

DECLARATION ON THE INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH PARALLEL VLACH/ROMANIAN INSTITUTIONS OF PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO CULTURAL AUTONOMY OF THE VLACH/ROMANIAN NATIONAL MINORITY

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia, as the the supreme legal act, guarantees to national minorities living on the territory of the Republic of Serbia the right to emphasizing distinctiveness and encouraging the development of their cultural identity .

As members of Vlach/Romanian national minority consider the citizens of the Republic of Serbia, who are characterized by a sense of solidarity, directed towards preserving the culture, language and traditions inherent to Vlachs/Romanians of northeastern Serbia. Belonging to the Vlach/Romanian national minority is confirmed by free vote on the population census.

As the highest organ of the cultural autonomy of national minorities, the law predicts the existence of national councils.

Unfortunately, we have witnessed the continuation of the policy of national treatment councils as party branches, created with the aim of showing a false image on the alleged existence high level of respect for minority rights in Serbia.

Instead of the legitimate representatives of the Vlach/Romanian community, the people who are working for decades on the preservation of cultural and ethnic identity, on the leading positions in the National Council of the Vlach National Minority (NCVNM) are brought the party obedient persons who do not meet either subjective or objective criteria by which it could be concluded that they are members of the Vlach/Romanian National Minority.

In order to give legitimacy to so conceptualized NCVNM for the second time in a row organized the elections which basically represent the most simple farce, like elections organized under Slobodan Milosevic.

As evidence of election irregularities for NCVNM, held in 2010 mention:

- registration of members and supporters of the political parties of the majority of the people in the SPECIAL ELECTORAL ROLL in settlements where official statistics do not record the existence of the Vlach/Romanian national minority;
 - open financial and logistical support to local and municipal boards of implicated parties of the majority people to some lists;
 - giving promise to voters who do not have connection with the ingerence of powers NCVNM such as the asphalt paving of rural roads, construction of spas, organizing the refrigerator for purchase of fruits, creating new jobs, etc. .;
 - voting until late at night at some polling stations;
 - open stealing at a polling station in the village Sige, the municipality Zagubica, where is recorded a turnout of incredible 94% of registered voters, with 100% support to the SPS;
 - intimidation of supporters and activists of the then list "Community of Vlachs of Serbia" Dr. Predrag Balasevic by police and prosecution;
 - favoring certain lists through the opening of polling stations in the purely Serbian villages;
 - uneven media coverage with visible favoring of certain lists and attempt to discredit and demonization list "Community of Vlachs of Serbia" Dr. Predrag Balasevic.

As the ultimate proof of irregularities of the election of national councils of national minorities, on October 26th 2014, we mention instructions to implement direct elections for members of national councils of national minorities adopted by the Republic Electoral Commission denying the possibility of the lists to have their representatives in electoral commission, working bodies, polling boards and to exercise control of the electoral process.

Putting NCVNM under the full control of the state apparatus, or the subordination of desire for the preservation and enhancement of cultural and ethnic identity of Vlachs/Romanians to daily

political interests of the majority parties of the people, as well as the personal interests of local party leaders of these parties - participants in the government, is an example of roughest violations of the right to cultural autonomy.

All this is done under the cloak of alleged "protection of national interests", which means preventing some "Romanization of Vlachs", although so far no one has bothered to even clarify the meaning of the term.

This type of "democracy", where members of the community, who have so far been deprived of their right that through the school system learn the most basic facts about the people to whom they belong, are brought before a fait accompli - where the manifestation of ethnic intimacy is equated with betrayal of the fatherland, so that people out of fear opting for option imposed on them as the "only right" is completely unacceptable and not relevant to the example of Vlach/Romanian national minority.

Starting from the fact that the Constitution and the Law guarantee the right to cultural autonomy and to the Vlach/Romanian community, which has seriously violated by the interference of political parties of the majority people in the election of NCVNM as the highest authority of the Vlach/Romanian cultural autonomy, we, the representatives of the Vlach/Romanian organizations are signing this declaration hereby confirm that we will boycott elections for NCVNM scheduled for October 26th this year.

In order to protect the Vlach/Romanian cultural autonomy we announce the initiative for the establishment of parallel institutions of protecting the right to cultural autonomy of the Vlach/Romanian community, because it is endangered by interference of the ruling parties in the election procedure for the selection of the National Council of the Vlach national minority for the deliberate manipulation of our partocratic Vlach/Romanian rights.

It is our sincere desire that about this should be informed members of the majority people who are beyond any ethical and ethnic right and common sense enrolled in the special electoral roll for the election of the Vlach/Romanian ethnic body, because it is normal for that to fulfill the conditions on the basis of Vlach origin and knowledge of Romanian language. Namely, these are additional conditions - hence also is spoken about the special voters list, which are not limited to citizenship of domicile country of Serbia, where we all live and work.

These institutions should be maximally engaged to:

1. Reveal irregularities in the initial constitution of the special electoral roll in 2010 by work of a specially established Parliamentary Inquiry Committee and to in this way remove the taint from the state of Serbia caused by irresponsible behavior of then minister and his assistants, as well as local authorities which were complicit in the manipulation and derogation of the law. Also to prevent this continues and in this election, as has been evident already in the field, and to adapt to this shift the election date for NCVNM for six to 12 months.
2. Encouraging true dialogue with representatives of authorities of the Republic of Serbia, as well as with representatives of the OSCE Mission, the Council of Europe, Romania and Moldova and other interested countries in Europe, in order to indicate to real problems faced by the Vlach/Romanian community in order to overcome the existing problems.
3. Solving the issue of language of Vlachs/Romanians of northeastern Serbia through the involvement of the expert and scientific public in order to put an end to incompetent and arbitrary interpretation of the party instructed individuals in addition to personal self-will, with the weight of the wider criminal association in the deletion of the Vlach authenticity.
4. The introduction of teachin in mother tongue in the school system which would include both learning literary norms of the Romanian language and local dialects.

5. The introduction of radio and TV shows in the native language of Vlachs of northeastern Serbia in order to its full affirmation, but with a professionally prepared programs and proofreading of spoken texts, so it does not offend the integrity of Vlach/Romanian speech in their idiomatic integrity from Morava to Cibrica and from Tupiznica to Iron Gate.
6. Determining the facts related to the numerical strength of members of Vlach/Romanian national minority with special reference to possible irregularities related to the population census of 2011.
7. Guaranteeing the full freedom of religion of members of Vlach/Romanian national minority, including worship in the native language, in accordance with the Charter of Protection of Human Rights and familiar traditions from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, abolished in the early twentieth century.

In the belief that in this way we give great support to our country to get rid of inherited ugly stereotypes about Vlachs/Romanians constructed in the distant past to the present day, at the same time will advocate that Romania further engages as the protector of Vlach/Romanian rights in EU bodies through assistance that both de jure and de facto, in cooperation with our country, which next year will chair the OSCE, an old problem and misguided in its solution in this area permanently overcome and thus speed up the European path of the Republic of Serbia.

In Bor, 05.10.2014.

Romanian National Party

Ariadnae Filum- Society for the Culture of Vlachs-Romanians of northeastern Serbia

Association of parents of the children who want to have Romanian language classes in school

Association of Romanians-Vlachs "Traian"

Committee for Human Rights Negotin

Forum of Vlachs

Association of Orthodox women "Sfânta Maxima"