

How do we understand
solidarity
among anarchists?

In Greece there are as many as thirty imprisoned comrades, while more anarchists are facing state prosecution in their everyday lives outside the walls.

This booklet gives brief summaries on the various cases of anarchists and antiauthoritarians who are currently incarcerated, with the view to extending practical solidarity with prisoners in struggle.

What can we do now
to create infrastructures
that will actively support
imprisoned comrades?

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CONTRAINFO.ESPIV.NET

SHORT NOTES ON CASES OF ANARCHIST AND ANTIAUTHORITARIAN PRISONERS OF SOCIAL WAR IN GREECE



Contrainfo.espiv.net was created three years ago by an open assembly of random anarchists in Athens. Participants in Contra Info originally attempted to create an online translation network with the aim of supporting all anarchist tendencies and spreading what we call counter-information —a term often used to describe our own news-sources, texts, indymedia, blogs, posters, radios, and so on.

Ever since the beginning, one of our main characteristics is that we refuse to use corporate sources and media that express the dominant ideology.

Initially, we focused on transmitting news from Greece in other languages, while we translated texts from around the world only in Greek. Later on, at one of our assemblies, we decided to start working in every possible language regarding various locations, in order to transmit moments of social war in Greece but also in other parts of the world. So, we have started blogs in thirteen different languages, which can cover news from various parts of the globe as long as there are comrades eager to maintain them.

We have always tried to disseminate the voice of anarchist prisoners. This is not our only thematic, but rather one we consider as integral part of the anarchist and libertarian struggle. What's more, we act in a complementary way next to other counter-information projects that dedicate their efforts to this purpose.

If any of you are interested in learning more about Contrainfo.espiv.net and care to join the network, please don't hesitate to contact us at [contrainfo\[at\]espiv.net](mailto:contrainfo[at]espiv.net)

A letter from Greek prisons — Joint statement of prisoners in Koridallos

"Today, March 29th, 2013 we the prisoners in the first wing of Koridallos men's prison refuse to enter in the cells at noon as a minimum token of protest against the military-style invasion of the EKAM special suppressive antiterrorist units that conducted unannounced inspections and cell searches on the night of March 28th until the morning hours.

If the Greek police want to make a coup d'état in prisons by beating and torturing inmates, they should know that this provocation will not go unanswered.

At the same time, the ministry of 'Justice' through its current head Antonis Roupakiotis, and under the orders of the minister of Public Order Nikos Dendias, promotes fascist bills against us, which include regulations on restriction of our right to days of leave from prison as well as an introduction of the use of electronic tracking bracelets for prisoners.

They will meet our embattled opposition wherever we will deem it necessary, outside the prison cells, in the corridors, on the rooftops.

We will respond to the violence of cops with the violence of dignity.

Regarding the escape of 11 prisoners from the prison of Trikala (on March 22nd, 2013): no laws or institutions can prevent the inalienable right of prisoners to their freedom. Good luck to the escapees.

Strength and solidarity to all prisoners in Trikala who were beaten by cops.

Prisoners from the 1st wing of Koridallos men's prison"
(Statement co-signed by 350 prisoners)

Several comrades undergo frequent prison transfers, so the mailing addresses may change at any time.



Fighters of the ‘17 November’ left-wing guerrilla group, but also a number of other dignified prisoners (such as Elias Karadouman, Spyros Stratoulis, Spyros Dravilas, among others) haven’t been included on this list of prisoners, however share solidarity with anarchists and are active in struggles on the inside.

In addition, four comrades from the anarchist space are at large: Grigoris Tsironis, Marios Seisidis, accused of bank robbery (fugitives since 2006, with prices on their heads since 2009), as well as the admitted Revolutionary Struggle members Nikos Maziotis and Pola Roupá (both fugitives since mid-summer of 2012).

Illegalist and widely popular bandit Vassilis Palaiokostas is also on the run.

Bearing in mind that 30 anarchists are locked up in prisons of the Greek democracy right now, and even more comrades are being investigated or charged with criminal offenses, facing state prosecution in their everyday lives, let’s start by sharing a few words on two anarchist urban guerrilla groups recently on trial —namely ‘Revolutionary Struggle’ and ‘Conspiracy of Cells of Fire.’

Both cases deal with charges under articles of the Greek anti-terrorist law. The anti-terrorist law was first enacted in Greece in 2001. Since then, the State worked hard to promote the doctrines of patriotism, security and intelligence ahead of the Athens Olympics.

In the summer of 2002, the dismantling of the leftist ‘Revolutionary Organization 17 November (17N)’ unfolded across Greece, with arrests in a large-scale police and media operation. So, the year 2003 marked the first trial against an urban guerrilla group which took place at a special courtroom inside prisons. The next big trial was held against another leftist urban guerrilla group, the ‘Revolutionary People’s Struggle (ELA)’.

Persons who are charged under the anti-terrorist law may be held in prison even before their trial, while the maximum term of this pretrial incarceration is 18 months.

Until this day, in Athens, trial sessions regarding cases of so-called ‘terrorist organizations’ are being held at courtrooms inside prisons. Every time visitors and lawyers enter the specific courtrooms, their identity cards are kept upon entry, with all that this entails...

The Revolutionary Struggle carried out direct actions since 2003 in Athens, targeting structures and organs of the State and Capital, defending armed and class struggle, and aiming towards the social revolution. Their revolutionary action includes bombings, rocket launching and gunshots against the Finance and Labour ministries, anti-riot cops, police stations, court buildings, multinational corporations, banks, a politician implicated in huge scandals, against the United States Embassy, as well as the Athens Stock Exchange.

In March 2010, anarchist Lambros Foundas was killed in a shootout with cops. A month later, the three members (in pretrial incarceration at the time) claimed political responsibility for their participation in the Revolutionary Struggle and explained that Lambros Foundas was also a member of the organization.

In no way does the claim of political responsibility mean that these anarchists accept criminal charges such as ‘terrorist association,’ and so forth. Below are short excerpts from a letter of Pola Roupa, Nikos Maziotis and Kostas Gournas on their reasons for undertaking responsibility after they were caught by police:

“By claiming political responsibility, we wanted to defend the armed struggle, and to highlight its timelessness and importance within the broader struggle for the overthrow and social revolution. (...) Also, by undertaking political responsibility we wanted to restore the memory and honour of our comrade Lambros Foundas, who was a member of the Revolutionary Struggle and was killed in an armed battle with cops in March 2010 during an attempted expropriation of a car — a preparatory act of a wider action plan of our organization.”

Anarchist Vaggelis Koutsibelas was imprisoned before trial for almost a year accused of a string of arson attacks that took place in the city of Trikala in 2012.

In March 2013, he was sentenced to 15 years in prison (with the right to appeal). The main ‘evidence’ against Vaggelis was the forged testimony of a police informant.

Evangelos Koutsibelas

Kleisti Filaki Trikalon, D Pteryga, Krinitsa, Trikala – Mpalkoura Trikalon 42100, Greece

Anarchist Andrzej Mazurek came to Greece from Poland in 2007, and was arrested in Athens amid the riots in December 2008. He then became known as ‘the last prisoner of the December revolt.’

Andrzej was accused of use of molotovs and attempted homicide of cops, and was sentenced to 11 years in prison. Only three years later, his case was disclosed thanks to his fellow prisoners. In June 2012, after his appeal trial, the sentence was reduced to 8 years giving him the right to conditional release, because he had already completed two fifths of his prison term. But the State ensured that Andrzej would not walk out of prison even for a single day. The comrade remained in the Greek prisons for four whole years, and in December 2012 he was extradited to Poland, where he was imprisoned again on charges that had been pressed only after his arrest in Athens.

Andrzej Mazurek syn Kazimierza

Oddział Zewnętrzny w Chmielowie, 39-442 Chmielów, Woj. podkarpackie, Polska/Poland

Anarchist Rami Syrianos was arrested in 2011 after an armed robbery against a state corporation that organizes auctions of vehicles confiscated by cops. He admitted responsibility for the robbery, clarifying that he denies work and opposes to waged slavery.

The comrade was sentenced to a little over 8 years in prison. Rami Syrianos has fought strongly on the inside, constantly refusing the body cavity search, while he has conducted hunger strikes and confronted various abuses by jailers —note that prisoners who refuse strip searches are often locked up in solitary confinement for a long period of time.

Rami Syrianos

Dikastiki Filaki Larisas, 21100 Larisa, Greece

Anarchist revolutionary Babis Tsilianidis is imprisoned since 2011, and has faced a series of court proceedings in which he has always refused to attend. He received suspended sentences —meaning that he would be released from prison if he didn't have a last trial pending against him.

But in his last trial, this January, he was sentenced to a little over 10 years (without parole). He was accused of armed burglary in the accounting department of a hospital in Thessaloniki. The evidence that brought his third consecutive pretrial incarceration and ultimate conviction was a handkerchief found near the burglary scene. The comrade's DNA sample was supposedly detected on that object.

Charalambos Tsilianidis

Dikastiki Filaki Koridallou, A Pteryga, 18110 Koridallou, Athens, Greece

The trial for the Revolutionary Struggle case reached its end this April.

Out of 8 defendants, only three were admitted members of the Revolutionary Struggle: Pola Roupa, Nikos Maziotis (who became fugitives in the middle of the proceeding) and Kostas Gournas. The three members received sentences up to 50 years of imprisonment.

Two other accused comrades, Vaggelis Stathopoulos and Christoforos Kortesis, were convicted up to 7 years even though they deny their participation in the organization.

This means that anarchists Kostas Gournas, Vaggelis Stathopoulos and Christoforos Kortesis were recently taken to prison.

Kostas Gournas, Vaggelis Stathopoulos, Christoforos Kortesis

Dikastiki Filaki Koridallou, Parartima Gynaikeion Filakon Koridallou, ST Pteryga, Solomou 3-5, 18110 Koridallou, Athens, Greece

The Conspiracy of Cells of Fire carried out direct actions from early 2008 in Athens and Thessaloniki, but also beyond the Greek borders (with incendiary package mailings), defending anarchist individualism and nihilism, and aiming towards the constant insurgency. Their revolutionary action includes incendiary and explosive attacks against structures and organs of the State and Capital, such as residences of members of parliament and of judges, police stations, banks, the headquarters of the neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn, Koridallios prisons, the vicinity of the Greek Parliament, the Athens Administrative Court, and politicians such as Sarkozy and Merkel. Also, in early 2011, the organization claimed part in the ‘Informal Anarchist Federation/International Revolutionary Front.’

Nine anarchists have taken political responsibility for their participation in the organization after they were caught by police. All of them are currently imprisoned: Haris Hadjimihelakis (who was arrested in 2009), Panagiotis Argirou and Gerasimos Tsakalos (arrested in 2010), Michalis Nikolopoulos (arrested in January 2011), Olga Ekonomidou, Giorgos Polidoros, Christos Tsakalos, Damiano Bolano and Giorgos Nikolopoulos (arrested in March 2011).

In the first trial for the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire, only two of the 18 accused persons were admitted members of the organization. Defendants received sentences up to 37 years of imprisonment.

In the second trial for the same case, all 4 defendants were admitted members of the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire. They received sentences up to 34 years of imprisonment.

Anarchist-communist Tasos Theofilou was arrested in Athens in August 2012 on grave charges that he denies, such as involvement in an armed bank robbery on Paros Island that summer, which resulted to the fatal shooting of a citizen who attempted to stop the robbers on their escape. The comrade has also been implicated in the case of the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire, but denies any involvement in the organization’s actions.

Anastasios K. Theofilou

Filakes Domokou, El Pteryga, 35010 Domokos, Fthiotida, Greece; you can also email him at a.tasious[at]gmail.com

Anarchist-communist Polykarpos Georgiadis and comrade Vaggelis Chrysochoidis are imprisoned since August 2008, charged with robberies as well as the kidnapping of powerful industrialist Mylonas, which took place earlier that summer in Thessaloniki.

Both deny their participation in the kidnapping, but have always declared their solidarity with the famous prison escapee Vassilis Palaiokestas, who was charged in the same case. After their appeal trial, in April 2012, Polykarpos Georgiadis and Vaggelis Chrysochoidis had their sentences reduced from 22 years to a little over 12 years in prison. Polykarpos Georgiadis has been fighting for his right to days of temporary leave from prison. Let’s hope that really soon both comrades will be granted not only days of leaves but their conditional release from the hellholes.

Polykarpos Georgiadis

Kleisti Filaki Kerkyras, 49100 Corfu, Greece

Vaggelis Chrysochoidis

Dikastiki Filaki Komotinis, 69100 Komotini, Greece

Anarchists Dimitris Politis, Yannis Michailidis, Andreas-Dimitris Bourzoukos and Nikos Romanos were arrested in February 2013 for double robbery near the city of Kozani, in northern Greece. The four released a text from prison, explaining that they carried out the armed robbery so as to fund and expand all forms of anarchist struggle.

Now, Dimitris Politis and Yannis Michailidis are also defendants in the third and fourth trials underway against the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire. Both of them alongside Andreas-Dimitris Bourzoukos and Nikos Romanos are being charged with alleged participation in the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire, even though they deny their involvement in the organization's actions.

Dimitris Politis, Yannis Michailidis, Andreas-Dimitris Bourzoukos
Dikastiki Filaki Koridallou, A Pteryga, 18110 Koridallos, Athens, Greece
Nikos Romanos

Eidiko Katastima Kratisis Neon Avlona, 19011 Avlonas, Attiki, Greece

Since mid-February 2013, after the double robbery in Kozani and the incarceration of the four aforementioned anarchists, arrest warrants were issued against Fivos Harisis-Poulos and Argyris Ntalios, who were on the run. Both comrades were arrested in Athens on April 30th, 2013. On that same day two other anarchists, Yannis Naxakis and Grigoris Sarafoudis were also caught by the police. All four have been remanded, accused in bank robbery cases.

Fivos Harisis-Poulos, Argyris Ntalios, Yannis Naxakis, Grigoris Sarafoudis
Dikastiki Filaki Koridallou, A Pteryga, 18110 Koridallos, Athens, Greece

A third trial for the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire is currently underway. Out of 17 defendants, nine are the admitted members of the organization.

Here's a short excerpt of the declaration by the nine members in the opening of this court proceeding:

"Our captivity does not halt our cause or the new urban guerrilla, which is transformed daily into practice, and lastly will never halt our ceaseless struggle for freedom that you, puppets of the system, are unable to stop. The Conspiracy of Cells of Fire consists of the nine of us, who have taken responsibility for it, and no other defendant has any relation to the organization and neither of them could ever have."

Indeed, numerous persons are prosecuted for alleged participation in the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire, but deny the charges. In the meantime, new trial briefs and prosecutions constantly arise within the same anti-terrorist framework.

This April, a fourth trial against the anarchist revolutionary organization Conspiracy of Cells of Fire began, with 18 defendants this time.

Haris Hadjimihelakis, Panagiotis Argirou, Gerasimos Tsakalos, Michalis Nikolopoulos, Giorgos Polidoros, Christos Tsakalos, Damiano Bolano, Giorgos Nikolopoulos, and Olga Ekonomidou

They currently receive letters here: Dikastiki Filaki Koridallou, A Pteryga, 18110 Koridallos, Athens, Greece; you can also send letters to the imprisoned members of the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire to P.O. 51076, P.C. 14510, Nea Kifissia, Athens, Greece, or email them at [sinomosiapf\[at\]riseup.net](mailto:sinomosiapf[at]riseup.net)

Anarchist revolutionary Theofilos Mavropoulos was arrested in Athens in May 2011, after being seriously wounded during a shootout with two cops.

A comrade who was with him managed to escape driving the patrol car of the same cops. After spending a month in hospital, Mavropoulos was transferred to pretrial incarceration. So, among others, he is being charged with attempted homicide.

The comrade has co-signed many letters from prison with the members of the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire. In December 2011, Mavropoulos participated in an attempted escape from prison alongside several members of the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire. He is also one of the accused persons in the third and fourth trials underway against the same organization.

In the first day of the fourth trial against the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire, anarchist Theofilos Mavropoulos clarified that he has always stood beside the comrades of the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire as an anarchist solidarian, but without being a member of the Conspiracy himself. Then he declared that from the 5th of April 2013 he accedes to the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire, meaning that Theofilos Mavropoulos also joins the organization.

In other words, from now on, the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire will be recorded as having 10 imprisoned members.

Theofilos Mavropoulos

Dikastiki Filaki Koridallou, A Pteryga, 18110 Koridallos, Athens, Greece

Three other imprisoned comrades, Alexandros Mitroussias, Giorgos Karagiannidis and Kostas Sakkas, stand today the same two trials accused for alleged participation in the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire. They have admitted responsibility for weapons and explosives possession, but deny any involvement whatsoever in actions claimed by the anarchist urban guerrilla group.

The three anarchists were caught during an anti-terrorist operation in Athens in December 2010. Ever since their arrest, they have been held in pretrial incarceration under terrorism charges.

It must be said that cops and judges invented new investigations and indictments in order to cut the whole of the prosecution against the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire into ‘smaller pieces.’ They have thus managed to keep several of our comrades behind bars not only by court convictions, but also by consecutive pretrial incarcerations, on terrorism charges each time.

Imprisonment before trial was imposed two times against Kostas Sakkas, and three times against Alexandros Mitroussias and Giorgos Karagiannidis.

Meanwhile, Mitroussias and Karagiannidis have already been sentenced to 11 and 20 years in prison, respectively, in the first trial against the Conspiracy of Cells of Fire.

Konstantinos Sakkas, Alexandros Mitroussias, Giorgos Karagiannidis

Dikastiki Filaki Koridallou, A Pteryga, 18110 Koridallos, Athens, Greece