



大会

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## 人权理事会

## 第二十九届会议

## 议程项目 3

增进和保护所有人权——公民权利、政治权利、  
经济、社会和文化权利，包括发展权

2015 年 7 月 7 日，希腊常驻联合国日内瓦办事处和瑞士其他国际组织  
代表团致联合国人权事务高级专员办事处的普通照会

希腊常驻联合国日内瓦办事处和瑞士其他国际组织代表团向联合国人权事务高级专员办事处致意，并谨随照会附上希腊政府对具有特别咨商地位的非政府组织无国界记者国际协会于 2015 年 5 月 21 日在议程项目 3 下提交人权理事会第二十九届会议的书面声明的意见(A/HRC/29/NGO/16)。

希腊常驻代表团谨请高级专员办事处将所附文件\*作为人权理事会第二十九届会议议程项目 3 下的文件分发。

\*附件不译，原文照发。



## Annex

*[English only]*

### **Comments of the Government of Greece in relation to the written statement submitted by Reporters Sans Frontiers International – Reporters Without Borders International**

With reference to the written statement submitted by the “Reporters Without Borders International”, NGO in special consultative status (A/HRC/29/NGO/16) and, in specific, the “blasphemy” case mentioned therein, Greece would like to inform the Human Rights Council on the following:

- A blogger was arrested, on September 2013, for parodying a well-known Greek Orthodox monk, said to have prophetic powers, and he was charged with “malicious blasphemy” (“punished by imprisonment up to two years”, art. 198 Criminal Code) and “insulting religion” (“punished by imprisonment up to two years”, art. 199 Criminal Code).
- On January 2014, he was found guilty of “repeatedly insulting religion” (and not of “malicious blasphemy”) and was sentenced to a 10-month suspended sentence by the Criminal Court of First Instance. The case is currently pending before the Criminal Appeals Court.
- According to Greek Criminal Law, for the completion of both crimes of “malicious blasphemy” and “insulting religion”, the “malicious” character of the criminal conduct of the perpetrator is required, as a mens rea element. Therefore, any mere expression of opinion, even in the form of objection, disapproval or disagreement, cannot be regarded as “malicious blasphemy” or “insulting religion”.
- It should be noted that certain articles of the Criminal Code, including the abovementioned ones, are currently under review by the competent law-drafting Committee.
- In conclusion, Greece emphasizes the substantial promotion and protection of freedom of expression -as a fundamental prerequisite for building inclusive democracies and enhancing intercultural dialogue, peace and good governance- by undertaking various initiatives towards this direction. In this context and as far as media freedom, online and offline, is concerned, Greece participates, in the core group of countries (Argentina, Austria, Costa Rica, France and Tunisia), who annually submit, since 2013 onwards, thematic resolutions on the “Protection of Journalists” to the Human Rights Council (Resolution 27/5), as well as on the “Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity” to the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly (Resolutions 68/163 and 69/185).