

Pan-Macedonian USA sent a Letter to several International Officials as regards Vasko Gligorijevic arrested

To: The EU Parliament,
UN Missions, Human Rights Agencies,
World Media,
US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton,
UN Special Mediator Mr. Matthew Nimetz,
Hellenic Foreign Minister Dora Bakogianni, & the
Hellenic Parliament

We should like to bring to your attention the apparent arrest of Mr. Vasil Gligorov (aka Vasko Gligorijevic) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (the FYROM). Reportedly on January 28, 2009 the FYROM police charged into Mr. Gligorov's apartment where they arrested him purportedly because of his activist actions. Mr. Gligorov, a university graduate in history, has devoted his efforts at improving Slavic-Greek friendship through the advancement of historiographic and anthropological scholarship about Southern Slavs in the Balkans and Greeks as well as the various aspects of their mutual cultural and political relations. He is a strong critic of the extreme nationalistic narrative of "Makedonism" and one of the leading members of the Slavic

Philhellenic Network.

At this time, the whereabouts of Mr. Gligorov are unknown although we have learned that he has since been imprisoned and suffered physical and mental torture and may be close to death.

This alleged government-supported action is a blatant case of extremely repressive behavior akin to a totalitarian regime as opposed to a country, which aspires to become a member of the European Union and NATO. In any free democratic society, voices such as Mr. Gligorov's cannot and must not be suppressed. We call upon your Agency and other Human Rights NGOs to investigate the aforementioned case and facilitate the immediate release of Mr. Gligorov from detention.

FYROM must abandon the mentality of its communist past era that has resulted in ill treatment of its minorities and hostile irredentist behavior towards its neighbors. The FYROM leadership's eerie fascist performance is continuous. It was also recently self-exposed when they promoted through National TV channels an approximately nine minute video, entitled

"Macedonian Prayer." In the video God himself appeared, telling the people of the FYROM that "he had populated the earth with three races of people, the white race or Macedonoids, the yellow race or Mongoloids and the black race or Negroids, while all other people in the world were mulattos". These extreme racial beliefs, which underlie a virulent ethnocentric narrative are especially troubling and dampen enthusiasm about the prospect of a viable and lasting solution to the perennial name problem.

Our Association is a USA based organization and our members' origins are from Macedonia, the northern province of Greece. Many are also citizens of Greece and therefore citizens of the European Union. Moreover, when a misfortune such as Mr. Grigorov's, occurs, it becomes the concern of all peace-loving nations on earth. We thank you in advance for your attention and appropriate action on this matter.

Sincerely,
Nina Gatzoulis, President
Maria Hatzinakos, Secretary

Melbourne Suffocated in Ashes

The number of people who died in Australia's bushfires has reached 200 and will rise further, police say. Melbourne is suffocated to smokes and ashes. There are growing fears that Victoria's devastating fires will contaminate Melbourne's water supplies. Fire crews are hoping that mild conditions will allow them to establish more containment lines around the eight major fires still burning in Victoria. The fires giving them the most concern are those in Melbourne's catchment areas; some of the catchments are being emptied. Meanwhile, the victims of Victoria's bushfires will be remembered next Sunday at a national day of mourning in Melbourne.

On Monday a Melbourne court named the suspect as Brendan Sokaluk - despite fears for his safety prompted by public fury over the blaze. Prosecutors allege that the 39-year-old deliberately set a fire in Churchill, Victoria, in which 11 people died.

In Melbourne, Australia's second-biggest city with 3.4 million residents, hospitals lost power and shops and offices were forced to close. During rush-hour, massive traffic jams occurred after 1,200 traffic lights in the city and nearby Geelong metropolitan area stopped working. Police directed traffic by hand, appealing for drivers to take extra care.

"There are power outages across Victoria from the border with New South Wales state to Melbourne," a state police spokesman told Reuters. "The cause is bushfires and heavy demand. It's a stinking hot day and the demand is overloading transformers." It is not clear when power supplies will be restored to normal. The total damage of destructions reach 500 million dollars.

AUSTRALIAN DIVER RAISES AWARENESS OF CORAL REEFS

THROUGH LAUNCH OF NEW IMAX 3D FILM, UNDER THE SEA 3D

IMAX Darling Harbour, home to the world's biggest IMAX screen, is recreating an underwater world with the launch of Under the Sea 3D. Bringing to life the most exotic and isolated locations on earth, including Southern Australia and the Great Barrier Reef, as well as Papua New Guinea and Indonesia in the famed Coral Triangle, Under the Sea 3D will open on March 19.

Under the Sea 3D is directed by Award-winning documentary filmmaker Howard Hall and narrated by Jim Carrey. Assisted by an Australian crew, including member Mark Spencer, Under the Sea 3D is a uniquely inspirational and entertaining way to explore the beauty and natural wonder of the ocean. It aims to increase awareness of the impact that global climate change is having on the oceanic wilderness.

The images will literally leap off the screen and float around the theatre allowing moviegoers to immerse themselves in the film as if they are diving into the ocean with the film crew.

Discover the habits and habitats of Great White Sharks, Flamboyant Cuttlefish, Leafy Sea Dragons, Giant Stingrays, Jellyfish, Green Sea Turtles, playful Australian Sea Lions, six-foot Garden Eels and a multitude



of brilliantly colourful fish and sea life as they play out the daily dramas of their lives amidst vast coral formations that rise from the ocean floor.

Diver and underwater photographer, Mark Spencer, who was the 'launcher and recoverer' ferrying the hefty IMAX 3D camera between boat and ocean floor for the film changes in the Great Barrier Reef leg comments "My past experience with watching a 3D IMAX film is that it is the closest feeling to actually being there underwater with the creatures. In some cases, it's actually better than being underwater because the camera lights bring out detail that divers typically will not see."

The waters around Australia and just north of Australia in the Indo-Pacific are home to the richest and most varied marine wildlife in the world. Under the Sea 3D brings the

audience face-to-face with some of the most bizarre inhabitants on this planet.

With an aim toward protecting the ocean wildlife for future generations, Hall also believes, "People need a reason to care about coral reefs. My hope is that once they see these animals and realize that they're not only remarkably beautiful but that they have their own interesting behaviours and personalities, they will fall in love with them and think it would be nice to have them around in coming years.

"There are many issues concerning the marine environment, certainly too many to cover within the context of one film," he acknowledges. "On our previous film, Deep Sea 3D, we touched upon the importance of biodiversity; this time, we address the potential effect of climate change on ocean life."