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Hellenic News, Culture & Lifestyle



Petition aims to halt possible Golden Dawn presence in Melbourne

Extreme right party Golden Dawn may be organizing a visit to Australia in view of opening a local office in the city Melbourne, Australian daily The Age reported on Wednesday. The paper reported that the Greek party already had a presence in that city with members accused of causing trouble at the recent annual parade commemorating the Greek War of Independence as well as protesting outside State Parliament. Meanwhile, the country's Immigration Minister Brendan O'Connor had received a petition calling for Golden Dawn MPs, including party spokesman Ilias Kasidiaris, to be prohibited from entering Australia.

The petition read: "This violent, racist, authoritarian movement has no place anywhere, but while Greece is unable or unwilling to prevent them from growing, the Australian government is in a position to prevent their members from spreading their fascist poison here," The Age reported. Prime Minister Julia Gillard has indicated that the government will not stop the group. According to Alex Kakafikas, the petition's organizer, Golden Dawn could be targeting some young Greeks based in Melbourne who were sympathetic to nationalism. Golden Dawn did not respond to the newspaper's request for comment.



The 31st Greek Festival of Sydney in conjunction with the Australian Museum proudly presents

GRECO-BUDDHIST ART IN THE GHANDARA REGION

Professor Vrassidas Karalis, University of Sydney
The death of Alexander, left an isolated Greek kingdom in Central Asia which expressed an artistic syncretism which defined the representation of religious imagery in the region for many centuries

INFO

DATE: Sunday 7 April

TIME: 3pm

VENUE: Australian Museum, 106 College Street, Sydney

ENTRY COST: Free with general admission or exhibition entry. No bookings required

CONTACT: 02 9750 0440 OR EMAIL

greekfestival2@goc.com.au

LANGUAGE: English



TURKISH PRESIDENT: Cyprus crisis an 'important opportunity' to end division

Turkish President Abdullah Gul said on Wednesday the financial crisis in Cyprus presented an "important opportunity" to end the division of the island, split between the Greek Cypriot south and Turkish north.

The Mediterranean island concluded a 10 billion euro (\$13 billion) bailout deal with the eurozone and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday in order to stave off bankruptcy.

"There is at the moment significant economic crisis on the island. This should be seen as important opportunity ... Because if the island was to unite, there would be a greater economic potential," Gul said during an official visit to Lithuania.

"There are some restrictions, embargoes on the island. Our suggestion is to lift any and all kinds of restriction or embargo simultaneously so that we can create a new climate for moving forward," he said.

"I hope that this message will be well understood."

Turkey's failure to extend a customs agreement with the European Union by opening its ports to goods from Cyprus

has hindered its ambitions to join the EU.

Turkey began EU entry talks in 2005, a year after Cyprus was admitted, but its bid has been blocked by the intractable dispute over the island, as well as by long-standing opposition from core EU members Germany and France.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel highlighted the Cyprus dispute as a stumbling block when she visited Turkey in February.

Relations between Greece and Turkey have thawed over the years, making a resolution more imaginable than in the past.

Beset by economic crisis at home, Greece last month pledged to double annual trade with its eastern neighbour to \$10 billion by 2015.

Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras met his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul and signed deals on issues ranging from agriculture to disaster relief.

Gul said the potential for cooperation between Turkey and Greece made the possible benefits of Cypriot reunification even greater.

