



November 18, 2005

Prime Minister Vlado Buckovski
Government of the Republic of Macedonia
"Ilindenska" st, BB
1,000 Skopje
Republic of Macedonia

VIA FACSIMILE: 389-2 3 112 561
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Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I am writing on behalf of the American Federation of Teachers. As you may be aware, my union and other member organizations of Education International have raised concerns about the Macedonian government's treatment of the Trade Union of Education, Science and Culture (SONK), which calls into question the general respect for trade union rights in Macedonia. I recently sent you a letter and had my representative meet with your ambassador to the United States to state these concerns.

This week, I learned that your office has now agreed to meet with SONK leaders to resume negotiations regarding the conditions of education and teachers' welfare in your country. We are encouraged by this positive development and hope it is symbolic of an increased appreciation for the importance of trade unions rights in Macedonia.

As you stated in your article in the Washington Times, the Macedonian government and its people are justly proud of their progress toward democracy and ethnic tolerance. Your willingness to resume dialogue with SONK is an important step in validating the assertions in your article. We hope that your willingness to meet with SONK indicates a sincere commitment to workers' rights and that the negotiation with SONK will proceed in good faith.

Sincerely,

Edward J. McElroy
President

EJM : dp opeiu#2 afl-cio

cc: Condoleezza Rice, United States Department of State

American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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AFT PSRP
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