

Information concerning the University of Tetova

The University of Tetova is located in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, with the office in the city of Tetova. It has been founded on December 17, 1994, by the side of the intellectuals and the Albanian people in Macedonia for educational purposes and for the creation of professional staff and other profiles.

The UT is open for all the citizens of Macedonia regardless of the ethnic and religious belongings, where today, except the Albanians, study and lecture in their mother-tongue language a number of Macedonian students and professors etc. It means that UT is a multilingual and a multiethnic university, as well as all the population of Macedonia.

The UT works with the teaching programmes of the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Macedonia, and there the subject of the Macedonian language and history is compulsory. The teaching and administrative process in the University is being held out in two languages: Albanian and Macedonian.

The UT has begun its work in 1994/95 with 6 faculties, 11 ex-cathedras, 5 sections, 573 students and 75 teachers, whereas today, after 5-years of work in the academic year 1998/99 it has 13 faculties, 23 sections, 6238 students and 347 teaching staff.

Although the UT is a University of Macedonia, the third one after the University of Skopje and the one of Bitola, it gives its contribution through the education of its citizens, and with the economical development of this region. Nevertheless, unfortunately, the Government of Macedonia has not recognized this University as its own yet, and doesn't even finance it.

Even in the beginning of its work, the Government has used violence against this University: it has killed one young Albanian, has beaten and injured by weapons above 200 Albanians, has plundered the house of the Rector and another house foreseen for the beginning of the teaching process; has kept in jail the Rector almost one year, as well as some other professors of the University, aimed at stopping its work, and at leaving the Albanians at the Middle Age darkness, in order to use them more easily as physical workers.

Despite the various obstacles that the Macedonian authorities have continued to expose towards the University of Tetova, the Albanians in Macedonia have decided to help this University by and material financial means, and to give their houses for the teaching process, for the purpose of offering the due education and professionalism their children, in the same way the Macedonians and other peoples of the Balcan and Europe have done.

The Albanians in Macedonia are autoctonous and realistically consist of nearly 40% (officially 23%) of the number of the overall population of this place. The Albanians contradict to the Macedonian authorities, which, like in the times of communism, as well as in their false democracy, continue to discriminate the Albanians in all the life spheres; and treat them as a national minority, second-hand citizens, as inferior ones, to rule and command them, to prohibit the official and public use of their

mother-tongue language; and as a consequence, to hamper their normal national development only because they have other ethnic background.

The Albanians in Macedonia want to be equal to Macedonians, in their daily work and life, and this would be a guarantee for a secure future, a peaceful one among this two biggest population in this place. The national equality between these two peoples can be achieved very easily in Macedonia, if the Macedonian Government changes the up-to-date course towards the ethnic Albanians there: it shows tolerance and democracy, not by words, but by concrete actions, even towards them; and recognizes the University of Tetova and the diplomas of 6,000 its citizens, which will be gained there; and finally it will be seen that this Government doesn't belong only to the Macedonians, but to the Albanians as well.

The universities, the education, science and culture are factors said to bring peoples closer; to bring peace, democracy, prosperity and stability in the regions where they are functioning.

This is a mission being carried out by the University of Tetova as well: education, peace, freedom, equality and interethnic tolerance; and even in the beginning this University as such, has been supported by all the world progressive states as well as their educational and cultural institutions.

Such a support we have had by the Rectors' Confederation of Europe.

A great support to this University has as well been given by the organizers of the Bologna Conference, where we are invited to take place, which is dedicated to the high education in the spaces of Europe.

We hope that we'll be recognized one day by the Government of Macedonia, as well as will finance its own University of Tetova, although it would be the last to do it.

We call on appeal to the Directions of the universities of Europe to use their authority and influence the governmental bodies of Macedonia in order to secure the equal education of all of its citizens as well as the peaceful future of the region of Macedonia.

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