreover, as it has already been pointed out by the European Commission's Progress Report of 2013, there are continued concerns about the lack of transparency of government advertising and self-censorship due to economic pressures exerted on journalists and media owners. Substantial reforms are still needed in order to safeguard and promote the independence of the media.

We would like to make one recommendation:

That the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia introduce adequate measures with a view to promoting freedom of expression as well as media freedom.

Thank you M. President