



הארגון הבינלאומי של עורכי-דין ומשפטנים יהודים  
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009

To

Ms Dora Bakoyannis

Minister of Foreign Affairs

1 Akadimias Str, Athens

Greece

Through the Embassy of Greece, Israel

Your excellency,

Enclosed is a statement of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, concerning the decision of the Appeals Court of Athens related to Konstantinos (Kostas) Plevris.

Very truly yours,

Alex Hertman, Adv.



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The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (IAJLJ) strongly protests the decision of acquittal of Konstantinos (Kostas) Plevris, a well known Greek writer, anti-Semite, and Holocaust denier, on 27 March 2009 by the Appeals Court of Athens. It is inconceivable that after only 65 years since the Holocaust, a respected court of justice can arrive at such a decision upholding the right to free speech over **incitement**.. A close reading of the accused writings shows a clear **incitement to genocide**. Unfortunately, our history books are full of evidence of the results of such incitement by the Third Reich.

Plevris, against whom an *ex-officio* prosecution was brought as a result of an initiative taken by the Greek human rights NGO, Greek Helsinki Monitor, was convicted on December 2007 by the first instance to a suspended prison sentence of 14 months. That ruling was overturned at the appeal level by the verdict rendered two weeks ago. The Appeals Court acquitted Plevris of incitement to racial hatred and violence against Jews

The charges of incitement concerned Plevris' 1,400 page antisemitic diatribe, *The Jews – The Whole Truth*.

In his racist book Plevris writes, inter alia, that he: "... constantly blames the German Nazis for not ridding our Europe of Jewish Zionism when it was in their power to do so..."

Since the publication of the book in 2006 assaults on Jewish cemeteries and Holocaust monuments, throughout Greece, have increased.

IAJLJ is shocked that whereas in the EU, the protection of human rights is one of its basic principles, in Greece one of its member states, anti-Semitism and racism is deeply entrenched and worse still, it is widely tolerated.

The EU and the world community at large should be alarmed by said Court ruling.

IAJLJ calls on all legal bodies and all those who are concerned to use their influence in the framework of the law to overturn the decision of the appeal court.

At this crucial time we urge you to exercise your authority to join us in the ongoing combat against racism and anti-Semitism in Greece.