



הארגון הבינלאומי של עורכי-דין ומשפטנים יהודים (ע"ר)
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS (R.A.)

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25 February 2014

H.E. Mr. Antonis Samaras, Prime Minister,
Mr. Evangelos Venizelos, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Mr. Charalampos Athanassiou, Minister of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights,
Mr. Alexandros Alexandris, Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations in Geneva,
Representative of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the European Union
Mr. Spyridon Lampridis, Ambassador of Greece in Israel

-By e.mail-

Dear Sirs,

Re: Mr. Panayote Dimitras

We are writing to you on behalf of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists ("the Association"), an Association that was founded in 1969 by the Deputy President of the Israel Supreme Court, the late Justice Haim Cohn, and by Nobel laureate, Prof. Reni Cassin that strives to combat Anti-Semitism, racism, Holocaust denial, terror, and unacceptable discrimination against Israel and the Jewish people.

It was brought to our attention that, Mr. Dimitras is accused of having knowingly committed perjury and made a false statement when he was questioned as a witness before the First Chamber of the Five Members Appeals Court of Athens on January 23, 2009, during a hearing of a case against Mr. Konstantinos Plevris, who then stood accused of violating articles 1 paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Greek Anti-Racism Law 927/1979.

For many years our Association has been familiar with the work of Mr. Panayote Dimitras as a fighter for human rights.¹

With this regards, we would like to draw your attention to the fact that during the year of 2009, the Association addressed the former Minister of Justice, asking to withdraw all legal proceedings against Mr. Dimitras as he was charged, back then, in treason. The reason for this address was because the Association was amazed that, in the Hellenic Republic, a democratic state and member of the European Union, whose human rights record is renowned, such an investigation could have be conducted against an individual who is so dedicated to the struggle for human rights, in particular the rights of minorities in Greece.

Today, and due to the new alleged allegations against Mr. Dimitras, we call on you, Mr. Prime Minister and distinguished representatives of the government, to use your every effort to ensure that:

¹ Especially due to his involvement in the trial of Mr. Konstantinos Plevris who published the book, The Jews – The Whole Truth, which, for the most part, is an incitement to racism against the Jewish people.

- a. Any kind of harassment and the proceedings instituted against Mr. Dimitras be withdrawn;
- b. All human rights defenders in Greece are able to carry out their legitimate activities without any hindrance and fear of reprisals;
- c. The provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 9, 1998, especially: (1) Article 1, which states that everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels are being conformed; and (2) comply with Article 12, which provides that the State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of his or her rights.
- d. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with international human rights standards and international instruments ratified by Greece.

Sincerely,

Irit Kohn, Adv.
President

Copy: Mr. Panayote Dimitras