

PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
GENEVA

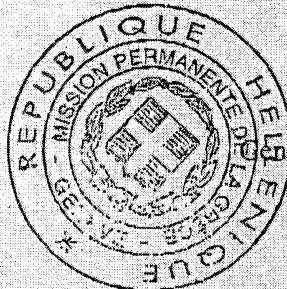
URGENT

Ref. No. 6172.1/2/AS 84

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and reference made to the letter of Mrs. Margaret SEKAGGYA, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders, dated 1 December 2011 (seeking information on the case of Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] and Mr. [redacted]) has the honor to forward the asked information provided by the Greek Government (Ministry of Civilians Protection).

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Geneva, January 26, 2012

To:
-The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Fax: 0041-22-9179006

Pages attached: 3

OHCHR REGISTRY	
31 JAN 2012	
Recipients	S.P.D. (Encl.)

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MINISTRY OF CIVILIAN'S PROTECTION

No.F09222/527

In response to relevant documents and the matters raised thereby, we would like to provide the following information, as established by the relevant report of the General Police Directorate of Attica, being our competent regional agency:

1. The hearing of the criminal case against thirty nine (39) persons (men of the Underwater Missions Team of the Port Police) began on 20 September 2011 at 09.00 at the Naval Court of Piraeus. They were accused of violation of article 2 of Law 927/79 (articulation of racist remarks), which took place during the parade of 25th March 2010 in Athens. The trial continued at the same place on 16 and 20 December 2011, following adjournments.
 - a. During the hearings, members of "patriotic" organisations, associations of reserve officers and extreme right-wing activists gathered outside the Court to support the defendants.
 - b. During all hearing days at the said Court and by order of the General Police Directorate of Attica, the competent subordinate agencies took increased police measures, in association with the Naval Court and the competent military authorities, both inside the courtroom and the other communal interior areas and in the broader premises, to maintain order, ensure the unhindered holding of the trial, protect the facilities, the court officers and the parties to the trial, as well as prevent the commission of offences and illegal actions against persons or things.

Particularly with regard to the hearing of 16 December 2011, following a complaint by the representatives of the Greek who attended the trial as plaintiffs, in which they maintained that, after the end of the hearing of 20 September 2011, they were persecuted by people who had gathered to support the defendants, more specific instructions/orders were given to the competent agencies to take more intensive measures to ensure their safe approach to, stay in and departure from the Naval Court premises.

It should be noted that the attorney of the plaintiffs, Mr.

, in a letter to the Police Director of Piraeus, thanked him for the

measures taken by the police during the hearing of 16 December 2011, which ensured the safe arrival and departure of his associate and himself to and from the courtroom.

He also underlined that the police was not responsible for the incident that took place inside the courtroom during the hearing, since the police was not competent for such premises.

3. During a phone call between a competent officer of the Directorate of Security of Attica and the representative of the Communication and Political Research Society of the Greek Mr.

, the latter stated the following:

a. The society he represents is a non-governmental organisation that monitors and publicizes human rights issues in Greece and the Balkans, cooperates with other international groups on racism and minority rights and promotes housing and education problems, as well as other social issues relating to the Roma communities in Greece.

b. On the date of the court verdict on the case (September 2011) against port police officers for the events of 25 March 2010 in front of the Unknown Soldier monument, both he and his attorney (

) received deprecations, threats and insults outside the court and on the internet (for the threats on the internet, he has filed charges before the competent electronic crime agency of the Hellenic Police).

c. He had not observed any suspicious moves, but all the above developments caused concern to both him and his attorney, since they fear that they might become targets of illegal actions. For this reason, they request surveillance of the offices of the society (

) and the residences of Mr.

and Mr. (

).

4. The competent agencies of the General Police Directorate of Attica did not provide any information about any possible illegal actions against the offices of the society or the aforesaid persons, but such possibility cannot be ruled out in advance.

For this reason, it was decided to provide 24hour surveillance of the said premises by pedestrian and car patrols of the local competent agencies,

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for the Communication and Political Research Society of the Greek Helsinki
Monitor () on a permanent basis and
for the residences of Mr. ()
and Mr. ()
for six (6) months, and review such measures on expiry of that period.

THE HEAD OF THE SECTOR OF ORDER
ANDREAS KATSIMBERIS
Major General