

15 Years

Electronic Newsletter No.27

"Bristly"



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First Children's Embassy in the World—Megjashi

15 Years for children



STOP! The violence over the children



The First Children's Embassy in the World – Megjashi started the campaign STOP! The violence against children in Ma-

cedonia.

The main reason for starting this campaign was the recent maltreating of two children to almost dead, as well as the increased number of phone calls on our helpline (0800 1 2222) for children and youth.

The aim of the campaign was to send the message to everyone, keep and protect the children from every type of violence and provide them with safe life, because they are our future.

The 15 billboards can be seen around the centre of the city Skopje for one month, with two different messages :

"STOP! To the violence against children!" and

"Have you hugged your child today?"

Special thanks to Akzent Media for the free billboards.

"Have you hugged your child today?" is one of the two messages on the billboards in our city.

The main purpose of this message, as well as the second one, **"STOP! To the violence against children!"**, is to attract the attention of the adults to give more love and attention to children, especially because the dynamic pace of our occupation does not leave much room for that.

The campaign is planned to last for one month. Everyone who

wants to support the activity on the Embassy Megjashi can either call or send message to **Cosmofon** phone number **075/14 34 24**

and T-mobile phone number **070/ 14 34 24**, and donate **50,00 mkd, or 100, 00 mkd.**

We hope that this campaign is going to reach everyone and that in future the children will receive the necessary love and attention.

(Have you hugged you child today)



The Violence against children is more and more present!!! The case in Cicino Selo

On **15.12.2006**, a press conference took place in the premises of Embassy Megjashi, the reason for which was the beating of the 3 year-old **Amid Mekteshi from Cicino Selo** (village).

The child was beaten up with fists and kicks by his mother's wedlock partner. The incident happened in "Mladost" resort in

Cicino Selo, Skopje, where the refugees from the Kosovo conflict in 1999 are located.

The child was in critical condition and was transferred in the Clinic for Surgery for children diseases. The police was informed about the case.

This is one of the numerous reported cases for violence against children. This case was the main reason

for Embassy Megjashi to start the campaign

"STOP! The violence against children!"

The main purpose is to make everyone aware of our responsibility for children.

15th anniversary of First Children's Embassy in the World—Megjashi

This year is very special for the Embassy Megjashi because on 29 April, 2007, the Embassy is celebrating its 15 anniversary.

The Embassy Megjashi for the past **15 years** advocated respect of children's personality through protecting their rights and interests, as well as enrichment of their lives with contents which are safe and creative for their childhood.

The embassy with its activities made a huge progress in raising

of the public awareness about children's rights. It broke the wall of silence about children's suffering, especially physical, sexual and economical abuse of children, revealing to the public many cases of child abuse and establishing directly efficient measures for protection of the children.

In the last **15 years** significant results have been achieved, and the most important are taking care for the children refugees during the crisis in Bosnia

and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Macedonia, launching the children's workshops and the free helpline for children and youth, psychological advice service, the campaign for protecting children rights, prevention of violence against children, free legal assistance, as well as numerous activities which will be mentioned in the monograph which is in process, and which will be published for the 15 anniversary.



15 years for the children

Donation of shoes for children without parents

The First Children's Embassy in the World—Megjashi in cooperation with the company **NELT ST DOOEL** Skopje and **SSL** producer on **Dr. Scholl**, organize action donation of shoes for the children in the orphanages in Skopje.

The main initiator was the firm **NELT ST** from Skopje, which we cooperate with for years. They provided **288 pairs of shoes**

for the children with lack of parental care in the Orphanage **"11 October"**, the orphanage for children with educational and social problems **"25 May"**, for children from Institute for housing, education and behavior, **"Ranka Milanovik"** and for families from Aracinovo that were housed 5 years at the premises in Children's Embassy Megjashi.

Except shoes, medical aid from the production program **Dr.School** was donated to the Clinic for surgery in Skopje. The shoes and aid resources are productions from reputed firm **SSI**, the donation cost **2.370.000,00** denars.



Giving shoes to the parentless children and to families from Aracinovo

Activities from the children's workshops

Besides visiting the workshops, the First children's embassy conducted different activities in which the children, their parents, volunteers, and the personnel in Children's Embassy were included.

On 2 December 2006, an educational and recreational excursion to Vodno was organized with activities such as roller-blades competition; short lecture on environmental issues and the necessary activities to prevent them; presence on manifestation for extinguishing of fire, planting green trees in nature; in organization with the Red Cross in Macedonia.

On 17-december we organized visit on Planetarium.



On 19 December the children who attended the English workshop visited the American Corner on the so called Day of Storytelling.

On 27 December New Year celebration party was organized and masquerade for all children members attending the Children's workshops.

The children wore beautiful costumes and the party took place in the children's club Fantazija.

During the period between October and December, Children's workshops were financially supported by the Australian Embassy in Belgrade.

Special thanks to Lozar - Bitola for refreshment for New Year's party, especially to the executive who wants to stay anonymous, and who also financed New year's lottery.



Also special thanks to owner of children's play-club Fantazija - Helena Roza for free space for New Year's party.

SOS (helpline) for children and young

0800 1 2222

SOS helpline for children and young in the First Children's Embassy is the first free helpline for children and young in this country , which in continuity function almost 14 years (from 1993).

The great number of problems that the young people confront often are related with violence (physical, sexually and psychological), problems in the family, with friends, a love live, personally problems and others problems .

This is one example for such a case: one our citizen called to reported that the father of their sister's wife wants to wed her

even she is 13 years old with the boy who is 28.

The boy offered money allowance and because of that the father wants to wed his daughter without her permission. The case was reported in Centre of social affairs and the procedure is in flow.

In the period from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006 we got 704 calls on the SOS helpline (0 800 1 2222) for children and young.

About **514 (73%)** are female and **190 (27%)**

Childline
Listens to Children
1800 666 666

are male.

According to percentage dullness of phone calls on SOS phone on the first place is Skopje, than Prilep, Veles , Bitola and residua towns.

The SOS phone is financial supported by **Macedonian Tele...** and **SOS phone from Irish.**



3. The case on which there were indications that there is mediation for prostitution on minor with an older male for which we have already written in the previous issue.

The case was regularly reported directly in the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the department for Trafficking and Violent Crime.

After the conversations with the pedagogue of the School, we have found out that the person was apparent by the authorities from the respective department.

After the successful completion of the investigation in the Investigatory Court, the suspect was sentenced with 5 years in prison for the action Mediation in prostitution of minors.

4. A Case of groundless written sentence.

This case was reported by parents of a second-year high school student. The child was accused from other students fro selling marijuana in the school. Although there wasn't enough evidence for this, the teacher collegiums of the school punished the student with written sentence before expulsion.

The parents subjected the child for medical exams, on which base was confirmed that he haven't been using any kind of narcotics.

With this, the reputation of the student was changed also presents violation of the Convention for protection of children's rights, article 29, which states that the education of the child should be focused towards the development of the child's personality.

Furthermore, this threw additional psychological weight over the student.

Afterwards, an appeal to the Ombudsman was sent, who continued to take measures from his jurisdiction of protection of children's rights.

Some of the cases of violation of children's rights

1. Cases of physical violence over children by their professor in an Children's Home , for which we wrote in the last issue.

Because of the deficit of information for the names of the children we couldn't identify the respective Centre responsible for these children.

We've sent a letter for additional information to the Police Station in Chair, where the case was originally reported. Although we were informed by the caller that the police made minutes on the scene, still the police station says that such case was never reported to them. Also, the Ombudsman can't lead an investigation in front of the investigatory Instructions, because the person wanted to stay anonymous.

Therefore, we must close this case.

2. Displeasure of the students for the HR policy of the Director of the School.

A group of students from elementary school sent a letter in which they stated displeasure for the HR policy of the Director of the School.

Namely, the children find that part of the professors don't have the necessary education on their subject and that they teach using old methods in otherwise bad material conditions of the school.

We have reported this case to the Ombudsman. Further on, they reported the case to the State Inspectorate for Labor due to supervision on procedures for employment of teachers in the elementary schools, in accordance with the Law for working relations and the Law for elementary education.

There are ongoing inspectorates for this case, and we are awaiting information from the Ombudsman.

Free legal service- free legal advices

In last four month, the legal services reacted on new cases for violation (breach) child's rights.

"Call upon on your rights"

In cooperation with SOS phone actively works the **Free Legal Service.**

СОС ТЕЛЕФОН ЗА ДЕЦА И МЛАДИ

0800 12222

Toll-Free line

Human Rights House

On 22.11.2006 at the Stone Bridge Hotel a press conference took place with the purpose to present the **Human Rights House in Macedonia**.

The house is union of non-government organizations which are associated with common reason for promotion and protection of human rights.

The Human Rights House - Macedonia, represents the part of international Network, "Human Rights House Network".

The Union was promoted by 5 member organizations, which founded the House:

The First Children's Embassy in the World – Megjashi, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in The Republic of Macedonia, Macedonian centre for women rights, Association for democratic initiatives, Polio Plus— Movement against handicap.

On the press conference among others, **Mrs. Marija Dahle, executive director of the Human Rights House in Oslo, Norway** was present as **Honorary guest**.



Press conference at the Stone Bridge Hotel

Civic Platform in Macedonia

The Children's Embassy—Megjashi as a **Coordinator of the program "dialog and cooperation of the civic organizations, the Government, the Business sector, the media and the public"** within the frames of the program CPM, was leading the coordination process of the activities regarding promotion visibility of CPM, as well as strengthening the image of the civic sector.

In October 2006, began

the implementation of the activity **"Promotion of positive examples"**.

By the end of 2007, few editions have to come out, in which good practices of organizations will be promoted.

This way, the public will be familiar with the work of the civic organizations and their positive influence in the environment.

The Children's Embassy, as part of this platform, has the aim

to promote **volunteerism** in Republic of Macedonia, through the Volunteer Guide which will contain basic information, will connect volunteers with a database for the organizations which a recruiting volunteers, and will provide concrete info on the programs of the organizations

The Guide is in the phase of preparation, and will be finished by the end of March 2007 at the latest. It will be promoted in front of the students from different Universities in Macedonia

Workshop for the new Law for donations and sponsorships, in Veles

In January this year, in Veles, a workshop took place for the **Law for Donations and Sponsorships of Public Interest**.

On this workshop, representatives from many civic organizations were present, among which were the representatives of the Children's Embassy Megjashi.

Expert-guests were **Mr. Slavko Lazovski**, representative from the ministry of Finance and **Mr. Borce Smilevski**, representative from the Audit House KPMG, which explained the benefits that will follow the implementation of this Law.

Coalition all for fair trial



The Children's Embassy Megjashi, as a member of the **Coalition All For Fair Trial** participated in a three-day working meeting, held in the period from 24th till 26th November in hotel Molika in Bitola. On this meeting

based on discussions, conclusions and propositions, a new functioning model was confirmed - a model which will ensure sustainability and institutional development of the coalition. The children's Embassy Megjashi was represented by the Executive Director MSc. Dragi Zmijanac.

Participants in this coalition are: ADI—Gostivar, ANI—Stip, ARKA—Kumanovo, Civic Paths—Bitola, Association for Roma rights - Stip, ZPD - Skopje, First Chil-

dren's Embassy in the World—Megjashi—Skopje, MOST - Skopje, Youth Educational Forum—Skopje, PHURT - Delcevo, Spektar - Stip, SPPMD - Kavadarci, TEMIS - Skopje, FEMINA - Kumanovo, Fokus - Resen, Helsinki Comitee for Human Rights - Skopje, CDR - Tetovo, Mesecina - Gostivar.

www.all4fairtrial.org.mk

Christmas Cards

The First Children's Embassy in the World – Megjashi or-

ganized sale on Christmas Cards for the second



time. The Christmas Cards were made by children members of the Children's Embassy—Megjashi.

All money from the sale are intended for **SOS phone for children and youth 0800 1**

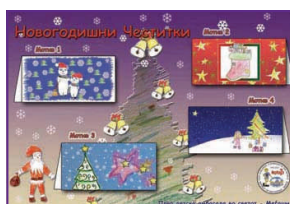


22 22, free Children's work-

shops and all activities in the Embassy Megjashi. We offered 4 different original motives of the Christmas Cards which are authentic

children' drawing (with minimum computer graphic processing of the background). The price of the Christmas Cards was 25.00 mkd.

We participated in many bazaars which took place in December , as **Cifte Amam–**



hand made bazaar, **Regional NGO bazaar in Strumica, International NGO bazaar in Gostivar , New Year's bazaar at Skopje Fair, and at the**

Ramstore Mall.



The volunteers from the Embassy Megjashi took part in

the sale and the delivery of New Year's Cards.

This year we sold **10.677** Christmas Cards, which is in fact **5000** Christmas Cards more than last year.

The means from the sale will



serve to improve the capacity of SOS phone for children and youth **0800 1 22 22** and for free Children's workshops.

The campaign was supported by daily newspapers as **Vest, Vercer, Vreme, Nova Makedonija**, weekly newspaper **Makedonsko Sonce, Forum Plus**, the newsletter **Skopje 365**, monthly newsletter **Graganski svet**, portal **alibi.com.mk** as well as the blogs that got involved on their own initiative:

aheo.blog.com.mk, aheo.macedonianblog.com, ribaro.blog.com.mk, dukis-book.blog.com.mk , kimi.blog.com.mk, all-right.blog.com.mk, kicevo.blog.com.mk, demian.blog.com.mk, volanskopje.blogspot.com, nesto-licno.blog.com.mk , e-lady.blog.com.mk, callofduty.blog.com.mk, www.blog.com.mk

Special thanks to all of them.

Hand Made products

This year we had new activity, in fact we introduced hand made production of jewels of FIMO, glass decorations, flowerpots, key-rings, photo frames of FIMO, hand made New Year's Cards, etc.

The volunteers from the Embassy Megjashi were involved in their production, and with their creativity they have done beautiful unique items.



All items were exhibited in **Cifte Amam– hand made bazaar, Regional NGO fair in**

Strumica, at the International NGO bazaar in Gostivar , and at the New Year's fair in Skopje Fair.



Fair of Hand made Cifte Amam

"Give a present from heart – Donate with heart", action on Embassy Megjashi in Ramstore Mall

The First Children's Embassy on 7 February this year started with a new campaign in Ramstore Mall on the occasion of Valentine's day. We were selling items made by the children at the Children's workshops.

The customers could choose between items such as key-rings, jewels, decorated flowerpots, stickers, candlesticks, heart-shaped ornaments, hand made

cards etc.

All items were hand made by the children members of the Embassy Megjashi, most of which attended the art workshops.

Our exhibiting space was across the market in the Ramstore Mall and the action took place until 15 February.

Special thanks to **Ramstore Mall** for supporting our actions and for the free space, and to fast food **Amatti at the Ramstore mall (3238-144)**, for providing sandwiches for the volunteers from Megjashi who took part in this action.



Embassy's exhibition space in Ramstore Mall

[illegible]

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Foreign currency account: SWIFT STOB MK 2X
ID 1066179 0006233480 Euro; 0007535360 USD

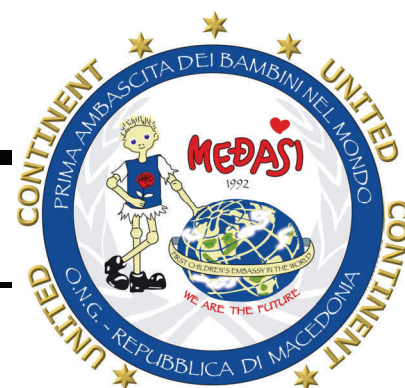
You can visit our website !
www.childrensembassy.org.mk

15 years for the children



Italian website:

www.childrensembassy.it



Greetings from the border with Children's Land - Megjashi
(mission of peace in Polio Plus)

Zvonko with his
team from Polio
Plus in mission of
peace in the
**Children's Land -
Megjashi**, which
is not defended
by army, police or
customs, because
where the borders
begin - that's
were the child-
hood stops



The First Children's Embassy in the World- Megjashi was founded
on **29th April 1992** in Skopje.

The **Embassy Megjashi** stands for respecting children's personality,
lobbying and advocacy of children's interest making the childhood safe
and creative. The Embassy Megjashi strengthens the NGO movement
for children's rights through developing the volunteer approach and
cares for implementation of the UN Convention of Children's Rights.

The Idea, the name and the mascot (Bristly) are registered and copyrighted
in the Ministry of development of R. Macedonia, Institution for protection of
industrial property under brand no. 864, 864 and 865 in 1994y.

If you support our activities, you can:

donate **50 denars (0,8 EUR)** with call or sms

075/143-424

donate **100 (1,6 EUR)** denars with call or sms

070/143-424

Together against the violence on children