
Interview: Emilija Geleva

Macedonia Official: NATO Is Sending A Bad Signal To Terrorists Worldwide

Emilija Geleva is the Strategic Affairs adviser to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. She has held that office for the last three years, in the most tumultuous period of the ten-year-old republic, which included the NATO air bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999. Before accepting that very delicate institutional task, for 15 years Mrs. Geleva had been a very popular TV journalist in Macedonia. Mrs. Geleva occasionally still writes analyses for the main newspapers. In a recent article in Utrinski Vesnik, with the polemical title "Lobotomy," she dealt with the Balkan upheaval and the "Brzezinski group." Her husband, Zivko Pavlov, is one of the most followed satirical journalists in Macedonia, and his work has received high recognition abroad.

Mrs. Geleva recently visited the United States at the invitation of the Schiller Institute. She participated in the institute's Labor Day weekend conference, together with a large delegation of Macedonian Americans. She was interviewed by Umberto Pascali on Sept. 6.

EIR: The Macedonian Parliament has just approved, with 91 votes out of 112, the so-called Framework Agreement that calls for a change in the Macedonian Constitution. The agreement had been demanded by the so-called international community, and went through the Parliament despite the fact that a majority of the MPs had denounced it. The international mediators, from NATO Secretary General Lord George Robertson on down, had stated that whoever voted against the agreement was asking for war.

Geleva: The meaning of the vote is that the Macedonian parliamentarians approved what had been signed earlier on by the leaders of the four political parties. For most of the parliamentarians, probably there was not much of a choice. Thus, despite the attitude that they expressed in their very heated discussions, where they disagreed with most of the content in the Framework Agreement, today they voted for it. I think it would help to understand what happened, if we look at the statement made in Parliament by Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski. You will find there the reason why he recommended voting in this way.

Allow me to quote from the Prime Minister's speech on

Sept. 3. He stated: "I have never thought the Macedonian Constitution is the reason for the six-month crisis in the country. Therefore, I do not think that adding 35 amendments to the Constitution will bring peace in Macedonia. . . . First, we have violated one of the most significant standards of the international community, and given a great reward to all of the terrorists in the world. The lessons we have learned over the past decades, that terrorism may not be rewarded by meeting the terrorists' political goals, are not being applied to Macedonia. Unfortunately, we must confess that we accept giving terrorists such a reward. Second, we are meeting to change the Constitution, when part of Macedonia's territory is occupied. However, I call on the parliamentarians to vote for the changes for a very simple reason. It is said that the chorus of international and domestic experts will sing the same song, forgetting [the Kosovo Liberation Army, or KLA] are bloodthirsty people, and seeking the guilty party among the Macedonian people. You have witnessed NATO's credibility when it entered into Macedonia, despite the differences on whether it is necessary to spend 1 billion deutschemarks for this operation that will collect [KLA] weaponry, worth DM 2 million, and whether it requires 5,000 soldiers to collect 3,300 pieces of weaponry. It is obvious that we should not 'gamble' with NATO's authority, and if the alliance takes part in this game, we should accept it and express our trust.

"Those in Parliament who refuse to vote for the changes will be declared guilty of causing the war. I will rephrase the question: What if all amendments are adopted, and terrorism does not stop in Macedonia, as well as violent acts against our civilians? What if the displaced persons cannot return to their homes, even after a year? Along with everything, that would mean a continuation of the war for territory — the war began that way, and, unfortunately, will most probably end like that. Unfortunately, voting for this initiative we have to be aware that Macedonia is 'collateral damage' of [the NATO intervention in Kosovo] and we cannot expect those who made that mistake in 1999, to admit it today. Unfortunately, these are the conditions under which we must commence with this initiative."

So, actually, about 35 amendments are proposed for the



Macedonian government strategic adviser Emilija Geleva.

Macedonian Constitution in the Framework Agreement, and the existing Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia will be essentially changed. The preamble of the Constitution will be cut out, and another Constitutional declaration will be approved later, in order to keep the continuity of the Macedonian people's state.

EIR: Was there any real need for such Constitutional changes?

Geleva: When the Macedonian Constitution was brought up ten years ago, the proposed text of the Constitution was revised by the so-called Badinter Commission, and Mr. Badinter is an expert in constitutional law. At that time, the Badinter Commission gave a top rating to the Constitution, that it was a very good test—it guarantees all of the democratic principles, protects minority rights, and so on and so forth. In fact, Mr. Badinter, when the discussion about the Constitutional changes started, gave again the same estimate. [Robert Badinter is former French Justice Minister—ed.]

It is also necessary to keep in mind, when we talk about what is going on with this Framework Agreement in Macedonia, is that it is a part of the ongoing process—generated inside the international community—that is aimed at erasing every concept, every sign, every symbol of national sovereignty. That is actually what they are trying to do in Macedonia. But it is not only about Macedonia. It is about the world. It is true that in the Republic of Macedonia, which is older than the

existing Constitution, we have a few ethnic minorities, of which the Albanians are the largest. But the principle of the state organization is its citizens, not ethnic groups, and all citizens in the Republic of Macedonia have equal rights. It doesn't matter to which ethnic group you belong.

However, because Macedonians are the majority, and because of the name of the state is the Republic of Macedonia, with those changes—that makes of Macedonia a body of different ethnic groups—actually every sign of the national state tends to disappear, and the tendency is to nullify national sovereignty. So, that is why Macedonians feel like they are committing suicide. That is the problem; it is not a question of the rights of minorities. Those rights are already recognized. I would like only to clarify, that out of 15 ministers, five are Albanian. They are deputies, ministers; they are directors of many public enterprises. They are ambassadors of the country—five out of 25 are ethnic Albanians. They have the right to educate themselves in their own Albanian language. Sometimes another problem appears here, because they do not speak enough of the official language, which is Macedonian. And with the latest law that was passed a year and a half ago, for higher education, they also have their own higher education programs in the Albanian language. So, they already have minority rights, and this is why it is very difficult for Macedonians to understand what the so-called international community actually is trying to demand.

EIR: So the crisis does not come from inside the country?

Geleva: Of course no! It has been generated from outside, because first of all, you have these terrorist attacks from outside, from Kosovo. Also, when you see what kind of picture, throughout the international information channels, the international media, the world public is getting, the picture that they are presenting, it's only a one-sided picture. So, they do not report anything about the sufferings of Macedonians who are subjected to the ethnic cleansing that was going on there, where Albanian terrorists were forcing, torturing, Macedonians to leave their homes; they burned Macedonian homes.

EIR: In fact, this is not a war between ethnic Albanians and ethnic Macedonians. This is a controlled scenario.

Geleva: Unfortunately, it seems to be like that. Because even this NLA [the name of the KLA in Macedonia] Albanian terrorist group, didn't get real support among the Albanian population, among most of the Albanian population. There are some Albanians who live in Macedonia, who are citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, and they are now in the NLA. But most of them went earlier into the KLA, and they were fighting in Kosovo. So, later they went into the NLA, and that is how they came back into Macedonia. Most of them think that this is a good opportunity for them to realize the idea of Greater Albania, which includes Kosovo. This includes part of Macedonia, but also part of northwestern Greece and part

of Montenegro. The big argument for that, is the two leaders of the biggest Albanian parties in Macedonia, three months ago, signed an agreement in Prizren, which is a city in Kosovo, with Ali Ahmeti, the so-called political leader of NLA. The Prizren agreement, as the Prime Minister also pointed out on Sept. 3, corresponds almost verbatim to the Framework Agreement.

So, what does this mean? The Prime Minister was right to point out that what is going on now in Macedonia, is a rewording of the terrorists' demands. Because it has come out that the international community and officials supported the terrorist demands. If you remember, in the very beginning of the crisis, the official attitude of NATO, of officials in the Washington Administration, was that the NLA was a bunch of criminals, of terrorists. And now, what happened is, they are pushing us to accept the terrorist demands. So, that is a very bad signal to send to terrorists all over the world.

EIR: Prime Minister Georgievski stressed that Macedonia is to be seen as "collateral damage" of the NATO intervention in Kosovo two years ago.

Geleva: There are many analyses, much information on the actual connections between the KLA and NLA. But, because you have already now, for one year, 50,000 troops of NATO-KFOR in Kosovo, Kosovo has the status of a protectorate of the United Nations. So, if NATO tried to collect the weapons from the KLA, when the KLA was supposed to transform itself into the Kosovo Protection Force, then the mission was not successful. As became clear later, most of the weapons which were already there, didn't come into the hands of NATO-KFOR, but were hidden somewhere, and then, the KLA, this time newly dressed in NLA uniforms, used the same arms to attack the territory of Macedonia.

So, we do not see that NATO has done very much to prevent the border crossings. Because they are supposed to take care of the border between Macedonia and Yugoslavia where Kosovo is. But unfortunately, the border is like Swiss cheese. So the terrorists are going back and forth. Of course, in the last months, officially, KFOR has arrested about 380 of these terrorists who tried to cross the border illegally. But when they arrest these people, they are then under Kosovo law, which is not very strong, in reality. Many of them are released in a short period of time.

EIR: What is the basic reason for this coordinated attack?

Geleva: The point is that the wars, especially in the last decade in the Balkan region, have all been generated from outside. The goal, what is going on in the world in parallel with the process of globalization in the world — which means uniformization of the economy, politics, and cultural identity — is a process of partition, or fragmentation of the states. Because if you have only some small autonomous territories, then it is easy to impose the so-called global culture; it is easier to erase the real national culture. That is a parallel

process. Yes, the people in the Balkans, many of them, still dream about some Greater Albania, or Greater Serbia, but unfortunately, as my husband wrote in an aphorism, there are too many Great States in only one small piece of territory. So, of course, there is a possibility to cooperate among different states and nations, even in the Balkans, if the forces which want to provoke, which are playing and generating different aspects of the states — if they just stop that, the people are willing to cooperate, even in the Balkans. We have lived together in peace for 50 years. There was not war.

EIR: Could you describe the process of ethnic cleansing going on now in the northern part of Macedonia? I am always surprised at the determination of the U.S. and Western media to ignore this ferocious war against the civilian population.

Geleva: Yes, unfortunately the international media closed their eyes when the ethnic cleansing of the Serbs in Kosovo happened. They are doing the same now with Macedonia. Because when the Kosovo refugee crisis happened, when Macedonia accepted and hosted 360,000 Albanian refugees from Kosovo — in a very short time they entered the country. It is like, comparing it to the United States, if you were to accept in only a few days 30-40 million people.

I remember how, at that time, the international media, including CNN and the biggest other media, were covering the situation. They have shown that they are biased, because later on, they didn't give any coverage to the ethnic cleansing of the Serbs, and especially not now, about the ethnic cleansing of Macedonians. Because 100,000 Macedonians have already been forced to leave their homes, and most of their homes were burned by the NLA, and Albanian terrorists have taken many Macedonians hostage. They are holding people and torturing them horribly. You can see horrible signs of torture on some of them.

Also, the international media hid a very important fact, when the first killing of eight Macedonians happened, in Sar Planina. I read the agency report and the other reports; it said that eight Macedonian soldiers were killed in an ambush by Albanian rebels — that was the term that they used. But it did not say that their bodies were desecrated in a cannibalistic way and burned. And this happened twice. Later on, another group of Macedonian soldiers was killed in the same way. You could find some pictures on the Internet, how their bodies looked. But what kind of journalistic reporting is that?

The international media are not reporting what is going on with Macedonians and their houses. They do not show the burnt and devastated houses; they are ruined completely, and everything inside has been stolen. They are giving signals to the Macedonians that you cannot come back. Displaced Macedonians are already about 100,000. So, they are refugees in their own country. Very few remain there, but they do not have food, they don't have medicine — nothing. Some charity organizations tried to go there, in order to provide the people with food and medicine, and it was difficult.

EIR: You have been advising the Prime Minister now for three years on strategic matters. You have seen the whole situation as it developed. Recently, you got in contact with the Schiller Institute and the organization of Lyndon LaRouche. You came to the Labor Day weekend conference. And you made a statement after the keynote by Mr. LaRouche. The other person who intervened and was part of a large Macedonian-American delegation at the conference, was Prof. Nestor Oginar, the leader of the North American Macedonian diaspora.

What is your impression of this conference, and of the idea, that the only way to save Macedonia is to save the world, to change the entire situation. How do you see this conference in that context?

Geleva: Thank God that there many good people in the world who are fighting for the highest values in mankind. I don't have any doubt that even in the United States there are many good and wonderful people. I have met many Americans who are searching for the truth. When the crisis started, I got a letter from one lady from Virginia I had met on a plane. At that time, it was Kosovo on the agenda. She didn't believe the view that I expressed, but she remembered the discussion. Her letter said that she is shocked by what is going on in Macedonia, and we helped them [Kosovo] so much, and now they are attacking your country. Who did we help?

I am impressed about the view of Mr. LaRouche, and of course, Mrs. Helga Zepp-LaRouche, because they have a complete view of what exactly is going on in the world, what kind of concept has been implemented in the world. So there is a concept, because what is happening in Macedonia is happening exactly to other places in the world. It happened and it is happening. There is no difference; the model is completely the same.

So, the people in the world have to know what is going on. They have to decide on their own for the destiny of mankind, the destiny of mankind cannot be given into the hands of only a small group of people, of some world elite, which, of course, has its own goals. Probably they believe that they are the best goals for mankind, I don't know. But it comes out that they are not, because so many people are suffering. Let us say that we, as Macedonians, as a country, face tremendous pressure from that international community. I don't know why, but they have the goal to minimize our existence, to erase our identity. I cannot accept that that is the way that the people have to communicate, to deal for their benefit, for a better future.

So what I have heard of the concepts of Mr. LaRouche gives some hope for mankind. He has a concept, he has an alternative. And the people have the right to be informed about that, to think about that. Because what is going on now, after this international media channels—they are controlled, so there is no possibility that the broader public gets information about other thoughts, about other concepts, about, let's

say, a New Bretton Woods system, which will give a better base for the real economy in the world. What is going on now in the sphere of economics, in the sphere of international economics—actually what do you have? You have the dictates of the IMF and the World Bank in these other countries. Like now in Macedonia, and in other countries, they are just dictating. And they have a concept, which is economically devastating these countries. So it is important to know the concept of Mr. LaRouche, because it gives a surer base for the world economy.

EIR: During the conference, Mr. LaRouche answered a question from Dr. Stojadin Naumovski, the leader of the Macedonian community in Detroit, he explained the origin of this attack against Macedonia, pointing to Zbigniew Brzezinski's Arc of Crisis, Clash of Civilizations, the determination to destroy Russia. [See transcript, p. 52.]

Geleva: Yes, the analysis was very good, because when you look at some crisis point, you have to have a geo-strategic view of the situation. I doubt that the Clash of Civilizations is the way to achieve a better future. The way is to make better connections, and understanding, and relations among nations, and exchanges of cultural values, and so forth, in order to reach some higher spiritual values; because the people are first of all spiritual creatures, they are not animals.

So, it is very important what Mr. LaRouche pointed out. And if the public really wants to understand what is going on in Macedonia, it is very important to have that in mind, that actually this region, the Macedonian Balkans, is in the middle of the Eurasian Land-Bridge. So now, it will be clearer why this entire scenario is going on there. And who is creating that scenario, who is generating the crisis. So, yes, the idea that Mr. LaRouche was explaining, and especially Helga, about the Eurasian Land-Bridge, about, actually, the rebuilding of the Old Silk Road, which is a connection between the Asian continent and Europe—and there is the possibility for that connection, the building of the railway—that means not only physical connections but that gives a chance for economic growth and development of those continents and elsewhere. All of the world will benefit from that, because this development will also affect the whole world. So, when you have that in mind, then you understand what is really going on: then you understand that there are probably some forces who do not like that idea, of connecting the people and the nations, the cultures, instead of provoking a clash.

Macedonia is in the middle of the Balkans, and some would say the heart of the Balkans. My husband wrote an aphorism: Macedonia is the heart of the Balkans, which can at any moment provoke a heart attack of the world. What is obvious now, after this crisis in Macedonia, at least it is obvious on the surface, what the so-called international community is doing. That is obvious. There is no dilemma or doubt what is going on.