

Michalis Kalogirou
Ministry of Justice,
Transparency and Human Rights
96 Mesogheion Avenue
11527 Athens
GRIECHENLAND

Twitter: @ABZayed
E-Mail: grammateia@justice.gov.gr
Fax: 0030 – 210 7755835

Dear Minister,

Zak Kostopoulos (also known by his drag stage name Zackie Oh), a queer activist and tireless defender of the rights of LGBTI people and HIV-positive persons in Greece, died on 21 September 2018 following a violent attack.

Video footage by eye witnesses shows that Zak was brutally beaten up by two men after entering a jewellery shop in central Athens. Footage also shows police violently arresting Zak who was dying on the ground. The video shows an officer forcefully driving his leg into his neck and another kicking him. According to the forensic report, Zak died from the multiple injuries he sustained.

The relevant criminal and disciplinary investigations have been marred with serious irregularities: the police made little effort to collect evidence, the crime scene was not sealed, the assailants were not immediately arrested. Due to persistent prejudice against LGBTI people and people living with HIV and the reporting by mainstream media, Zak was presented to the public as a 'drug user that entered to steal the jewellery shop'. Fortunately, the evidence that gradually came to light soon debunked those lies.

I would like to ask you to ensure that all the perpetrators and all those that contributed to Zak's death are held to account, in fair trial proceedings, and that justice is delivered for his death;

In the process to achieve justice, it must be considered whether any of the actions of those involved were motivated by hate, discrimination or any other prejudice.

Yours sincerely,

Copy:

Botschaft der Hellenischen Republik
S. E. Herrn Theodoros Daskarolis
Kurfürstendamm 185
10707 Berlin

Fax: 030 – 20 62 64 44
E-Mail: info@griechische-botschaft.de