



Français	Home	Contact Us	Help	Search	canada.gc.ca
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[Home](#) > [Research](#) > [Responses to Information Requests](#)

RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

[New Search](#) | [About RIRs](#) | [Help](#)

The Board		9 January 2006
About the Board	MKD100788.E	
Biographies		
Organization Chart	Macedonia: Treatment of members of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (Vnatrešna Makedonska Revolucionerna Organizacija - Demokratska Partija za Makedonsko Nacionalno Edinstvo, VMRO-DPMNE), including treatment of their families (January 2005 - December 2005)	
Employment		
Legal and Policy		
References		
Publications	Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Ottawa	
Tribunal		
Refugee Protection Division	Information on the general treatment of members of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE) was scarce among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate.	
Immigration Division		
Immigration Appeal Division	A mention of the VMRO-DPMNE relating explicitly to its members appeared in an uncorroborated 19 April 2005 article by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), in which it was reported that the party's chairman, Nikola Gruevski (<i>Political Parties of the World</i> 2005, 391; RFE/RL 19 Apr. 2005), had announced a review of membership lists (ibid.). The goal of the six-week long review was to "purge the VMRO-DPMNE of members who [were at the time] also members of other parties, especially of the rival VMRO-NP [VMRO-People's Party]" (ibid.). According to RFE/RL, when the VMRO-NP broke away from the VMRO-DPMNE, new members of the former did not want to give up their membership in the latter, since they wanted to retain their parliamentary seats (ibid.). However, further details on the outcome of Gruevski's review could not be found within time constraints.	
Decisions		
Forms		
Statistics		
Research		
Research Program		
National Documentation Packages		
Issue Papers and Country Fact Sheets	In February 2005, the International Crisis Group (ICG) indicated that there remained only 10 Members of Parliament of the VMRO-DPMNE out of the party's original 28 parliamentary seats: on 18 January 2005, twelve members of the VMRO-DPMNE joined the VMRO-NP, another five became independents (ICG 25 Feb. 2005), and an additional member, Ljube Boskovski, was in detention in Croatia, having been charged with the 2002 killing of persons "falsely alleged" to be "Islamic terrorists" (ibid.; HRW 13 Jan. 2005). Boskovski, who had formerly been Macedonia's Interior Minister (ibid.; AFP 10 May 2005; Makfax 4 Oct. 2005), was later indicted for war crimes against ethnic Albanians and, in March 2005, transferred to The Hague where he is to be detained until his trial at the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal (AFP 10 May 2005; MIA 18 July 2005) in June 2006 (Reuters 12 Dec. 2005).	
Responses to Information Requests		
Recent Research		
Media Centre		
News		
Information Sheets		
Media Relations		
Proactive Disclosure		
	The VMRO-DPMNE is a "conservative" party (RFE/RL 19 Apr. 2005) and is the main opposition party in Macedonia (ibid.; ICG 25 Feb. 2005; ERWI 1 Aug. 2005). VMRO-DPMNE candidates won 21 out 84 mayoralty contests (RFE/RL 19 Apr.	

2005). According to *Europe Review World of Information* (ERWI), the next parliamentary elections in Macedonia will take place in 2006 (1 Aug. 2005).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

References

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Human Rights Watch (HRW). 13 January 2005. "Macedonia." *Human Rights Watch World Report 2005*.
<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2005/01/13/macedo9875_txt.htm> [Accessed 17 Dec. 2005]

International Crisis Group (ICG). 25 February 2005. No. 37. "Macedonia: Not out of the Woods Yet." *Europe Briefing*. <http://www.icg.org/library/documents/europe/balkans/b037_macedonia_not_out_of_the_woods_yet.pdf> [Accessed 18 Dec. 2005]

Macedonian Information Agency (MIA) [Skopje]. 18 July 2005. "ICTY Rejects Macedonian Government's Request for Indictees' Provisional Release." (Factiva)

Makfax [Skopje]. 4 October 2005. "Macedonian Church Not to Accept Any Political Concessions' on Country's Name." (Factiva)

Political Parties of The World. 2005. 6th Edition. Edited by Bogdan Szajkowski. London: John Harper Publishing.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL). 19 April 2005. Ulrich Buechsenschuetz. "Macedonia: Opposition Leader Begins Cleaning House."
<<http://www.rferl.org/features/>> [Accessed 19 April 2005]

Reuters. 12 December 2005. "Press Digest - Macedonia." (Factiva)

Additional Sources Consulted

The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia did not respond to requests for information within time constraints.

Internet Sites, including: Amnesty International (AI), *Courrier des Balkans* [Arcueil, France], European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI), *European Union (EU) Enlargement Report*, Freedom House, The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of Macedonia, Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization-Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE), International Helsinki Federation (IHF), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), United States Department of State.

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