

Brussels-Athens 3.6.2009

To M. Karamanlis
Prime Minister of Greece
Megaro Maximou - Irodou Attikou 19
10674 Athens -Greece

To M. Pavlopoulos
Minister of Interior
Stadiou 27, 10183 Athens-Greece

Dear M. Prime Minister,
Dear M. Minister,

The Hellenic League for Human Rights and the European Association for the Defence of Human Rights feel the need to contact you on the emergency situation that has been developed in Greece with regard to questions of asylum, but also on the evident diffusion and rise of racist violence, of xenophobia and of racist speech against immigrants and asylum seekers, particularly in Athens.

For this reason, with the attached open letter, we intend to express our deep concern but also to propose policies, in order to achieve both short-term and long-term solutions, avoiding the deterioration of phenomena of human rights violations with particularly negative consequences for the victims and for the society.

We hope that our intervention will help shape policies that will stem from the respect and protection of human rights. Besides, this is the only realistic and viable way to respond to current challenges of immigration, asylum and multiethnic coexistence in a dynamic democracy of rights that is not afraid to reflect on itself.

Sincerely,

Pierre Barge

Miltos Pavlou

Dimitris Christopoulos

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