



NEWS REPORT

Date: 19 February 2010
Expert: Theodoridis Athanasios
Title: Court conviction of editor of neo-nazi magazine for distribution of anti-Semitic pamphlets
Country: Greece

Context

Issue at stake: Implementation of the anti-racism Law 927/1979
Ground of discrimination: religion/belief, race/ ethnic origin
Source: national court decision (Third Three-Member Misdemeanors Court of Athens – number 8806/2010)
Field: Other (incitation of discrimination, hatred or violence)
Legislative provisions: Law 927/79 (“interdiction of racial discrimination”) as amended by Law 1419/84 (sanctions against racial & religious discrimination) and by Law 2910/01 (ex officio prosecution)

Content

Case development: On 29 January 2010 the Third Three-Member Misdemeanors Court of Athens, in its decision no.8806/2010, convicted the publisher of the magazine “Apollonio Fos” Ioannis Haralambopoulos. The latter was found guilty of having violated Article 2 (under the title “interdiction of racial discrimination”) of the anti-racism Law 927/1979, since in 2007 he had distributed in public anti-Semitic pamphlets that among others were justifying all persecutions of Jews in history, in an attempt to express his moral and political support for Constantine Plevris, who was being persecuted at that time for his famous anti-Semitic book “Jews, the whole truth”. Moreover, the specific pamphlets cited that all Jews in the world (including Greek Jews) are to blame collectively for the acts of the State of Israel, whereas it clearly referred to Jews as enemies of the Greek nation. Ioannis Haralambopoulos was sentenced to seven months imprisonment with a three years suspension, and the sentence was suspended until the trial of a possible appeal.

Decision of the Court: According to the indictment of the court decision, Ioannis Haralambopoulos, on 5/9/2007 and 3/12/2007, in Athens, with similar acts that constituted a persistent repetition of the same offense through the press, had expressed ideas offensive to Jews as a group of persons because of their racial or national origin. In specific, the court ruled that the defendant as editor of “Apollonio Fos” had distributed to an indefinite number of citizens leaflets with offensive anti-Semitic texts. The concrete grounds of the conviction will be analytically known as soon as the written form of the judgment is prepared within a period of a few months. The court accepted the rationale of the prosecutor according to which there is objective substance to the violation of Article 2 of the Law 927/1979. Furthermore, the prosecutor, in his address to the court,



pointed out that Andrea Gilbert, a Jewish person who was a civil claimant at this case, as she considered that she was personally offended by the publication, was targeted by the defendant *not as an individual* but for her origin on the basis of which the defendant had made general references to the Jews with expressions that create division of people based on race.

Internet link source and additional information:

<http://cm.greekhelsinki.gr/index.php?sec=192&cid=3602>

<http://www.apolloneiofos.gr/>

<http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Country-by-country/Greece/GRC-CbC-IV-2009-031-ENG.pdf>