



MJAFT! London Club

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To: The Prime Minister of Greece Mr. Konstandinos KARAMANLIS

Via the Embassy of Greece in the United Kingdom

Sir,

Following the latest degrading and inhumane beating of two Albanian immigrants at the Omonia Police Station in central Athens, we would like to express our extreme indignation at such unacceptable practices.

The scandalous video showing a Greek police officer beating the two youngsters with a baton while forcing them to slap each other, as well as the recent video footage revealing Greek troops in training chanting anti-Albanian and racist slogans, are proof that Greek state structures such as the police and the army do not behave within EU legal parameters and are often in clear breach of human rights laws and international conventions. Such medieval practices bear witness to xenophobia as a constant phenomenon of Greek society. Further more, these are not isolated incidents. As you are very well informed, there have been several occasions of mistreatment and abuse beyond any humane norm against Albanians resulting even in death.

We would like to call on the Greek government to pay particular and deserved attention to this incident as the tip of the iceberg mirroring the many scandalous cases of brutal treatment of immigrants in Greece. Please note Mr. Prime Minister that Greek soldiers train under the chanting of racist slogans towards their neighbours, the Albanian flag is publicly burned in Greece, young Albanians are beaten and killed as in the case of Vullnet Bytyqi, Albanian citizens are constantly maltreated at border crossings even when their paperwork is totally in order, and now the police force brutally abuses young Albanians in their premises. Albanians all over the world have been deeply touched and shocked by this shameful and scandalous treatment which goes beyond comprehension.

It is our mission to monitor that such incidents do not go overlooked or in the case of repetition that they get their duly deserved attention from Human Rights organisations, European Institutions, Diplomatic Corpses and relevant government officials. The discrimination has got to end! It is rather curious given our proximity as peoples, cultures and traditions that we should be observing such events, when in fact the spirit of cooperation and solidarity ought to prevail.

Taking the above into account, we call on the Greek government to:

- Offer a sincere public apology to the Albanian people.
- Request the resignation of Public Order Minister Vyron Polydoros.
- Take immediate corrective measures against the officials involved in the latest abuse.
- Ensure that the internal police investigation is properly conducted.
- Ensure that such brutal abuses do not go unnoticed or rectified within state institutions in the future.

Mr. Prime Minister, it is unacceptable that Greece, an EU member, constantly abuses human rights to such extent in the 21st Century. The unlawful behavior of state officials should under no circumstances be tolerated by your government and the Greek society.

We hope that you will show the courage and the dignity to properly address such issues.

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The MJAFT! London Club's mission is to improve the image of Albania in the world.