

Elizabeth Botsaris situation:

My father (Vasilis Mihail Botsaris) came in Brazil in 06/07/1956. He was born in Athens in 10/06/1928 and married in Greece with Anna from Skardeli's family, then left her with two kids in Athens and came to Brazil for work (electrician / merchant/ bricklayer and plumber) because in Greece he has no job, everything was extremely complicated there. He served the war forces in Greece, from his 12 to 18 years old because my grandfather was too old to be enlisted. There is a medal of honor (look at files).

After that he was travelling around the world as a seaman he was here in Brazil and started many jobs here. He has been working with marine also, as a ship mechanic.

I was his first daughter. I have two brothers that were born in Greece, Michael, and Panagiotis, they are about 70 years old now. They are kids from his first marriage. The second I know was with a woman, Maria from Caxias do Sul city, south of Brazil. They are Marcos and Marcelo, about 55 years old now. And after that, he had two kids in São Paulo city with my mom, me, and my brother Dimitri (44 years old). She is Renilda and came from Bahia state (she is a descendant of Brazilian Indians and Dutch people), a young woman who was working to him in his clothes factory. She is now 64 years old and lives near to my city, Mauá city.

And after that, one more girl. Nadia, daughter with a nurse call Tecla. She is about 38 years old. I am 46. I am an architect, and I am working at decor stores here in Brazil, as a consult, sales, and relation manager. I also renovate some houses.

When I was about 20, I went to the Consulate here to request my Greek citizenship. I exposed in a short conversation my intentions. An old woman just answered me like " you know what? Can you see this file on the table? I am busy and your situation is extremely complicated. So, do not disturb me because I am terribly busy". That was the first time I tried.

After that I was totally disappointed, I was feeling incredibly sad. I thought that I must wait for a better time request that again.

On 2014 (Δευτέρα, 2 Ιούλιος 2014) I sent an email to the Consul and again I requested for my papers. I received a long answer by email (look at files) they gave me some basic information and a list of documents. At that time, this list was totally impossible to take because it was a huge list and many processes to do by myself. So, I had to wait again.

In 2017 I have heard that in our consul here there is a man that helps preparing the requests of process (Manolis Andreasson). So again, I sent an email, and I explained my situation. Manolis, a mix of Swede and Greek helped me to start the process of Greek citizenship. We prepared every document. It was awfully expensive, and I had to go to many places to get these documents. So, I spent a lot of money, about 500 euros to have these documents and translate them, for 2 requests, me, and my brother Dimitri N. Botsaris. It was necessary to prove that I was Elizabeth and who was my mom, and that my mom was single at the time I was born. I prepared all documents and I sent them to Manolis (look at files) and by the end of 2017 my documents were sent to Greece.

I received from Manolis an email which informed me that my documents were in Greece, and I was waiting for one year. And in the end of 2018, I received a message, a document that my request was denied, and the indication was to start my naturalization process. (Look at files). It was mandatory to present two witnesses and a statement from the consul of São Paulo, (Stelios Hourmouziadis) who promptly helped me.

In March of 2019 I started to have these documents, pay taxes again, translate all papers by the lawyer and in April of 2019 all these documents were sent to Greece again but in another department. (Look at files). They explained to me that there were two departments, one is for requesting citizens and the other is to have your naturalization.

As time went on and I had no news, I asked what happened with my request and I received the same answer. "you are in a file; you need to wait."

And I said "ok, let's wait again". In July of 2019 I sent an email to request a meeting with this department, I was in Athens. Mr. Saritzoglou was in kind of summer vacation (look at files) and

would be impossible to meet him. He also informed me that my process would be analyzed to the end of 2019. I just wait again.

I asked again in the consul because I did not have any update about my request. Then the covid pandemic appears and all the answers oi receive the last year, were that during the pandemic I cannot have information about my problem. All processes are stopped so I must wait again.

For me, the best thing is not to be naturalized. Why? Because I spent all my life here, in Brazil. I can do this but there is no sense of this. In my opinion the more correct is to have a double citizenship, to be Greek and Brazilian. My education here was in a Greek school in São Paulo, called Institute Educational Ateniense. It is not working nowadays.

I am Greek, my soul is Greek, but I do not know why I must prove that I am a daughter of Vasilis Botsaris, I can understand the reason they denied my citizenship. My fathers signed the papers which say I am his daughter (look at files) my surname is Greek. I am not inventing all these.

My parents were not married when I was born. Here in Brazil, it is not a problem to leave and make family with someone else. I was baptized orthodox here, in our Greek church (by the orthodox priest, according to all the respective traditions.) For my father that was enough to say that I am Greek. They believe that just to be orthodox and your father is Greek, was enough to say that the child was Greek.

I understand that it is my birthright, according to my education and to honor my origins and my surname in obtaining this dual nationality. Certainly, something that would make my father and my family immensely proud. The legacy of the Botsaris still survives through its members, the family, and their blood. Honoring our history, regardless of where we live.

My case needs a more accurate analysis, and it cannot be analyzed in a generalized way. Each person is a being who has his own history and personal and family values.

To further promote Greek tradition and culture, I have a small artisanal production of Greek sweets (BOT DOCES GREGOS @botdocesgregos), which I propose a new gastronomic experience for Greeks and non-Greeks in Brazil. I produce from 1000 to 3000 sweets a month and sell it on social media, sending it through delivery and mail.

I came to Greece twice, first in 2018 and the last one on 2019. I would love to learn the Greek language and be with Greek people. It is not easy here in Brazil to find people and talk in Greek. I would also love to meet my uncles, cousins, and relatives.

One more point about me that you need to know is that because of the covid -19 pandemic, I am ta home and I have a production of Greek sweets, like Κουραμπιέδες, μελομακάρονα, μπακλαβάς and Galactobúriko, kulurákia and others. And I am doing this to survive. I started this by the end of 2019. The mission is to preserve the tradition and to promote the Greek culture. It is not common for people on Brazil to expose our gastronomy to others. I was in a course in the end of 2019 and started the business. The name of my mini production Greek sweets is Bot, the nickname of Botsaris.

It is not just about sweet. It is to preserve the way to Greek life. I am selling the sweets to Brazilians and Greeks also. It is a big surprise for them (Brazilians). At first, they are thinking our sweets are Arabian, they are not. Maybe some of them have the same ingredients but the way you cook them is different.

They love them. And now they are requesting me more sweets. It is like an education, I need to educate my clients and, I do it with love. I love the process, not just cooking but the packing and delivery as well. I am also writing a letter describing all the ingredients and how the sweets need to be eaten, because they do not know. For example, a guy told me that he tried to eat κουραμπιέ with a knife. And I said no, you need to have it in your hands and put it in your mouth.

Greeks here are from diaspora and preserving the tradition is particularly important.

I am immensely proud about the history of my name. Markos Botsaris was my father's great great uncle and when I was a child, he used to show me how proud is our family about what Markos Botsaris did in the past. And my father when he was alive had a **Very BIG** crown in his chest, a drawing (tattoo). He was always immensely proud. Beside my blood and my surname, Botsaris story is also a part of me also. My father just left Greece because of many problems,

went to Brazil but this legacy was always with him. He did not forget about this. He passed away on 2003 here and I am still crying to have my documents and requests of Greek citizenship.

In the Orthodox Easter of the year 2021, May 1st, my story was published by the Greek newspapers, reporting my entire trajectory, described here.

I received countless messages from Greeks around the world, journalists, soldiers, lawyers, cooks, historians, and others, all of them sympathetic to my condition and offering me support. Including the advisor to the current Prime Minister (on Latin American issues), Mr. Iásonas Pinipis Velasco, who kindly requested priority in the analysis of my case for the Greek Ministry, as a new sector was founded in 2020 to help Greek cases from the Diaspora.

It was at this moment (09/2021) that I received, via the Greek consulate in São Paulo, the request (**attached**) to present statements and photos that prove my participation as an active member of the Greek community in São Paulo/Brazil.

I really don't understand the reason for this request after so long, considering that the consulate here in São Paulo knows me very well and has already made a statement about me for the entry into the naturalization process. Even without understanding the relevance of such photos from my childhood, but I have delivered all the requested documents and additional photos and I am waiting again for an answer. It seems to me that there is always a new procedure that is created every moment. Always patience to wait, wait, wait.

Consul Stelios Hourmouziadis and my lawyer /attorney Politis forwarded this additional documentation to the Greek ministry on 10/09/2021.

01/12/2021 I've send a question to Stelios (Consul) if there were any news about my process, and he answered that will write again to request more information and plus suggest me to send a complain to Ombudsman about this situation, I didn't do that because I don't have this contact.

17/12/2021 received a document about the relation between my father and my mother when I was born, once again I explained that they were in a informal relation (very normal in Brazil) and me and my brother Dimitri Nunes Botsaris was the result of this relation. And that result means the relation really existed. But all about this informal relation was informed since the beginning. There is no surprise and no news about this fact.

The consul said, so we will have problems now, and I've answered, please check all papers we sent before, its all clear there.

Consul requests my birth declaration again (the complete version) but the authorities who does it is located 40km far from me and takes 5 workdays to type it plus cost. I did it again.

But during this period, he sent the normal version to the Greek authorities, a version that was possible to take at the same time. (Quick version)

27/12/2021 I've sent this complete document to Consul Stelios, and I said please, send to the Greek authorities as soon as possible. I made the question to Stelios: isn't right to be apostille and translated? He answered, I will check it. Because I am in Greece now, in my vacations, I will talk to my assistant to see more about this. Please wait.

According to the consul, all documents was received and now its necessary to wait again.

After this date, monthly I ask for news to the Consul here in São Paulo and e answer is always the same: UNFORTUNATELY NOTHING NEW ABOUT YOUR CASE, IF ANY NEW INFORMATION I WILL LET YOU KNOW!

On 04/14/2022 I received via the consulate a request from the Greek ministry dated February 2022, where they request that my father, who has died since 2003, make an act of recognition of paternity. Something at least incoherent if we think that we can't make anything out of dead people. What a lack of logical thinking this is, asking for something humanly impossible.

Mr. Pipinis, advisor to the first minister, and Mr Stelios from the consulate are guiding me to request a response from the ministry and explain that such an act of paternity is impossible in the face of my father's absence in life.

From June 10th to July 14th, 2022, I was in Greece on a pilgrimage trip, I visited Souli, Messologui, Nafpaktos, Athens, Rhodes, Crete and Volos. During this trip, I was with the lawyer who started a lawsuit against the decisions of the Greek authorities. In this document delivered to the ministry, all the mistakes made by the authorities were described and all the laws that give me the right to Greek citizenship were described. There were five falsehoods alleged in the documents of the authorities and we, through this process, explained in detail and with arguments all that happened, attaching all the necessary documents. The main point is the law which says that the authorities must accept any legal document from the other country that says who is the child's Greek bread. Therefore, my Brazilian birth certificate is a valid document that justifies my right to Greek citizenship, even though I am the daughter of a non-formal relationship with a father who is currently deceased. In the ways in which this process was carried out, the authorities have two months to respond, so if we consider that we started the number protocol 2022/0000236/230222 on July 12, 2022, we will have an answer by the end of September 2022.

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On July 2022, the Greek consul in São Paulo, [Stelios Hourmouziadis](#) , left his position and was transferred to Tokyo, Japan.

On July 23, 2022, journalist Giota Florou again writes about my story, posting photos and describing my current situation and how my pilgrimage trip was to contact my ancestry.

On September 14, 2022 the lawyer informe that the answer is:

This document is an answer that says that the last act (document) was not a decision but information and is not subject to appeal.

We basically knew that, they read it wrong, we write that it is an objection (no appeal) and additional information in their last document. This answer doesn't matter

What matters is that the objection with our data and documents are in the file.

I will speak with the employee to get a decision according to the law on your request.

On September 20, 2022 lawyer sent an extra-judicial to make directly a decision according to the law (objection) and that we will not sent any other documents. As soon as they receive our last document, they will charge it to an official and should proceed with a decision immediately.

Document number: Sineo 3401A / Sineo 95822093011580

On 03 October, 2022 lower inform: *The public service received the document on 20-9-2022. With the document we ask that they issue a decision immediately. Positive or negative with*

reasons and responsibility of the civil servant for judicial review. Do not leave the application pending. And that we will not produce any other documents.

The decision will be sent to the Greek consulate in Brazil. We don't know how long they will process it.

Probably in 3 months at the latest

I have sent a message by email to the Greek consulate inform them in case of any document received by them please contact me, attached files was included and also my contacts.

Here in the São Paulo Consulate, Stelios Hourmouziadis is not working anymore, the provisional consul here in São Paulo is Mr. Stergios Tasioulas.

In November of 2022 I sent an email for the Greek consulate of São Paulo asking about any answer from Greek authorities about my process, and the informed that until that moment nothing was received. And, people form my Greek community in São Paulo, told that probably the consulate in my city will be closed soon, and Stavros Kyriopoulos, the director of the community was asking help by signatures to avoid it.

In November of 2022 I decided to go to Greece and check the options to move to Greece. In 28 of November, I left Brazil and starts my journey, first I have been in Messologui/Aitoliko/Agrinio and them went to Athens.

In Athens I was talking with many friends about job and how to study in Greece for a few months.

In 29 of December of 2022, I Had a meeting with Stathis my lawyer and I asked him to request to Interior Ministry to receive in order to check personally what happens with my process.

Also, a I asked him to make my registration on the registry of Peristeri, the place my father has already his registration birth.

This document was updated in 03/10/2022

Best regards,

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