

The State and Human Rights

On 22 of last month, the European Court of Human Rights reached its verdict (?) by which Ibrahim Aziz was vindicated in relation with his appeal. The object of his appeal was the right to elect and be elected in the parliamentary elections of 2001 and moreover any elections in the Republic of Cyprus which the state has deprived him, safeguarded by the constitution of '60. The E.C.H.R. upholds that human rights are above the Constitution.

For someone with ample examples of his devotion in the Cyprus Republic, was not pleasant to take his country to the International Court, likewise in the past for A. Modinos was not pleasant either to do the same fight for the rights of homosexuals. It seems that many times, with the lack of sensitivity, the prejudice and its omissions, the state drives its citizens to pursue on their own the restoration of their human rights through the E.C.H.R. There are indications that more similar appeals will ensue with the object this time the lifting of the excessive privilege and the preferential treatment the church in Cyprus enjoys.

Anyway, what prompted this association of ideas these days, is nothing else but the granting of nationality to persons with one Cypriot parent who live in the occupied areas.

Moreover, belatedly some Greek Cypriot parties have emerged demanding the head of the official - admittedly the most successful and popular - Minister Andreas Christou. As it appeared Mr. Christou acted with the general consent of the Cabinet. Nevertheless the nationalistic violins began to play, when it appeared that more people would be naturalized from what was initially thought. As if human rights are a matter of quantity.

For us the matter is simple. Since someone is born in Cyprus and feels this country his own, independently if one of his parent is Russian, English, Lebanese, Greek, a settler from Turkey or simply Turkish, is entitled to the Cypriot nationality. Furthermore the illegal arrival of either father or mother in Cyprus cannot act as punitive to the child, who is not responsible in any way for this.

It seems less of a paradox not to consider as Cypriot someone who is born, brought up and being identified with Cyprus but at the same time we refer to those who came from Georgia to find a job, "of the same descent" and cannot speak any of the dialect of our country, since their mother language is different.

We take the opportunity to observe that laws are made to serve people, to secure their rights and not to infringe them with racist glimpses (?).

However those who appeal to the E.C.H.R. serve in perspective our country, defending human rights, in spite of the inherent element of litigation with the state. Nevertheless it would be good that the state forestall convictions and acting within the framework of real equality before the law to promptly and of its own free will take the necessary decisions more than ever now that we are members of the E.U., where human rights are secured by treaties and protocols.

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