

United States Embassy Macedonia

Presents Newsletter *C O L L A G E*



*Global articles for your interest
Issue 20
November 2 - November 17, 2010*

Contents:

1. Religious Freedom a Core Element of US Foreign Policy

The 2010 International Religious Freedom Report documents both abuses and improvements in the protection of religious rights around the world. Promoting religious freedom is a core element of U.S. diplomacy, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says. ...

2. No Major Foreign Policy Shift After US Midterm Election

Following major Republican gains in the November 2 midterm elections, President Obama will certainly face challenges implementing his agenda. But foreign policy objectives are not expected to change, political experts say. ...

3. United States, NATO to Announce Afghan Power Transfer Plan

The United States and its NATO partners are preparing to announce plans to transfer control of Afghanistan's 34 provinces to the Afghans by the end of 2014, according to U.S. officials. ...

4. International Enrollment in US Colleges Reaches All-Time high

The number of international students at U.S. colleges reached an all-time high in the 2009–2010 academic year, thanks to a 30 percent increase in Chinese students. Asia sent the most students to the United States, but the sharpest growth in enrollment came from the Middle East, says a new report. ...

5. Assistant Secretary Stock on International Student Exchanges

On the launch of International Education Week, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Ann Stock speaks at the National Press Club on the release of the 2010 Open Door annual report on international student mobility. ...

6. Global and Fair Climate Treaty in US Interest, Official Says

The United States will continue to push for an international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as long as it includes all emitters and gives developing nations some flexibility, says Jeff Miotke, climate change coordinator for the U.S. special envoy for climate change. ...

In case you missed it:

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Facebook](#) page

U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Youtube channel](#) 



Ambassador Reeker speaks to students at SEEU (LP)

[Macedonia's Membership in NATO and the Lisbon Summit - Looking Ahead to the Future](#)

November 16, 2010

Ambassador Reeker was joined by DUI President Ali Ahmeti and Andrej Lepavcov, Honorary President of the Ohrid Institute, at South Eastern European University (SEEU) in Tetovo for a panel discussion before a student audience on Monday, November 15. The Ambassador's remarks focused on the new NATO Strategic Concept and emphasized that "Security is not just about what governments do, it is also about what citizens do. A strong civil society is itself a guarantor of security, helping to ensure that rights are protected as a viable avenue for dissent and agents of change."

To read the Ambassador's remarks, please [click here](#).



Sec. of State Hillary Clinton

[Release of the International Religious Freedom Report](#)

November 17, 2010

Secretary Clinton: "This report reflects a broad understanding of religious freedom, one that begins with private beliefs and communal religious expression, but doesn't end there. Religious freedom also includes the right to raise one's children in one's faith, to share one's faith peacefully with others, to publish religious materials without censorship, to change one's religion – by choice, not coercion, and to practice no religion at all. And it includes the rights of faith communities to come together in social service and public engagement in the broader society."... [Secretary Clinton Remarks](#) | [Report](#).

»»» **Republic of Macedonia:** 2010 International Religious Freedom Report...[full text](#).



The young pianist Zoran Stanishic performs at the first of the Ambassador's Concert series (LP)

Ambassador's Concert Series Features Young Musical Talent from Macedonia

November 18, 2010

The Ambassador's Concert Series is an innovative chamber music program created by Ambassador Philip T. Reeker and his wife Solveig. The first concert of the series was held on Tuesday, November 16 and featured the talented young pianist, Zoran Stanishic. The series was conceived by Solveig Reeker, a member of the Foreign Service herself as well as an accomplished musician, as an opportunity to provide

promising young Macedonian musicians with both a venue and the opportunity to perform for small groups of prominent artists, officials, business leaders and other decision makers. The Ambassador's Concert Series strives to recognize and support the talents of young musicians from around the country.



Ambassador [Philip T. Reeker](#)

"Study in the USA!" – Ambassador Reeker's Message for International Education Week

November 15, 2010

This week – November 15 through 19 - marks the 11th annual International Education Week. This year's theme is Striving for a Sustainable Future. In his video message, Ambassador Philip T. Reeker noted that education is an investment in oneself and one's country. "Education feeds our minds; an international education opens them," Ambassador Reeker said, encouraging more Macedonian students to consider pursuing their education in the United States.

- ◇ To see the video of Ambassador Reeker's Message for International Education Week, please visit our Embassy [YouTube](#) video channel.
- ◇ To read a transcript of his video message, please [click here](#).



President Barack Obama.
(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

Statement by the President on Hajj and Eid-ul-Adha

November 15, 2010

Michelle and I extend our greetings for a happy Eid-ul-Adha to Muslims worldwide and wish safe travels to those performing Hajj. This year, nearly three million pilgrims from more than 160 countries - including the United States - have gathered in Mecca and neighboring sites to perform the Hajj rituals and stand together in prayer.

On Eid, Muslims around the world will commemorate Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son, and distribute food to those less fortunate - a reminder of the shared values and the common roots of three of the world's major religions.

On behalf of the American people, we extend our best wishes during this Hajj season - Eid Mubarak and Hajj Mabroun.



Ambassador Reeker welcomes Ali Ahmeti the political leader of the DUI.

Ambassador Reeker Meets with Ali Ahmeti in Tetovo

November 3, 2010

Ambassador Reeker travelled to Tetovo Wednesday evening to meet with DUI leader Ali Ahmeti to discuss issues of Euro-Atlantic integration for Macedonia and the wider region. The conversation focused on the essential role that implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement plays in preparing for NATO and EU accession.

The Ambassador expressed his appreciation for Ahmeti's focus on long-term goals.

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Small Grants information: http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small_grants_program.html

American Educational Exchange information: <http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/aec.html>

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