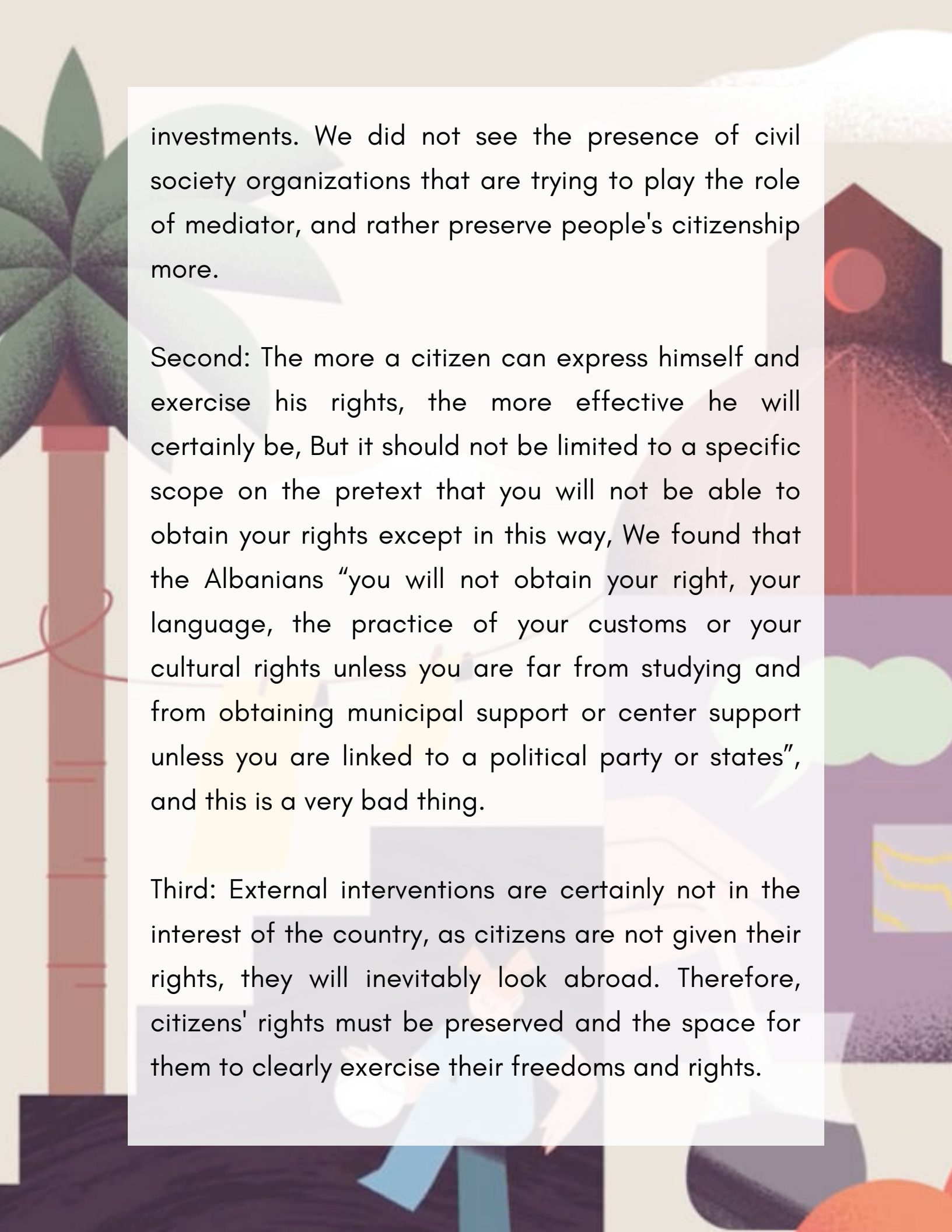


# NORTH MACEDONIA: LESSONS LEARNED FOR SYRIA

## A STATEMENT BY **DR. RAGHDA ZIDAN**

The seminar was very rich and it was a very useful experience for me, and the lessons learned from it were very great. For me, there were very useful points, but I will talk about the non-repetitive points, which are three out of the six points I wrote:

First: For me as a person who represents civil society, I am very interested in that Syria remains one country and that all citizens have rights, and I don't want Syria to be divided into several parts, Therefore, I saw that municipalities and local councils should remain more connected to civil society organizations that are far from political quarrels in this country. We have seen a lot of political quarrels. We have seen in this country that the municipalities are dealt with on the basis that they are regulated for certain



investments. We did not see the presence of civil society organizations that are trying to play the role of mediator, and rather preserve people's citizenship more.

Second: The more a citizen can express himself and exercise his rights, the more effective he will certainly be, But it should not be limited to a specific scope on the pretext that you will not be able to obtain your rights except in this way, We found that the Albanians “you will not obtain your right, your language, the practice of your customs or your cultural rights unless you are far from studying and from obtaining municipal support or center support unless you are linked to a political party or states”, and this is a very bad thing.

Third: External interventions are certainly not in the interest of the country, as citizens are not given their rights, they will inevitably look abroad. Therefore, citizens' rights must be preserved and the space for them to clearly exercise their freedoms and rights.