



General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 June 2011

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Seventeenth session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Note verbale dated 6 June 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva addressed to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and has the honour to provide herewith the comments of the Government of Greece in relation to the written statement submitted by the “Federation of Western Thrace Turks in Europe”, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status (A/HRC/17/NGO/32), submitted to the Human Rights Council at its seventeenth session under agenda item 3.

The Permanent Mission of Greece kindly requests the Office of the High Commissioner to circulate the attached text* as a document under agenda item 3 of the seventeenth session of the Human Rights Council.

* Reproduced in the annex, as received and in the language of submission only.

Annex

Freedom of the Press with regard to the Muslim minority in Thrace, Greece

The Greek Government neither intervenes in the task and work of the independent judiciary nor comments on the latter's decisions. No interference exists either in the work of Mass Media.

To our surprise, third parties, who are, ab initio and ipso facto, unfamiliar with Greece's pluralistic society, see in judicial rulings, such as the ones in the aforementioned HRC document, an encouragement to a policy of censorship or an effort to bring particular papers / dailies down to their knees. Such arbitrary conclusions serve nothing but the interests of those who draw them.

Democratic notions / values, such a freedom of press and independence of justice, are, with respect, kept vivid in everyday life throughout the country. Thrace, where Greek citizens, members of the Muslim minority, live and thrive, is no exception.
