



Asamblea General

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Consejo de Derechos Humanos

21º período de sesiones

Tema 3 de la agenda

Promoción y protección de todos los derechos humanos, civiles, políticos, económicos, sociales y culturales, incluido el derecho al desarrollo

Nota verbal de fecha 24 de septiembre de 2012 dirigida a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente de Grecia ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra y otras organizaciones internacionales en Suiza

La Misión Permanente de Grecia ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otras organizaciones internacionales en Suiza saluda atentamente a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado para los Derechos Humanos y tiene el honor de transmitirle por la presente las observaciones del Gobierno de Grecia sobre la declaración escrita que la Federación Europea de Turcos de Tracia Occidental, organización no gubernamental reconocida como entidad de carácter consultivo especial (A/HRC/21/NGO/74), presentó al Consejo de Derechos Humanos en su 21º período de sesiones en relación con el tema 3 de la agenda*.

La Misión Permanente de Grecia pide a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado que tenga a bien distribuir el texto adjunto como documento del 21º período de sesiones del Consejo de Derechos Humanos, en relación con el tema 3 de la agenda

* Se reproduce en el anexo como se recibió, en el idioma en que se presentó únicamente.

Anexo

[English only]

The Greek region of Thrace has always been a place of harmonious coexistence between Christians and Muslims. All citizens, irrespectively of their religious beliefs or cultural backgrounds, enjoy the same rights and have the same obligations, without any discrimination. Religious freedoms, human and minority rights are fully respected and protected by the highest international standards.

There were very few isolated incidents in Thrace this year, as indicated in the written statement of the NGO "ABTTF", which could be seen as acts of intolerance. These sporadic incidents are regrettable and have been condemned in the strongest terms.

The authorities, the local society and the overwhelming majority of the Greek people disapprove and reject similar acts, considering them as direct attacks to our democratic principles, institutions and values.

It should be noted that when incidents involving members of the Muslim minority occur, these are dealt with the required sensitivity, in full compliance with the relevant Greek legislation and in accordance with international standards. This was also the case with the incidents in question. The competent authorities reacted swiftly and effectively, restoring order and tranquility, and thus preventing possible escalation. Necessary Investigations were duly launched by the police.

No modern society is totally free from acts of violence and hate crimes. Nevertheless, attempts to present isolated incidents as "*part of a broader pattern of growing intolerance and an increasing trend of hate crimes against persons, properties and places of worship belonging to the members of the Muslim minority in Thrace*" are misleading, distorting reality.

Greece remains committed to safeguarding all human rights and fundamental freedoms of every individual. The efforts of the Greek authorities have intensified regarding the fight against incidents of intolerance and discrimination, including hate crimes of any form.
