



Note: Translated Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE

A seminar on "The cycle of violence: from animal abuse to domestic violence" was successfully completed today at the Benaki Museum

Co-organizers of the Conference were the Ministry of Citizen Protection and the Hellenic Police, the Panhellenic Philanthropy Federation and the non-profit organization "Alliance for Greece"

The Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, Tzanetos Filippakos, and the Chief of the Greek Police, Lieutenant General Dimitrios Tsaknakis, were present.

The Conference was held in collaboration with the Los Angeles Police authorities, the State Attorney General's Office Virginia and the Voice for the Animals Foundation

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Co-organizers of the Conference were the Ministry of Citizen Protection and the Hellenic Police, the Panhellenic Philanthropic Federation and the non-profit organization "Alliance for Greece". The Conference was held in collaboration with the Los Angeles Police Department, the Virginia State Attorney General's Office and the "Voice for the Animals" foundation.

The Conference was attended by the Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction, Tzanetos Filippakos, the Chief of the Greek Police Lt. Gen. Dimitrios Tsaknakis, the Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen.



Konstantinos Tsouvalas, the Inspector General of the Police of Southern Greece Lieutenant General Konstantinos Mihairinas, the Chief of the Security Branch of the Headquarters, Major General Dimitrios Georgatzis, the Chief of the Order Branch, Major General Christos Dragatakis, the Chief of the General Financial Support and Informatics Division, the General of Attica , Major General Ioannis Diamantopoulos, as well as other senior and senior Officers. The President of the Panhellenic Philanthropic Federation, Irini Molfesi, and the Director General of the Non-Profit Organization "Alliance for Greece", Giorgos Kaloudis, also attended.

Also in attendance were Senior State Attorney and Director of the Animal Law Unit for the State of Virginia, Michelle Welch, and Los Angeles Metropolitan Police Department (L.A.P.D.) Chief Kelly Muldorfer and Inspector Hector Sanchez.

At the beginning of the Conference, the President of the Panhellenic Philanthropic Federation, Irini Molfesi, addressed a greeting:

"Hello, Mr. Secretary General, Mr. Chief, representatives of the Hellenic Police, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for being here today. The idea of the Conference started six months ago, when we met Mrs. Melya Kaplan. Melya Kaplan is the founder and director of Voice For The Animals in California. She is a close associate of the LAPD and is their confidant. So after Ms. Melyan Kaplan screened us to see if we were solvent, she mediated and when I say mediated I mean she moved heaven and earth to convince the LAPD Headquarters, to send two of their most brilliant officers, to speak about the cycle of violence.

This is the first time this has happened, I think we all understand how important it is. This is the daily life of the animal-loving person, who is upset and outraged by the omnipresent violence against animals in Greece.



I will once again repeat the phrase I heard from a great jurist, which I use at every opportunity: "show me a country where animal protection is low on the agenda and people live protected".

For the sages of legal science the protection of animals goes hand in hand with the protection of humans. I am glad that the Minister and the Leader of EL.AS. they appreciated the seriousness of the content of the Conference and thus we are able to have police officers from all over Greece here today.

These police officers will then transfer their experience to the Departments where they serve. The evidence that we will officially present today for the first time in Greece, which results from the application of the Law in the USA and from the findings of the FBI, is much darker than you imagine.

They unfortunately substantiate the view that where animals are abused, people are also abused. Along with these, however, the LAPD and the Attorney General's Office will lend their experience and knowledge to the prosecution of these crimes.

I believe that today's Conference will be both useful and fruitful and that we will leave here with a wealth of knowledge and better armed to deal decisively and effectively with the phenomenon of animal abuse, the anteroom of human abuse, with the satisfaction of actually helping society.

I thank the Minister and his advisors for their interest and for the trust they have shown us. Thank you to the LAPD, Captain Kelly Muldorfer, Detective Hector Sanchez, for answering our call and literally coming from the other side of the world to be with us today. You will hear them; they are amazing.

I thank the Greek scientists who will speak here today, the representative of the Greek Police, our coordinator Dr. Alexis Mordo, who will speak from the position of a psychologist on domestic violence. I thank our co-organizers, the Greek Police, especially the Public Relations Directorate, the Press Office and all the departments, who contributed to us all being here today and you all being here.



I thank Mr. Kaloudis of the "Alliance for Greece", who embraced the idea of the Conference and activated an impressive network of companies working for the common good.

Of course, I thank our animal welfare partners, who made this happen. Finally, I would like to thank all our sponsors, who supported the Conference in extremely difficult financial conditions, demonstrating their interest in the matter. Without them, nothing could be done.

From here we will all leave with more knowledge and above all with greater responsibility, each in his field, so that this knowledge can become a tool for prevention, a tool for protection and a tool for modernizing legislation so that everyone, people and animals, can live better."

Then the General Director of the "Alliance for Greece", Giorgos Kaloudis, took the floor:

"Good morning from me. Mrs. Molfesi told you everything so well. Thanks were not needed.

We all have an obligation towards the personnel of the Hellenic Police and we recognize the difficult task in the difficult times we are going through. Let's start.

Mr. General, thank you for the honor, Mr. Chief, thank you very much, thank you to the Staff, the Public Relations, the Press Office for the perfect cooperation. I am honestly impressed, I have been in the market for many years, we envy such managers.

The Alliance was founded in 2010, when our country was going through the crisis. A group of friends sat, we thought, we saw that Greece has a lot of good things and it is bad to bring out only the negatives, we have good businesses, we have good executives and we also have imagination. In difficult times we roll up our sleeves and I believe that in this difficult time that the country is going through, we should all roll up our sleeves, above all else. The "Alliance for Greece" deals in the fields of culture, volunteering, sports, tourism and the environment.



We thank the representatives from America for the honor they did us. We believe that we will respond with the whole organization. Mrs. Kaplan, who we used to drive her crazy on e-mails at three and four o'clock in the evening, together with Mrs. Molfesi. The outcome counts. Thank you for coming, you will read about the Alliance in the paper, I don't want to say anything else. Thank you very much and I am honored to be on this panel. Thanks".

Then, during his greeting, Deputy Secretary General Janetos Filippakos said the following:

"Mr. Chief, Mr. Deputy Chief, ladies and gentlemen, good morning,

First of all, I want to apologize, because yesterday I was not able to be near you, I was absent abroad for certain obligations and I was deprived of this presence because this Conference really has a lot to give.

This Conference is of particular importance, because in our time, our days have violence that starts with the mistreatment of animals, reaches the family and generally presents itself in various forms.

The framework that exists is satisfactory, but it can be improved. It must be said that a huge amount of work is being done. The Headquarters of the Greek Police and the uniformed officers every day give their best, so that there is no mistreatment of animals, no violence and in any case they respond immediately in the best way.

I must especially congratulate those who participate in this initiative and especially the representatives from the United States of America, who also contribute in their own way, so that useful conclusions can be drawn in this reality and then, by drawing the conclusions to we can create those conditions to minimize and if possible eliminate violence altogether.

Violence comes in many forms, it threatens man, it threatens the child, it threatens animals, it threatens everything that is beautiful, everything that gives



humanity, sensitivity, which man needs to live and create in a good favorable environment.

I want to wish that the conclusions that will be drawn will be such, and I am sure of it, that they give us that impetus so that we can be more organized, more informed, more determined, to bring about and then pursue those results, which will make the life of animals better, better life within the social becoming, that there is no violence in the family, that we do not perceive bad moments every day.

Good luck and I wish everyone the best. Rest assured that I for my part will do everything humanly possible in this direction. Thank you very much".

Afterwards, the Chief of the Greek Police, Lieutenant General Dimitrios Tsaknakis, spoke, who said:

"Today's Conference is a pioneering project for the Greek Police, because for the first time a collaboration is being developed in order to highlight the very important correlations between animal abuse, child neglect and abuse, domestic violence as well as other forms of violence.

It is a fact that the protection of our country's animals is a primary social issue that concerns state and local bodies, and of course all the citizens of our society.

The Greek Police, within the framework of its responsibilities, deals with the issue of animal protection with particular sensitivity and condemns in the most categorical way the incidents of their mistreatment, which take place from time to time. At the same time, it supports every effort made in the direction of shaping an animal-loving consciousness and culture in our country, strictly applying the provisions of the current legislation.

The correct treatment of animals demonstrates a high level of education and a well-formed social culture. As the American inventor, Thomas Edison, characteristically said:



"Until we stop harming animals, we will still be uncivilized."

In particular, the Hellenic Police Headquarters, being particularly aware of animal protection issues, has from time to time issued directives - instructions to all its competent Regional Services in order, in the exercise of their powers, to be vigilant and strictly apply the applicable legislation in any case of torture, abuse or killing of an animal.

Also, for each incident that is reported, the competent Police Service is instructed to immediately investigate the case and take the necessary actions of its competence.

At the same time, I feel the need to assure you that every possible effort is being made to effectively deal with the whole issue by providing any legal assistance requested by the interested Agencies, Services, Non-Governmental Organizations, Charitable Societies and citizens both of our Country and Abroad , a fact which is demonstrated in practice by the following statistical data:

As an example, I will mention that this year, until the end of October, regarding the abuse, torture and killing of animals:

- *we received 950 complaints*
- *we were involved in 833 cases*
- *we confirmed 469 violations*
- *140 people were arrested and*
- *767 cases were filed.*

Ladies and gentlemen,

The most important issue, however, is the connection of animal abuse with other criminal behaviors.

In particular, the infliction of animal abuse, through and in relation to other forms of violence, i.e. of domestic violence, with particular pathological ramifications, are among the most important forms that will be developed at this Conference.



Animal abuse has long been recognized as a sign of pathology in the most violent offenders. The biggest criminals-murderers in history have a history of abusing animals, such as Theodore Bundy who killed about 30 people, in the investigation that followed, it was proven that when he was a child, he watched his grandfather torture animals.

Also in the year 1871, W. Hogarth in his work "The 4 Stages of Abuse", showed in the first stage a child torturing a dog while in the fourth stage he showed the now grown child being sentenced to be hanged as punishment for murder he committed.

Many years of research show that this social phenomenon has very deep manifestations and is directly related to almost all illegal and violent behaviors, one of which is family violence.

I simply remind you that the protection of animals from human cruelty, in order to be effective, must, in addition to the strict criminal treatment of offenders and police measures of prevention and suppression, be accompanied by general active social participation, having as guides and supporters, the Philanthropic Organizations.

In closing, I would like to thank the representative of the Virginia Prosecutor's Office Mrs. Michelle Welch, the officer of the Metropolitan Police of Los Angeles Mrs. Kelly Mulldorfer, the detective of the same Police Mr. Hector Sanchez, the president of the Panhellenic Philanthropic Federation Mrs. Irini Molfesi, the President and the representatives of the "Alliance for Greece", as well as all those who participate in this Conference. Thank you"

During the Conference, which was moderated by the clinical psychologist Alexis Mordo, the question of the connection between domestic violence and animal abuse was discussed and developed. Both the psychological, the police and the legislative approach to the issue were analyzed scientifically, leading to the extraction of useful and important conclusions.



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Speakers were representatives of the Los Angeles Police Department and the Greek Police, representatives of the Judicial Authorities, Academics and other experts on the subject. Also, for the first time in Europe, the conclusions of the application of the law in the USA on the connection of animal abuse with domestic violence and organized crime were presented.

The Conference was attended by officials from the Ministry of Citizen Protection, the Hellenic Police from all over the country, as well as the Ministry of Justice and the Prosecutor's Office.