

CANADIAN HELLENIC CONGRESS ΕΛΛΗΝΟΚΑΝΑΔΙΚΟ ΚΟΓΚΡΕΣΟ CONGRÈS HELLÉNIQUE CANADIEN

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January 31, 2025

Via electronic mail

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, PC, MP

Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, MP

Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada

Jagmeet Singh, MP

Leader of the New Democratic Party

Yves-François Blanchet, MP

Leader of the Bloc Québécois

Subject: "United Macedonians Organization of Canada" and its annual "Goce Delchev" event

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the Canadian Hellenic Congress (CHC) – the national democratic community organisation that represents, advances, defends and promotes the interests and concerns of Canadians of Hellenic origin and Hellenism in general across Canada – we are communicating with you regarding an organisation known as the "United Macedonians Organization of Canada" and, more specifically, an event it holds annually in Toronto, in the month of February, commemorating Goce Delchev, a revolutionary and national hero of Bulgaria and North Macedonia.

We wish to particularly draw your attention to two disturbing features that are always present at this particular event. One is the display of a map of a "Greater Macedonia", denoting the expansionist territorial tendencies of the Slavic administration of the ultra-nationalist members of this organisation. The other is the demonstration of the flag, depicting the stylised golden sun – i.e. the Vergina Sun – on a red background. This red flag was proclaimed illegal by the UN Security Council in 1993 (UNSC Res. 817 and 845) and agreed upon as such, by the governments of Greece and North Macedonia on two separate occasions; in the 1995 Interim Accord (Article 2.3) and in the 2018 Prespa Agreement (Article 3).

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The Canadian Hellenic Congress is a national democratic communal institution that represents, advances, advocates and promotes the interests and concerns of Canadians of Hellenic descent and Hellenism in general. The Congress is the national voice of Hellenes and their communities and/or organizations across Canada.



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Furthermore, the government of North Macedonia officially banned the use of this flag within the country on August 12, 2019, due to decades of use by the country's ultra-nationalist farright and Neo-Nazis to antagonise Greeks. As such, it is highly concerning that this community organisation chooses to display this illegal flag, as that of their home country of North Macedonia, instead of the official flag of their republic as recognised by Global Affairs Canada.

Moreover, even more disturbing than the flag per se, is the fact that this organisation has deemed it appropriate to hang an expansionist map on their walls – a map previously resurrected by Adolf Hitler during WWII – in the presence of Canadian Members of Parliament who have attended the event in the past. These actions blatantly show racial hatred and the need of that community to pursue and attempt to legitimise its prevailing ultra-nationalist agenda by any means – including, but not limited to, taking advantage of Canadian politicians.

Unfortunately, attacking Hellenism in various forms is not a new phenomenon in Canada. The Greek community has been the recipient of incessant anti-Hellenic slurs since September 8, 1991, not only from the above-noted organisation, but also from two other significant organisations within the said community: the Macedonian Human Rights Movement International (MHRMI) and the World Macedonian Congress (WMC) Canada, who are in fact hate groups, hiding behind the façade of alleged "benevolent" organisations.

In our opinion, these two elements that are used to promote anti-Hellenism in Canada should be banned from display in any public space, particularly by organisations that receive financial support from various levels of government via taxpayer funds; some of which also – quite ironically – benefit from a charitable status by the Canada Revenue Agency.

The members of this organisation and organisers of this event can obviously do as they wish within the realm of their private homes, however, their fascist tendencies and hateful anti-Hellenic rhetoric have no place at community functions where Canadian government officials are present. At a minimum, they should exercise common human decency and decorum instead of using the presence of our elected officials in an attempt to promote their ongoing propaganda and to give credence to their ultra-nationalist and anti-Hellenic commitment and drive.

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In view of the fact that – in the past – Canadian Members of Parliament, including a Prime Minister, Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, have been invited to and have attended this particular event, we urge you and the members of your respective caucuses to remain vigilant in order to avoid partaking in any racial hatred and anti-Hellenic actions, as well as, blatant distortions of facts and history.

We trust that you will give this matter your immediate attention.

Sincerely,

Dr. Theodore Halatsis

President

George Manios

Executive Vice-President

<u>C.c.</u>: Pelagia Adamidis, CHC Vice-President, Administration and Secretary

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