

# **HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT 2015 - MACEDONIA**

## **SUMMARY REPORT ON CORRUPTION AND LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT**

### Achievements:

The court convicted seven misdemeanor judges for failing to process fines against defendants in misdemeanor cases; the process against other judges and administrative staff members has started but due to defendants health reasons the court has to postpone twice the case. There is a possibility for the public to review the declarations of assets and income of high officials and their family`s which are published on a website.

### Key issues:

The corruption of high level officials is perceived as the most concerning problem in the country, there is lack of capacity in the government to fully respect the rule of law; corruption goes with restriction of media freedom, interference in the judiciary and selectively prosecuted offenders; the judicial system is characterized by political interference, inefficiency, violation of the right to public trial and corruption; various sources within the country estimate that corruption, lack of transparency and political pressure are the reasons for preventing the fight against organized crime; there are reports for intimidation of key opposition leaders; corruption spreads among police and judicial authorities.

### Statistics:

The opposition party SDSM reported 24 complaints against high-level government officials for illegal wiretapping, violation of privacy and allegations of corruption. No criminal charges have been filed in these cases. The documents have been transferred to the Special Prosecutor who decided that 22 of them will be prosecuted at year`s end. During the first six months of the year two cases have been referred to the Public Prosecution Office for abuse of public funds and in one of them it was initiated a procedure for removal of a public official. 535 conflicts of interest statements have been examined and 53 irregularities have been detected.

Public access to  
information:

There are some obstacles for the media and the citizens to get access to information related to the government financial and public procurement dealing. The main problem is that when the government is asked about some information it ignores the request under the freedom information law.

**Source: U.S. Department  
of State**

**Country Reports on  
Human Rights Practices  
for 2015**