

Greeks rally against use of 'Macedonia' in FYROM name dispute

By *Euronews*

last updated: 21/01/2018

Thousands of Greeks turned out in Thessaloniki to show their anger over the use of the name 'Macedonia' by neighbouring FYROM as Athens and Skopje seek a solution to the long-running row.



Hundreds of thousands of Greeks have turned out in Thessaloniki. They are united against the use of the name "Macedonia" in a long-running row with Skopje.

Greece says the title 'Macedonia' implies a territorial claim over its own northern region of the same name.

"We are all here to cry out loud that Macedonia is one and it is Greek. Macedonia is in Greece and we are demonstrating against the neighboring country and against irresponsibility against our country and against our Macedonia," said one of the demonstrators.

Pantelis Paschalidis a member of Naoussa Cultural Club said, "There is no reason to discuss the self-evident. The Slavs came a long time after Alexander the Great and they have nothing to do with the culture of Greece."

This month Athens and Skopje agreed to renew efforts to settle the 25-year old row, which has blocked the ex-Yugoslav republic's attempts to join NATO and the European Union.

Organisers of the rally say that participation exceeded all expectations and that this sends a strong message to the Greek government in light of the negotiations that are taking place with the government of FYROM.

Purple bottle

don't get it. Why not name themselves what they really are?? Why are they not proud of who they are?? I never wanted to pretend to be anything else other than what I am. I have a great idea for a fitting name for them. Why don't they take on the name the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Bulgarian Speaking Slavs (FYROBSS) ?? What about the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Vardarska (FYROV)?? I forgot one, what about the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Skopja (FYROS)...??? Alexander the Great wasn't Greek, He was Makedonian. Pericles wasn't Greek, he was Athenian. Leonidas wasn't Greek, He was Spartan. Daskalogiannis wasn't Greek, he was Cretan. Get the pattern?? Doesn't matter which city-state, or region of Greece they were born in, they are HELLENIC !!!!! debate over!

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