



Press Release

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*To: Editor in Chief
Newsroom*

Ambassador Lawrence E. Butler Presents Third Annual Outstanding Women in Macedonia Awards

March 7, 2005

On Monday, March 7, Ambassador Lawrence E. Butler and Mrs. Linda Butler hosted a ceremony to recognize six exceptional women from Macedonia for their outstanding efforts and contributions in their chosen professions. This marks the third year in a row that the U.S. Embassy in Skopje has held a program to recognize women's leadership and accomplishments in the Republic of Macedonia.

The Outstanding Women's Awards program reflects the U.S. Department of State's views that human rights, including the rights of women, are one of America's key foreign policy priorities throughout the world, and a central component of democracy. As Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in her statement saluting International Women's Day, which occurs on March 8, "Women are integral to the process of building responsible governments and democratic institutions."

Ambassador Butler recognized the following women:

- 1. Pavlina Jankulovska**, Deputy Basic Prosecutor, Bitola Basic Prosecutor's Office, Bitola. She has been a leader in the administration of justice to those charged with major involvement in the trafficking of persons for sexual purposes.
- 2. Mabela Kamberi**, Head, Department for Coordination and Technical Assistance to the Minister, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Tetovo. A member of the Roma community, Ms. Kamberi has overcome many challenges in order to attain a policy-level position. She is working as National Coordinator for the "Decade of Roma Inclusion" regional initiative.

3. Mirjana Naskovska, General Manager, Dollar Tours Travel Agency, Skopje. Ms. Naskovska is recognized as a conscientious business leader in the competitive travel and tourism sector, setting high standards for quality service and creating employment opportunities for staff members.

4. Prof. Dr. Gzime Starova, Professor of International Labor Law, Law School, Sts. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje. A prominent expert on Labor Law, Dr. Starova is a respected professor and author of several books, research studies and publications on international labor law and social benefits. She is currently Vice-President of the University Senate.

5. Ruza Tomeska, Judge, Gostivar Basic Court, Gostivar. A courageous and inspirational judicial leader in Macedonia's efforts to combat trafficking in persons, Judge Tomeska worked effectively with police and prosecutors to bring traffickers to justice in the landmark Dobri Dol case, resulting in prison terms of 5 to 12 years for persons convicted of trafficking in women.

6. Beba Zakula, Ministry of Defense, currently Macedonian Attaché for Defense Policy in Washington D.C. One of the few women in a senior-level policy position in Macedonia's defense establishment, Ms. Zakula has played important roles in developing international partnership programs and working agreements in the Ministry of Defense, and has been an advocate of defense cooperation in Europe and in the Trans-Atlantic Alliance.

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